

Board of Education Meeting (Wednesday, April 3, 2024)

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, April 3, 2024 in the Board Conference Room of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside Educational Center, 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

Members present

Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

Also present:

Michael Harrington, Superintendent of Schools

Scott Bersin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Eric Arlin, Executive Director of Alternative Education

Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education, Athletics, Driver Education and Health

Cheryl Fontana, Director of Fine & Performing Arts and Adult Education

Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security

Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations

Tom Volpe, Supervisor of Transportation

Christopher Powers, School Attorney

Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

1. Opening

A. Call to Order at 6:40 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Goller led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Acting District Clerk

Motion to appoint Michael Harrington as the Acting District Clerk during Executive Session.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Marion Blane.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

D. Executive Session

Motion to Convene into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

Motion by Melissa Cmar-Grote, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

E. Reconvene to Public Session

Motion to reconvene into Public Session at 7:04 p.m.

Motion by Melissa Cmar-Grote, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

Motion to change the order of the agenda and move item 4.A - Award of Honor Presentations

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Melissa Cmar-Grote.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Harrington congratulated the Calhoun Girls Track on winning the Nassau County Championship. He said their grit and perseverance will stay with them forever and the memory of winning the championships with their friends will never be forgotten.

A. Award of Honor Presentation - Calhoun Girls Track Nassau County Champions

Mr. Corona presented each member of the team with an Award of Honor certificate and said "The Calhoun Girls Track & Field team clinched the Nassau County championship on February 6th. It was a great team effort, with many girls running their personal bests. During the past six years, Calhoun's bread and butter has been the jumps and this year was no different. Sophia Hines, Yolina Bastien, and Danielle Lawrence each performed outstanding with Sophia becoming a two-event County Champion in the long and triple jump. Yolina earned third in long jump and second in the triple jump while Danielle finished fourth in long jump and third in triple jump. They are the heart and soul of this team and will go down as some of the best to ever compete not only at Calhoun, but also in Long Island and New York State. The 4x800 team would lead the team to an All-County finish and the 4x400 team would shock the meet taking fourth overall and knocking the opponents out of scoring position. Dana Wauchope, in her first winter season, threw a school record and personal best to take second in weight throw, breaking up Valley Steam North in an event they should have dominated. "The girls entered the season with a goal and had a drive and determination like no other," said Coach Migliano. "The girls demonstrated why track is a TEAM sport and picked each other up the entire night. We are more than a team and more than a program; we are a family. I love these girls like they were my own and words can't express how much they mean to me. I couldn't be any prouder of a team than I am now," Coach added. Congratulations!

Award of Honor Presentation - Logan Schaeffler NYS Champion 1600 Meters

Mr. Corona presented an Award of Honor certificate to Logan Scheffler and said "Today, we gather to celebrate a remarkable individual whose achievements on the track have not only left a mark on our community but have also inspired us all. I am honored to stand before you to speak about Logan Schaeffler, a true epitome of dedication, perseverance, and excellence. Logan's journey to becoming a two-time NYS champion for the 1600 meter run is nothing short of extraordinary. His unwavering commitment to his sport, coupled with his natural talent and sheer determination, has propelled him to the top of the ranks in the fiercely competitive world of track and field. Logan's remarkable time of 4:11 not only secured his victory but also stood as the best in the state this year, missing the state record by a mere half-second. Such a feat speaks volumes about his incredible skill and prowess as an athlete. But Logan's achievements extend far beyond his recent triumph on the track. As a four-year varsity letter winner, he has consistently demonstrated his exceptional abilities, setting records and leaving a legacy that will be remembered for years to come. Holding both the Nassau County Cross Country record and the Nassau County indoor mile record at 4:11, Logan has proven time and again that he is a force to be reckoned with in the world of distance running. However, Logan's success is not solely measured by his athletic prowess. It is his character, resilience, and humility that truly set him apart. Despite his numerous accomplishments, Logan remains grounded and humble, always attributing his success to hard work, dedication, and the unwavering support of his teammates, coaches, and loved ones. As Logan embarks on the next chapter of his journey, attending Marist College, we have no doubt that he will continue to excel both on and off the track. His decision to pursue graphic arts while continuing his athletic career is a testament to his versatility, passion, and drive to succeed in all aspects of life. In conclusion, Logan Schaeffler is more than just a phenomenal athlete; he is a role model, a leader, and an inspiration to us all. As we celebrate his remarkable achievements today, let us also take a moment to applaud his resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Logan, may your future be as bright as your past, and may you continue to inspire us with your remarkable journey. Congratulations, Logan, and best wishes for the exciting journey that lies ahead."

Motion to reconvene into Executive Session at 7:24 p.m.

Motion by Gina Piskin, second by Melissa Cmar-Grote.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

Motion to reconvene into Public Session at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Melissa Cmar-Grote.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

F. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Goller led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education Meeting Minutes 3/6/24

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the March 6, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

3. Approval of Treasurer's Report

A. Treasurer's Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report dated February 29, 2024.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Marion Blane.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Harrington welcomed everyone to the meeting and said he hopes that all those who celebrated had a Happy Easter and wished everyone celebrating a Happy Eid-Al-Fitr and Happy Passover. He mentioned that earlier in the evening we honored the Calhoun Girls Track team for winning the Nassau County Championship and Logan Schaeffler for winning the NYS Championship. He said tonight we welcome back our student representatives and said it was a very busy month with events like Honor Society Inductions, St. Baldrick and the Youth Summit. He said spring sports are off to a great start and all of our musicals were outstanding. Mr. Harrington congratulated Ms. Fontana and our Music Department for receiving the Best Community for Music award.

B. Award of Honor Presentation - Knighting of David Goldberg

Ms. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to David Goldberg and said "Mr. David Goldberg of Calhoun High School was recently "knighted" by an 800-year-old knighthood organization based in Florence, Italy that recognized him for his public service. He teaches both social studies and Voices of the Past and is very active in social causes beyond teaching. He sits on the board of many organizations who are dedicated to promoting sustainable development and renewable energy. Mr. Goldberg was recognized by Parte Guelfa, a knighthood

dedicated to environmental preservation. It represents "a community of distinguished and accomplished individuals active in sustainable development and building a better world," according to the organization. Mr. Goldberg attained the distinction in November at a two-day ceremony in Florence. Congratulations Sir Goldberg!"

C. Curriculum, Instruction and Data Presentation - ENL

Mr. Montes, Ms. Cabrera, Ms. Glick, Ms. Ram and Ms. Schlieth gave a presentation to the audience about the District's English as a New Language Program (ENL). The district's ENL program currently has 63 English Language Learners (ELL). They explained the additional challenges ELL students have such as language development, time management skills, family separation and homesickness. They explained the goals of the program, such as acquiring as much English as possible, working towards graduation and giving guidance beyond high school. Two students, Gianluca Arrieta and Allison Hernandez gave presentations to the audience and explained how the ENL program helped them adapt to school life in the United States and how the teachers are so wonderful that they become more like family.

D. Student Representatives

Sydney Brewer from Kennedy High School said "Good evening! It is so great to see you all again! I am thrilled with our school's accomplishments as we enter the final quarter of the 2023-2024 school year. To end off February, we had Class Night on February 29. Each class participated by contributing to games such as Hungry Hungry Hippo, tug of war, and even table surfing! Leading up to the class night, we hosted Penny Wars. Penny Wars is when you try to put as many pennies in a jar for your class as possible, and you put dollars and silver coins in the other grades' jars to get their points taken away. The way it is, each penny counts for 1 point, but if you put in a nickel, it's -5, a dollar -100, etc. This is a fun and competitive way to raise money for our Ear to Ear Initiative, which promotes mental health. The Juniors took it home at the end of Class Night with a huge win. To start, on March 7, we had our annual 3 v 3 basketball tournaments! Again, all proceeds go to benefit the Ear to Ear Initiative. The students love this activity as a fun way to get involved for a good cause. In the spring, we will also be hosting a 6 v 6 flag football tournament in the upcoming months, so look out for that! The week of March 10, we also celebrated wellness week! We had therapy dogs, yoga classes, and even a no-homework Wednesday to ease the students' and teachers' stress! In addition to this, the leadership 2 students gave speeches on what it means to be #2 since you are all #1. This was a great way to show the underclassmen how to be selfless and look out for others. Next up is CHAMP Restaurant Wars. Each year, the Champ students team up and decide on a theme and cuisine they will be cooking with. Then, they each make their dishes and present them to teacher judges. The teachers then picked who had the best restaurant. This year, a Hawaiian restaurant took home the gold. Kennedy also had Dr. Steven Chassman, a Kennedy alumnus, come in and talk about drug prevention and how to be safe and healthy overall. All students listened to this assembly and learned about the dangers of Fentanyl and how caution must be exercised in everything one does. The students took in critical information and will hopefully take Dr. Chassman's advice. Since I went to Norman J. Levy Lakeside School, the student government lakeside alum, I took a field trip to one of the student council meetings. While there, we gave presentations on what we do and the importance of community service. We all explained how we were all in their position and that keeping up with the student council/government is rewarding. On March 22, Kennedy hosted a district-wide Esports tournament. Esports is a fast-growing activity, and students are even earning scholarship money. There are also many popular e-sport careers for those who pursue playing, designing, or writing games. Many of the Leadership II students are invested in their ongoing civic projects. Last week, Matt Rowe hosted a NARCAN training session held by the TEMPO group at the Merrick Civic Association meeting. Last month, Maisie Leo hosted a discussion group at the Merrick Library to discuss the rise of antisemitism. Speaking of Leadership II, 19 students in the class were named finalists at the Long Island Youth Summit. Students submitted their papers or video projects in the Leadership category. They will attend the summit on April 19 to discuss their research with other Long Island High School students. Seven Leadership II students were chosen to serve on the Nassau County Youth Council. These students will work with representatives from other high schools to lead county-wide projects that will bring positive change. Lastly, next week, the JFK Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, and Concert Choir will perform at Carnegie Hall as part of the Best Bands & Choir International Festival. Thank you all so much, and I look forward to seeing you again soon!"

Ava Kamlet from Calhoun High School said "Good evening Administrators and Board of Education, happy April! I hope you are all having a wonderful start to spring! Calhoun has had a busy February and March, and I cannot wait to share everything that has transpired. February began with an amazing P.S. I Love You week, thanks to our counseling department. On February 9th, they set up an amazing event with photo booths, activities, music, our

therapy dogs, cotton candy, acai bowls, and so much more. All of our students wore purple, and had a great time walking through this event. Personally, my favorite part was dancing the cotton-eyed-joe with our PREP and COORE students during my lunch period. Following this, on February 15th, World of Difference hosted our annual Valentine's Dance. We had a blast dancing with them, and they had the time of their lives. They're even asking us for one last dance for this school year, so we have begun the planning for that. On February 29th, we had our long awaited Class Night. The class officers worked day and night to make decorations, sell shirts, buy supplies, place students in events, and organize their grade. The Student Council was leading the way for the class officers, organizing the night as a whole. Students showed up ready to play hard, and it was an incredible night for all. The Senior Class took victory, with the Freshman and Junior class tying for second place. This was certainly a night to remember. On March 7th, the Calhoun Challenger Basketball season came to an end with an amazing Senior Night. Our PREP and COORE athletes, both the basketball players and cheerleaders, had a fantastic season. The Senior Night began with a ceremony, where the students got flowers, plaques, and time to take a photo with their family members. Being at these games was incredible, and seeing these students have a blast on the court was inspiring. Calhoun DECA had their annual State Career Conference Trip in Rochester, NY from March 6 to March 8. To qualify for states, these students either competed at the Regional Competition at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School on December 16, 2023, or they wrote a 10-20 page business manual. Our Calhoun DECA students made us proud by competing against schools from all over New York. In total, Calhoun walked away with twenty-two medals! 3 students will be competing at the International Competition in Anaheim, CA on April 27th. We are so proud of our future business leaders! On March 9th, Calhoun's On Tour opened their 2024 musical, Bright Star. I can attest to how truly amazing this show was. The singing, dancing, and overall performance of these students showcased their incredible talent and blew me away. The riveting storyline kept everyone at the edge of our seats. On the second performance, one of the representatives from the company that owns Bright Star, Theatrical Rights Worldwide, saw the performance. He was extremely impressed by the cast as a whole, and gave incredible feedback to the company. That was a great moment for the whole company, and the entire student body is incredibly proud of this hard working group. After a very successful show, On Tour will be starting its rehearsals for the crucible this week! Additionally, they are starting preparations for the thespian dinner and the 50th anniversary celebration. On March 13th, Calhoun Model UN left for their annual National High School Model United Nations Trip in New York, NY. Students participated in debates & discussions with students from around the world to propose solutions to the world's largest issues. The last big trip of the season was Calhoun's Music Department's amazing field trip to Disney World, performing in a workshop and receiving a professional recording of their hard work. They are currently preparing for their end of the year concert. Calhoun's Racial Equity Club created brochures & "zynes" (pronounced zeens) in honor of Ramadan. They put these materials in every faculty member's mailboxes, giving tips on how to be more inclusive and nurturing towards Muslim practicing students. On March 22nd, Calhoun's Senior Leadership class returned to MAMS to discuss hate speech and its implications with the seventh grade students. Being a member of this class, it was a great experience and opportunity. We are so thankful to Mr. Joyce for giving us opportunities like these. On Tuesday, March 26th, myself along with Ms. Romito put together a trip for a select number of World of Difference students to take a trip to Fayette Elementary school. We worked first-hand with elementary students with disabilities, making spring crafts and forming connections with them. We are thankful to Ms. Naletilic and Ms. Borg who welcomed us into their classrooms, and Mr. Merims who aided me in putting this trip together. This was just the start for events like these, as more are already in the works. The seniors are busier than ever, as the Senior Leadership class prepares for their Bingo Night in support of the JED foundation, and our Senior Experience students prepare their annual Fashion Show to raise money for Be A Good Cookie Merrick. They are working hard alongside their fantastic teachers to pull off these amazing events for our community and to raise money for these amazing causes. As the year begins to come to a close, we are excited to see all the fun things that our student leaders have planned for our last few months. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to seeing you all next month."

Matthew Keegan from Mepham High School said "Good evening board members and members of the community. It's great to be back to discuss all Mepham has accomplished in the month of March. I'd like to begin by congratulating 12th grade trombone player Liam Osborne for participating in the NYSSMA All State Instrumental Jazz Ensemble in Albany, New York last month. The All State Instrumental Jazz ensemble is a small, elite group of students from across the state. We applaud Liam on this performance and all of his musical achievements! During the week of March 4, Mepham celebrated National World Language Week with a series of events and activities. The department sponsored a drive of various items in conjunction with the BMUST Women's Committee to donate to the Community Cupboard and Bethany House. The French Honor Society held a bake sale to raise both funds and awareness for the Eastern Congo Initiative. The Mandarin Honor Society created a dragon watercolor painting

for the World Language hallway in honor of the Year of the Dragon. On Wednesday, March 13th, the Italian Honor Society held its 19th annual Italian Culture Night for the families of Mepham and local community members. While the guests enjoyed a family made Italian dinner, they also were treated to a musical performance by senior, Rachel Benson and an Italian poem recited by co-President, Myrofora Demtriu. To cap off the event, dessert included Italian gelato. Thank you to the entire World Languages Department for inspiring students through these educational, spirited and fun activities! The Fragments Literary Magazine Club hosted its annual Open Mic Night on March 14th. Students exhibited their talents through writing and reciting original poems, by performing acoustic covers of popular songs, and even by performing some of their original work. One highlight of the night was Fragments' advisor Ms. Maresca, who surprised everyone with a rendition of Sixpence None The Richer's "Kiss Me" accompanied by her daughter Emily on the acoustic guitar. Throughout March, Mepham honored the academic achievements of a wide variety of students. The Rho Kappa Mepham Pirates Social Studies Honor Society inducted 72 new members. These junior and senior students have shown exemplary performance in their overall academics and in their Social Studies courses. They have also demonstrated service to their community. Additionally, over sixty students were inducted into Mepham's chapter of the Science National Honor Society. Membership in the Science National Honor Society acknowledges the hard work and dedication of our students in maintaining a rigorous academic program particularly in their Science courses. It also demonstrates the continued emphasis of excellence that we strive to achieve in our science program, our school and our community. Our Participation in Government students hosted our 14th annual Chop Your Locks for Charity event to benefit the St Baldrick's Foundation on Wednesday, March 20th as part of their Senior Service-Learning Project. The night's festivities were hosted by seniors Emma Alfaro, Ibrahim Alam, Olivia Guarascio, and Kieran Kehoe. Senior Jared Lopez treated the crowd to the Star-Spangled Banner on his electric guitar and our Bellmore-Merrick Cosmetology students donated their services to our event. This year's event had over 50 shaves and raised over \$56,000 to fight childhood cancer. Special thank you to all of our Participation in Government students who organized the event and donated their time to make it so special as well as our junior and senior School and Community Leadership students. The following night, the community came together in the West Cafeteria at Mepham to celebrate the Holy Month of Ramadan. Students and families from around the district gathered to learn about the significance of this month and those fasting were able to break their fast together and enjoy some delicious food. All the food was donated by the very generous families that attended this night. Many came early with decorations and helped set up as well. Students that were not fasting pitched in to serve the families that were. It was truly a special evening that saw many alumni from as far back as 22 years ago come with their own children to enjoy the Iftar. This month, thirty two BMB students, alumni and staff ventured to the West Coast where they joined over 3000 broadcasting students from across the US in attending the 2024 Student Television Network's national convention. BMB students competed in seven timed competitions over the course of the long weekend, researching, writing, filming, interviewing, and editing under tight time constraints and all successfully uploaded their videos to the judges before the deadline. BMB submitted work in four categories, and all four of their entries won recognition from STN! BMB is already hard at work preparing for STN 2025 which will be held in Tampa next March. The Mepham Pirates have had an incredible March, and we look forward to seeing what the future will hold. Thank you for your time!"

E. Budget Presentation

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business thanked the Board of Education for always supporting our goals and missions. She gave a presentation on the proposed 2024/2025 school budget of \$197,450,603 and explained that the 2024/2025 budget meets all of our budget goals, is fiscally responsible focuses on sustainability in the future. The 2024/2025 budget will have a 4.55% budget increase from the current school year. The tax levy increase of 2.55% is keeping under the tax cap for the 13th consecutive year. She explained some of the budget drivers, such as health insurance increases, unallocated insurance, facilities, transportation, Special Education, Technology and Curriculum & Instruction.

Mr. Bersin explained some of the Curriculum and Instruction goals of the budget which include enhancing learning levels and ensuring our students are ready for career and college. He said we are keeping up with the digital age and developing STEAM 9 Research to help our ninth grade students build opportunities that help their future. Mr. Bersin said research, writing and presentation skills are a main focus for our students and our specialty programs are over subscribed for next year. We are currently developing a new pathway for our students called Pre-Education & Human Services to provide students with coursework relevant to working in careers in education and human services. Mr. Bersin said with regard to wellness and social-emotional learning, we will continue the Middle School Advisory Program and will also continue to do as much as possible to teach inclusion and belonging.

Ms. Coni said the Grand Avenue Middle School capital projects were completed in the fall and the next project will be at Merrick Avenue Middle school this summer. The project will include parking lot renovations and reconfiguring for better traffic slow and safety. She said that the 2024/2025 ballot will have three propositions. The first proposition will be for the school budget, the second proposition is to expend capital reserve which will have no impact on the taxpayers. The third proposition is to establish a new capital reserve fund which will allow us to continue to fund projects since we have reached the cap on the current fund.

Ms. Coni mentioned that the Public Budget Hearing will take place on May 8, 2024 and the budget vote will take place on May 21, 2024. She said that all of the budget information is available on our website and said that if anyone has questions, please contact her.

Ms. Goller thanked Ms. Coni for the incredible presentation. She also thanked Mr. Harrington and the administration for their dedicated efforts in assembling the budget. Ms. Goller is proud of the exciting opportunities being offered to our students.

F. Future Dates

Mr. Harrington wished everyone celebrating a Happy Eid-Al-Fitr and Passover and he mentioned the future dates.

April 10 Eid-Al-Fitr - Schools Closed
April 12 Kennedy & Mephram Musical
April 13 Kennedy & Mephram Musical Matinee & Evening Shows
April 16 Kennedy National Business Honor Society Inductions
STEAM Fair@ Kennedy
Board of Education BOCES Vote/Election
April 17 High School National Honor Society Inductions
April 18 Senior Fashion Show @ Calhoun
April 22-30 Spring Recess II - Schools Closed
May 8 Board of Education Meeting

5. Public Comments-Agenda Items Only

A. Guidelines to Public Comments

The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at Board meetings. To allow for public participation, a period not to exceed 30 minutes shall be set aside during each Board meeting. Any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall complete an information card. Questions are to be addressed to the Board President, not to individual board members. Personal attacks on individual board members, administrators and staff will not be tolerated and may be cause to adjourn the meeting. There will be no back and forth dialogue. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, it would be appreciated if each visitor would limit his/her remarks to not more than three minutes or ask only one question. Public discussion on matters relating to staff and students, by which their reputation, privacy, or rights to due process, or those of others could be in some way violated, is prohibited.

Ms. Goller accepted the following non-agenda comment during the first public comment period:

Nattie M. is a student and she discussed Autism Acceptance and asked the Board of Education to look at how our schools recognize Autism. She would like to see the district use of the new infinity symbol and move away from using the puzzle piece. She explained the origin of the puzzle piece which puts the emphasis on autistic people as being a puzzle, mystery or something that needs to be solved. She also discussed the importance of using the language of Autism Acceptance which should be the goal of our schools. She said to have acceptance shows true understanding and compassion, awareness is not enough. She urged the Board of Education to continue being on the forefront and make these changes.

Mr. Harrington said that her comment was incredible and we are very proud of her. He assured her that we will work closely with Ms. Paluseo and our building principals to make changes.

6. Superintendent's Recommendations

A. Policy No. 1740 Relationship with Non-Public Schools

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a first reading: Policy No. 1740 Relationship with Non-Public Schools (Revised)

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

B. Policy No. 2382 - Broadcasting and Recording of Board Meetings

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a first reading: Policy No. 2382 - Broadcasting and Recording of Board Meetings (Revised)

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

C. Policy No. 4321 - Programs for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a first reading: Policy No. 4321 - Programs for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA & NY Ed Law Article 89 (Revised)

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

D. Policy No. 4772 - Graduation Ceremonies

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a first reading: Policy No. 4772 - Graduation Ceremonies (Revised)

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

E. Policy No. 8130.2-E- Workplace Violence Incident Report (New)

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a first reading: Policy No. 8130.2-E- Workplace Violence Incident Report (New)

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

F. Policy No. 9520.6 - Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a first reading:

Policy No. Policy No. 9520.6 - Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace (New)

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

G. Donation - Mepham Alumni

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$5000.00 from the Mepham Alumni Association to be used for tree plantings and landscaping in the Mepham courtyard. All labor will be donated courtesy of Mepham alum Eric Pomisel and his company, Gro Kind Organics Landscape and Design.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

H. Donation - Community Cupboard from Bellmore Lions

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$100.00 to the Community Cupboard from the Bellmore Lions Foundation in memory of Joseph Pata.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

I. Special Education Report

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following special education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011037, 000011352, 000013088, 000013099, 000013318, 000014132, 000512531, 000514267, 100830000, 131263107, 201700031, 201700033, 202100008, 202200085, 370002031 and 370002053.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

7. Human Resources Report

A. Human Resources Report 4/3/24

- A. Termination
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments

- D. Recommendation for Permanent Employment
- E. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- F. Leave Requests
- G. Salary Reclassification
- H. Assigned Services - Non-Athletics - Cancellation
- I. Assigned Services - Non-Athletics
- J. Assigned Services - Athletics - Cancellation
- K. Assigned Services - Athletics
- L. Assigned Services - Athletics - Intramurals

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Human Resources Report for April 3, 2024.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

8. Business and Finance

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant

The Board of Education reviewed the bills and corresponding warrant dated April 3, 2024

B. Budget Summary

The Board of Education reviewed the budget summary dated February 29, 2024.

C. Adoption of Budget Propositions

Resolution: PROPOSITION NO. 1 – CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund Appropriate of one hundred ninety-seven million, four hundred fifty thousand, six hundred three dollars (\$197,450,603) to be raised through taxation in the several districts included with the Central High School District after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District is hereby authorized to expend \$2,100,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund established in May, 2016 for the purpose of performing the following projects; John F. Kennedy HS auditorium sound, lighting and stage rigging upgrades; John F. Kennedy HS HVAC upgrades; John F. Kennedy HS track resurfacing/replacement; Merrick Avenue MS parking lot and sidewalk reconstruction; District-wide interior alterations; District-wide exterior building envelope reconstruction; District-wide floor/ceiling replacement; District-wide HVAC reconstruction; District-wide electrical reconstruction; District-wide plumbing reconstruction; District-wide abatements all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental costs related thereto. Since the funds to be expended hereunder come from the Capital Reserve Fund approval of this proposition will not require a tax levy upon the real property of the district. This Proposition shall be independent of Proposition No. 1.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 – CAPITAL RESERVE FUND RESOLVED that pursuant to Education Law Section 3651, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is hereby authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding the following capital improvement projects: instructional and non-instructional space improvements/renovations/upgrades, (including but not limited to classroom improvements/renovations/upgrades and/or additions to existing facilities), auditorium renovations, gymnasium renovations, cafeteria renovations, library/multi media center renovations, exterior renovations/reconstruction, computer/technology upgrades, security system upgrades, plumbing improvements/renovations/upgrades, electrical improvements/renovations/upgrades, HVAC improvements/renovations/upgrades, energy efficiency

improvements/renovation/upgrades, including the installation of solar power, improvements/ renovations/upgrades, fuel tank replacement, renovations required for compliance with ADA requirements, vocational and career preparation renovations, portable classroom replacement and/or purchase, roof/gutter/leader replacement, window replacement, structural renovations including masonry, brick and steel replacement, paving and concrete replacement, interior and exterior door/entry ways replacement (including hardware), toilet room renovations, lighting upgrades, ceiling replacement, floor replacement, wall replacement, boiler replacements, elevators, carpentry renovations, purchase of buildings/land, site renovations/reconstruction including track resurfacing and turf field replacement, press box/dugout/ field house improvements/renovations/ upgrades, bleacher improvements/renovations/upgrades, upgrades of signs, athletic field renovations/reconstruction, tennis court renovations, playground renovations, lockers/locker room renovations, public address/clock system replacement, sound system upgrades, telephone system upgrades, hazardous material remediation, storage space renovations, furnishings and equipment, including the purchase of vehicles.

The maximum amount of the aforesaid Capital Reserve Fund shall be \$10,000,000, plus investment income. The probable term is to be twelve (12) years. The funds are to be transferred from surplus monies remaining in the general fund, capital fund, and/or in other reserves not to exceed \$4,500,000 from the 2023-2024 budget and thereafter in an annual amount of not more the \$4,500,000 for each remaining year of the term. The Superintendent of Schools or his designee is hereby directed to deposit monies of this reserve fund in a separate bank account to be known as the "Facilities Improvement Program 2024."

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

D. Receipt, Collection and Review Of Certified Payroll Records

Resolution: WHEREAS, contractors and subcontractors engaged by a school district for construction work are required to pay prevailing wages to their workers and are required to submit certified payroll records to the school district in connection with their obligation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Labor Law §220, the Board of Education designates Jon Simpkins as the individual responsible for Receipt, Collection and Review for facial validity of Certified Payroll Records.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

E. Cooperative Bid - 2024/2025 - Nassau County Association of Buildings & Grounds

Resolution: WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of NASSAU COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS, during the 2024-2025 school year to bid cooperatively for the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment and repairs (the "Commodities"); and

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District ("the School District") is desirous of participating in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities, as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education has reviewed the Cooperative Bid Procedures ("Procedures") governing its rights and responsibilities should it elect to participate in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby appoints the superintendent or designee to represent it in all matters related above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Cooperative Bid Procedures, the Board of Education agrees to award bid item purchases according to the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Boards of Education of the Cooperative School Districts, if such award is in the best interest of the school district.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

F. Inter-Municipal Transportation Management

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the renewal of an existing Inter-Municipal Transportation Management Services agreement between Bellmore-Merrick Central HS District, the Bellmore UFSD, the Merrick UFSD, the North Bellmore UFSD and the North Merrick UFSD authorizing inter-municipal cooperation and assistance with and among each other for the consolidation of their transportation management services and administration of the transportation management by a single transportation coordinator for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

G. Non-Public School Transportation

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District approve the provision of bus transportation to particular non-public schools for a period of three years starting with the 2024-2025 school year. This period of time will become irrelevant if an eligible student should register for transportation to the school in question during this time. The three-year period will restart once there are no longer eligible students in attendance. (NY State Education Law §3635.)

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

H. East Meadow Driving School

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with East Meadow Driving School for the provision of In-Car Driver Education instruction, with vehicles, for the summer, fall and spring semesters of the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of \$625.00 per student (subject to attorney review and approval).

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

I. Federal Single Audit

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Federal Single Audit Report for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District for the year ended June 30, 2023.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

J. Budget Transfer

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfer to cover 2023-2024 school year expenses:

From: A2250.472 (Special Ed – Tuition) \$101,000.00

To: A2250.471 (Special Ed – Public School Tuition) \$101,000.00

To cover costs for Special Ed – Public School Tuition.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

K. Health and Welfare Services Agreement

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to execute contracts to provide health and welfare services to specific students who reside in the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD and attend a non-public school in the following school district for the 2023-2024 School Year:

New Hyde Park - Garden City Park Union Free School District.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

L. SEQRA - John F. Kennedy HS

Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvements at the District's facilities as set forth herein and as listed in the working budget: (1) upgrading the auditorium sound system, lighting system and stage rigging, HVAC upgrades to classroom 117, and repaving/resurfacing of the existing athletic running track at the John F. Kennedy High School. (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2)); and

WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(10)); and

WHEREAS, the purchase or sale of furnishings, equipment or supplies...other than the following: land, radioactive material, pesticides, herbicides, or other hazardous materials are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(31)); and WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the improvement projects and has determined that the Projects are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1),(2),(10), and (31) of the SEQR Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Projects are Type II Actions, which require no further review under SEQR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.L.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

Ms. Goller said the Board of Education discussed litigation during Executive Session and are adding the following resolution to the meeting agenda:

8. Business and Finance

M. Legal Action

Resolution: RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the law firms of Frantz Law Group, APLC and Ingerman Smithm LLP to commence legal action against the parties identified on Confidential Schedule "A" with respect to the litigation discussed in Executive Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board President is authorized to sign the attached retainer agreement with Frantz Law Group, APLC and Ingerman Smith, LLP and take all steps necessary to effectuate the litigation.

Motion by Edward Corona, second by Nancy Kaplan.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

Ms. Goller thanked the Mephram Alumni and the Bellmore Lions for their donations.

Mr. Harrington welcomed Ms. Pellegrini as the new Districtwide Chairperson for World Languages and ENL.

9. Old/New Business

A. Old/New Business

No old or new business was discussed but Ms. Goller congratulated Ms. Fontana and Mr. Volpe for being honored at the Founder's Day Dinner.

10. Correspondence

A. Correspondence

The Board of Education did not receive mailed correspondence but received four emails between March 2, 2024 and March 27, 2024.

11. Public Comments

A. Guidelines to Public Comments

The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at Board meetings. To allow for public participation, a period not to exceed 30 minutes shall be set aside during each Board meeting. Any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall complete an information card. Questions are to be addressed to the Board President, not to individual board members. Personal attacks on individual board members, administrators and staff will not be tolerated and may be cause to adjourn the meeting. There will be no back and forth dialogue. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, it would be appreciated if each visitor would limit his/her remarks to not more than three minutes or ask only one question. Public discussion on matters relating to staff and students, by which their reputation, privacy, or rights to due process, or those of others could be in some way violated, is prohibited.

12. Potential Executive Session

A. Motion to enter into Executive Session.

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

13. Adjournment

A. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Megan C Ryan.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

Submitted by Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk