

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting May 7, 2014

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, in the Board of Education Conference Room at the Administrative Offices at the Brookside School at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, Merrick, New York 11566.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Susan Schwartz, President  
JoAnn DeLauter, Vice-President  
Marion Blane  
Janet Goller  
George Haile  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Nina Lanci

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Dr. Matthew Kushner

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Cynthia Strait Régal, Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel  
Caryn Blum, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum  
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services  
Joseph Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services  
Saul Lerner, Director of Physical Education/Health/Athletics/Driver Education/Adult Ed  
Jon Simkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations  
Thomas Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator  
Michelle Gagnon, Administrative Assistant I  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by Mrs. Schwartz. Mrs. Schwartz led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 2, 2014 meeting. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 24, 2014 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was not carried 4-3-0 with Dr. Kaplan, Mrs. Schwartz and Mr. Haile abstaining.

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated March 31, 2014. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone and stated we are celebrating many student and staff accomplishments tonight. At 7:00 p.m. there was a tenure reception for six teachers and one administrator. They have demonstrated a love of teaching and are making a difference in the lives of many Bellmore-Merrick students. They are:

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

Andrew DelRosario, Assistant Principal at Grand Avenue MS; Daniel Bowker, Special Education teacher at Calhoun HS and Merrick Avenue MS; Kevin Darcy, School Social Worker at Merrick Avenue MS; Diana Nigro, Science teacher at Calhoun HS and Mephram HS; Brett Schwartz, Reading teacher at Merrick Avenue MS; Dawn Sullivan, Science teacher at Kennedy HS; Marirose Merola, Special Education at Calhoun. Mr. DeTommaso congratulated these teachers.

**CHANGE IN ORDER  
OF AGENDA -  
PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education change the order of the agenda and approve Item 8F in the Personnel Report. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mrs. Schwartz congratulated the newly tenured teachers.

**RETURN TO ORDER  
OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education return to the order of the agenda Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**PHYSICS OLYMPIAD  
1ST PLACE OVERALL**

Mrs. DeLauter presented Award of Honor certificates to members of Mephram High School's Physics Olympiad team stating on March 28, 2014, teams from 15 Long Island high schools gathered at SUNY Farmingdale and competed in the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Physics Olympics sponsored by the Long Island Physics Teachers Association. This year was outstanding for the Mephram team of Chris Juchem, Brian Keohane, Jane Kogan, Kevin Mendez, Matt Waldmann, and their coach Mr. Bill Leacock. The team had their best year ever at the competition, taking first place trophies in four out of five events; Collision Course, Fermi Event, Pendulum of Doom and Physics Bowl and easily took the overall first place trophy, earning 63.5 points. Mrs. DeLauter, on behalf of the Board of Education, congratulated the Mephram Physics Olympiad Team and their coach.

**NYS SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY ENTRY  
PROGRAM**

Mrs. Schwartz presented an Award of Honor certificate to Calhoun senior Shanelle Mason for having paced first in the Biological Science Division of the NYS Science and Technology Entry Program. Over the past two (2) summers, Shanelle chose to perform research on Pain Reception at NYU Medical Center Langone Center under the direction of Alexandra Sideris, a Post-Doctoral Scholar. Shanelle's study involved research on neurons from two types of mice. One mouse had the CB1 receptor on brain cells, while the other did not. Tests were conducted on the mice to study the reactions of the mice to pain. The results of the study prove that mice with the TRPM8 receptor, but lack the CB1 receptor, are more susceptible to cold pain. Shanelle looks forward to attending the prestigious Sophie Davis School at the City College of New York in the fall. Mrs. Schwartz congratulated Shanelle on behalf of the Board of Education.

**2014 NATIONAL  
COUNCIL OF  
TEACHERS OF  
ENGLISH (NCTE)  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD IN WRITING**

Mrs. Lanci presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mephram High School junior Jaime Marvin for having been selected as a winner of the NCTE Achievement Award in Writing. This year, 164 students nationwide were chosen as outstanding writers – 20 from NYS. All compositions were evaluated by national judges who looked for writing that demonstrated effective and imaginative use of language. Jaime participates in Cross Country, Winter and

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Spring Track, is the assistant editor of *Fragments* and is an active member of SADD. She has been writing since the age of seven and has wanted to be an author for as long as she can remember. Mrs. Lanci, on behalf of the Board of Education, congratulated Jaime.

**2014 NCTE –  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD IN WRITING  
(Continued)**

Mr. Haile presented an Award of Honor certificate to Calhoun senior Rachel Ross stating she was chosen for this award for her outstanding ability in athletics, scholarship, leadership and service. Rachel is captain of the Colts Tennis Team and has been an All-Conference player. She is the team's #1 singles player and has a great forehand and backhand. Rachel is also a very talented artist and takes AP Art. She was inducted into the National, Spanish, Science and Math Honor Societies. She participated in Calhoun's Advanced Science Research Program. Rachel is a member of the Student Council, Key Club and Athletes helping Athletes Program. Rachel will study civil engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Mr. Haile congratulated Rachel on behalf of the Board of Education.

**CHANNEL 12 NEWS  
SCHOLAR/ATHLETE**

Mrs. Goller presented Award of Honor certificates to Kennedy junior Beatrice Brown and Kennedy senior Dean Ostrofsky for having been named finalists in the American Museum of Natural History Young Naturalists Awards competition. It is the only national science competition that focuses on the natural world and on authentic science experiences that increase students' participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Beatrice is one of eight 11<sup>th</sup> grade finalists and Dean is one of ten 12<sup>th</sup> grade finalists. Dean's research project was titled "The Evolution of Venom Delivery Systems in Non-Front Fanged Colubriods." His work looked at the specificity of the structure of rear-fanged venomous snakes. Based on previously published literature, he differentiated if the system was specified or not and then looked at the natural history to find a reason why it was specified. Beatrice's research was called "Irene and Sandy...Oddity or Destiny? An Investigation of Factors Influencing Flooding Risks in the Long Island Area." Her research examined what type of factors influence hurricanes and associated flooding, including sea surface temperature and atmospheric circulation patterns. Mrs. Goller, on behalf of the Board of Education, congratulated Beatrice and Dean and their Advanced Science Research teacher Mrs. Barbara Franklin.

**AMERICAN MUSEUM  
OF NATURAL  
HISTORY 2014 YOUNG  
NATURALISTS  
FINALISTS**

Mrs. DeLauter presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mepham HS' Library Library Media Specialist Shari Stack for having been recognized as the 2013-2014 Nassau BOCES School Librarian of the Year. The William S. Christy Memorial Library at Mepham High School has become a central hub of student life which can singlehandedly be attributed to the professionalism, warmth, and excitement that Mrs. Stack promotes. She has proven to Mepham's students that the library can be a fun and safe environment before, during and after their school day. In addition to serving as the advisor for the National English Honor Society and the Computer Club, she is one of Mepham's Technology Integration Mentors. Finally, Mrs. Stack is the ultimate role model and has

**NASSAU BOCES  
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN  
OF THE YEAR**

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**NASSAU BOCES  
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN  
THE YEAR  
(Continued)**

helped Mepham High School raise over \$125,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation by shaving her head, on two different occasions, to help fight OF childhood cancer. The NBSLS award is granted annually to a NYS certified library media specialist whose work, with and for students, serves as a model for his or her peers and an inspiration to those entering the profession. Mrs. DeLauter congratulated Mrs. Stack on behalf of the Board of Education.

**2014 STEM MASTER  
TEACHER**

Dr. Kaplan presented an Award of Honor certificate to Merrick Avenue Middle School teacher Ms. Nora Sheppard who was chosen as one of 42 Long Island 2014 NYS STEM Master Teachers. She was among 215 teachers of science, technology, engineering and mathematics statewide named on April 14, 2014 in the program, which encourages educators to mentor their peers and deepen their own scholarship and professional development. Ms. Sheppard started teaching at Merrick Avenue Middle School in 1994 and has been a science teacher at Merrick Avenue ever since. She also served as a department assistant for many years and continues to provide leadership within the department. Dr. Kaplan congratulated Ms. Sheppard on behalf of the Board of Education.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Rebecca Peretz advised the National Honor Society inducted 130 new members, National English Honor Society inducted 31, 32 into French Honor Society, 17 into Italian Honor Society and 32 into Spanish Honor Society. Seven more Calhoun students have signed on for college sports. A National Poetry month celebration took place with a poetry slam and poetry games. The annual ESL International Luncheon was held in the Faculty Room. The annual Health Fair raised \$10,400 for Relay for Life. Blue and Grey concerts were last week. On Tour's Laramie Project and the Bellmore-Merrick Challenge are coming up soon.

Rohan Nagpal advised LOTE Honor Society inductions were held and a total of 175 students were inducted into Spanish, French and Italian Honor Societies. World Culture Night and the spring concert were held this month. There were 80 participants in this year's Faculty Olympics. Members of SADD worked with the physical education classes. Ninth grade science students examined a giant Earth balloon guided by a naturalist. Ninth grade Introduction to Science had 111 students complete 71 science experiments. The winners will enter the Nassau Science competition. The student recognition dinner was held last night. Several Kennedy students will perform at the Cultural Arts luncheon later this month. Kennedy art students won awards at a recent Nassau County competition. The Cougar Invitational Track and Field event was held this week. Varsity Baseball won their conference championship. Seniors attend a pre-prom meeting. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, seniors will go to Great Adventure and the Senior Experience Program will follow. He noted this is Teacher Appreciation Week and congratulated and thanked all the teachers.

Rachel Fain congratulated the students and teachers honored tonight. Last month, SADD hosted the Senior Citizen's Prom and the Art Club decorated. Louis Hernandez is the only Mepham student to become a National Champion in Wrestling. 139 students were inducted into the National Honor Society, LOTE Honor Society inductions featured music and poetry and National English

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Honor Society inductions were held this month. A Day of Silence was held. Mephram was ranked among the Top 100 Best Wise High Schools in Teaching Personal Finance. Mephram participated in NYS Pay It Forward Day on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The first Poetry Games event collected 600 books. One Voice, One Message Program gave a presentation. Senior class will hold its annual talent show. The varsity baseball team won their conference.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES  
(Continued)**

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the school concerts are incredible and encouraged everyone to attend a performance. He mentioned some of the important up-coming events. He stated May 20<sup>th</sup> is the Budget Vote and reminded everyone to please get out and vote. Art work from the three (3) high schools is on display in the central office corridor and he invited everyone to view it. Finally, he wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

There were no public comments on agenda items only.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): BCSE Cases: 000010946, 050450006, 992450157, 992450038, 110010969, 990010231, Building CSE IEP Changes: 000010817, 031250002, 110010680, 000512052, 000512359, 113620000, 000010597, 030150000, G09496, 000511031, K11017, 000511585, 000511435, 000511519, 370000965, 070650006, 110010789, 992450030, 030240006, 053410000, 122160003, 000511588, G10963, 030910014, G10842, 000011313, G10861, 992450121, 000010075, 370000223, MO3251, K10455, 032370005, 370000928, 033240001 and K10872.

**SPECIAL  
EDUCATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Roosevelt Union Free School District as a Special Education vendor for the 2013-2014 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended 2014-2015 school year Special Education vendors to provide services for district students.

Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$9,000 to be used toward the purchase of new scoreboards for the gymnasiums throughout the district from the Bellmore Merrick Basketball League and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

**DONATIONS**

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**DONATIONS**  
**(Contiued)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of 950 planner/agenda books, valued at \$2,365.50, for incoming 2014-15 school year 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Merrick Avenue MS from the Merrick Avenue MS PTA.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500 from the Mephram Alumni Association's Class of 1963 to Mephram High School and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$5,000 from the Helen Matchett Demario Foundation to Mephram High School to be used solely for the science research program.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$4,500 to be used toward the purchase of new scoreboards for gymnasiums at Calhoun HS and Merrick Avenue MS from the Cure of Ars CYO, and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Schwartz thanked all the organizations for their donations.

**POLICY**

The Board of Education reviewed Renumbered (formerly Policy No. 4151) and Revised Policy No. 9520.2 – Family and Medical Leave for a first reading.

**INFORMATION**

The Board of Education advised our school district's retirees will be honored at the June 4, 2014 regular meeting. All members of our professional and civil service staff who have retired during the 2013-2014 school year will be invited to attend this reception.

**PERSONNEL**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, Items A-E and G-H, dated May 7, 2014, as stated in the agenda. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**BILLS**

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated May 7, 2014, and the corresponding warrants.

**BIDS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a transfer of \$38,000 to A2630 490 00 0000 BOCES Computer Services from A2815 490 00 0000 (\$17,000) Health Services, and A2280 490 00 0000 (\$21,000) Career Education, for additional Computer Services as required for the new network system.

**BUDGET TRANSFER**

WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2014-2015 school year and Summer 2014 (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law; and

**INTER-MUNICIPAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
COOPERATIVE**

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative”) for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to participate in the Cooperative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a waiver of custodial fees for the Senior Pops Orchestra’s use of Brookside’s auditorium on Sunday, June 22, 2014, for their Spring Community Concert.

**FEE WAIVER**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the New York/Island Cooperative Supply Bidding Resolution for the 2014-15 school year.

**NEW YORK/ISLAND  
COOPERATIVE BID**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Education Data Service, Inc. for software licensing and maintenance services for the NY/Island Cooperative supply bids at a cost of \$9,000, and Skilled Trades & Ancillary services at a cost of \$1,990, for the 2014-15 school year.

**EDUCATION DATA  
SERVICE, INC.**

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 2014-2015 school year. Per student cost will be \$560.00.

**EAST MEADOW  
DRIVING SCHOOL**

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**BELLMORE-MERRICK CHILD CARE** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign an agreement with Bellmore-Merrick Child Care Program for the use of space at the Brookside School to expire on June 30, 2015, at an annual cost of \$10,128.

**BOCES OF NASSAU COUNTY** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for the use of one (1) classroom at Kennedy High School from 9/1/14 – 6/30/15 at a rental rate of \$6,958.56 annually and \$1,471 annually per student in connection with mainstreaming.

**OBSOLETE/SURPLUS PROPERTY** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of the recommended Calhoun High School computer equipment.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of high jump mats at Calhoun HS inasmuch as they have cracked and torn surface covers and are no longer fit for use.

**TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT EXTENSIONS** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the extension of school bus transportation contracts with Acme Bus Company for the three (3) year period beginning July 2014 Summer through School Year 2016-2017 at full C.P.I. and, as has been done for prior extensions, continue the waiver of the performance bond for the period of the contract extensions.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the extension of school bus transportation contracts with Educational Bus Transportation Inc, First Student, Suburban Bus Transportation Inc, and We Transport Inc, for a one (1) year period beginning July 2014 Summer through School Year 2014-2015 at full C.P.I., and, as has been done for prior extensions, continue the waiver of the performance bond for the period of the contract extensions. The extension parameters listed include large buses, vans, matron service and field and athletic trips.

**EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS - JERSULAM AVENUE** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare the abatement of vinyl asbestos tiles at Jerusalem Avenue an emergency situation due to safety concerns, and further that the project is an ordinary contingent expense of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. Monies from the 2013-14 interfund transfer, not to exceed \$50,000, will be used to pay for the abatement. Should additional funding be required, the Board will pass an additional resolution approving the amount.

**CALHOUN HS** BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare the replacement of fixed glass with “hopper” windows in Calhoun High School’s gymnasium an emergency situation due to health concerns. The current windows do not open which prevents the proper circulation of air in the space and often the overheating of the gym. The project is an ordinary contingent expense of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. Monies from the 2013-14 interfund transfer, not to exceed \$25,000, will be used to pay for the replacement.



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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Ellen M. Sheldon Memorial Scholarship in a variable amount funded by fundraising to be awarded annually to a Kennedy HS student who exhibits perseverance, bravery, courage during difficult and challenging life or learning hardships.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of an amount not to exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2014 to the Retirement Contribution Reserve (GML §6-m), and

**RESERVE FUNDS**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2014 to the Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve (GML §6-p, 2(a)).

Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Schwartz stated the Board just approved the establishment of the Ellen M. Sheldon Memorial Scholarship in honor of a Kennedy High School teacher and added that the Board really appreciates the feelings and spirit behind this scholarship.

The Board will discuss correspondence it received.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Pam Banks stated the Calhoun Site Based Committee had discussed making Health a mandatory 9<sup>th</sup> grade course. She wants the Board of Education to strongly consider this idea.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lisa Katz asked about the up-coming field tests.

Mrs. Schwartz stated Bellmore-Merrick is not administering them. The tests will be sent back.

Mr. DeTommaso stated field tests existed well before Common Core and after some discussion, it was decided they will not be given to our students.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education convene its public hearing on the 2014-2015 School Budget. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mrs. Strait Régal advised the budget brochures are available at tonight's meeting. She presented an overview of the budget stating it is simplistic. The increase in State aid and the use of significant reserve funds has kept the tax levy at 1.866%. 12% of the budget is administrative, 78% is instructional and the remainder is for capital. Capital has additional money for needed purchases; half sized school bus, building security upgrades and technology. The district's vans are approximately 10 years old and will not

**PUBLIC HEARING –  
2014-2015 SCHOOL  
BUDGET**

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**PUBLIC HEARING –  
2014-2015 SCHOOL  
BUDGET  
(Continued)**

meet the state's stringent rules for use as student transportation. The budget to budget increase is 2.12%. In this budget, summer school was re-instated, there is an increase in the district's participation in the Long Island School for the Arts, replacement of computers is included and Project Lead the Way has been expanded to include ninth graders.

**MOTION TO RETURN  
TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Haile moved that the Board of Education return to the regular agenda. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss student and personnel matters at 9:02p.m.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

On a motion by Mr. Haile, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 10:14 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Blane, seconded by Mrs. Goller and carried 7-0, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk