

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING May 6, 2015 - **REVISED**

A regular meeting and Public Hearing of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, May 6, 2015, in the Board of Education Conference Room of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside School at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

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

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Cynthia Strait Régal, Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel  
David Seinfeld, 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 Simpkins, 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 regular meeting was called to order at 8:23 p.m. Mrs. DeLauter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 15, 2015 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 7-0-1, with Mr. Haile abstaining.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 21, 2015 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 6-0-2 with Mr. Haile and Mrs. Lanci abstaining.

Mr. Haile moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated March 31, 2015. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve a change in the order of the agenda and move to the Personnel Report. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**CHANGE IN THE  
ORDER OF THE  
AGENDA**

**PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's Personnel Report as amended, dated May 6, 2015. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve item 2a. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve item 2b. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 6-0-1 with Mrs. DeLauter abstaining.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Eric Caballero, Mephram Assistant Principal, and Daniel Jantzen, Kennedy Science teacher, for having received tenure and Ms. Theresa Catalina on her appointment as Special Education chairperson. He added we look forward to many years of wonderful work with our children.

Mr. DeTommaso stated we begin tonight with honoring Beatrice Brown once again for her many accomplishments. He added she was chosen as a National Merit finalist and received a scholarship. Beatrice will attend Yale.

**YOUNG NATURALIST  
AWARD**

Mrs. Schwartz stated Kennedy High School senior Beatrice Brown has been selected as one of two 12<sup>th</sup> grade National Winners of the Young Naturalist Award and presented her with an Award of Honor certificate. The Young Naturalist Awards is a research-based science competition sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History and the Alcoa Corporation. Bea's independent research project developed predictive models of the hurricane hazards faced by coastal communities on Long Island and was rigorously evaluated. Bea was chosen from among a pool of finalists who completed STEM research projects focused on natural environments across the country. As a national winner, Bea and her parents are invited to an award ceremony and luncheon at the American Museum of Natural History, a special behind-the-scenes museum tour and an overnight stay in NYC. Bea's teacher, Ms. Barbara Franklin, is also invited to the ceremony and luncheon and will receive classroom resources to share at Kennedy HS. We are very proud of Bea for this extraordinary accomplishment and, on behalf of the Board of Education, congratulate her and Kennedy Advanced Science Research teachers, Ms. Franklin and Ms. Barbi Frank.

Next, Mr. DeTommaso announced the Board will honor Irene Kowalski for having been elected NYS President of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA).

**DECA  
NEW YORK STATE  
(NYS) PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Gargiulo stated Calhoun High School junior Irene Kowalski has been elected President of the DECA and presented her with an Award of Honor certificate. DECA is a nationally recognized business organization that brings the work world into the classroom. At the New York chapters' annual DECA regional event, Long Island high school students test their ability to think on their feet, devise marketing plans, pitch promotional strategies and publicly speak or interview before a board of corporate judges. After evaluation, high scoring

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students advance to NYS level and, ultimately, national level. Irene, a three year DECA member, has successfully competed at both the state and national DECA levels for the past two years and is the Social Media Correspondent for Calhoun DECA. She has done an outstanding job coordinating, managing and promoting the NY DECA Facebook account. Irene will exercise her leadership qualities to oversee over 120+ high school DECA chapters throughout NYS and serve as a role model. She has also helped coordinate and organize various events at Calhoun, is enrolled in various AP and college level classes and is a member of the National Honor Society. Mrs. Gargiulo congratulated Irene on behalf of the Board of Education.

**DECA NYS PRESIDENT  
(Continued)**

Mr. DeTommaso added his congratulations to both Beatrice and Irene.

Derek Baumann from Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) advised that MAP students viewed the Disney film “Monkeys” for Earth Day. MAP students spoke with veterans of Viet Nam, Korea and World War II. A speaker from the LGBT community also meet with MAP students. MAP students worked with Baiting Hollow Horse Rescue. A MAP student sat for the AP Literature exam and MAP students will be offered additional AP courses next year. There was a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island last month.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Griffin Miller congratulated Irene Kowalski and stated Relay for Life was an extraordinary event and raised \$75,000 for cancer research. The luminaire ceremony for those who succumbed to cancer and cancer survivors was very touching. He thanked all those involved. French, Italian, Spanish, English and National Honor Societies held inductions last month. The Band and Chorus trip to Disney was very successful with Crescendo returning as a national champion. The blue and grey concerts were outstanding as well as the Poetry Slam. The annual International Luncheon, organized by ENL students, will be held this month. Nine more Calhoun students signed on for college sports. Calhoun’s baseball field will be dedicated this Saturday.

Mara Friedman stated this is a hectic time of year. Seniors are celebrating their final weeks. She congratulated Beatrice Brown and mentioned Beatrice’s drama production performance. She also congratulate Mr. Jantzen on receiving tenure. The Spring concert and Art Show last week were spectacular. She congratulated Mr. Avellaneda on being a contest finalist for Teacher of the Year. Two Kennedy Math teachers have co-authored a book, Geometry for Dummies. National, World and English Language Honor Societies held inductions. The annual World Culture Night was enjoyable. The English Department held a poetry slam, a la “The Voice” and SADD presented speakers regarding drug and prescription pill use. She thanked Wendy Tepfer for her help. Students participated in various volunteer and fundraising activities. Boys Golf has won two straight Conference championships and track has also done well this year. The Senior Fashion show is scheduled for this Thursday.

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**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES  
(Continued)**

Kara Ognibene congratulated Mr. Caballero on receiving tenure. She added the drama clubs' performance was exceptional and the set design contained a great amount of detail. A Mephram student had the winning poster for this year's Celebration of the Arts. English and National Honor Society inductions were held. She stated she is the recipient of the Erin McArdle scholarship. The Botanical Gardens trip was very enjoyable as was the Pay it Forward free bagel breakfast. Students distributed 20 care packages to the homeless. Mephram's baseball field dedication was held. "So They Think They Can Dance" was held in a packed auditorium and extremely successful. French, Italian, Spanish and National Honor Societies held their inductions. Key Club's Senior Citizen's Prom was enjoyed by all.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORTS**

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the students and mentioned some important, upcoming dates, such as MS and HS concerts, Art Expos, and the Budget Vote on May 19<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote. He advised the BMCHSD Challenge and more honor society inductions are coming up. Schools are closed on Friday, May 22, 2015. He encouraged everyone to attend school events and added you will not be disappointed. Lastly, Celebration of the Arts will showcase student work and will be held at Brookside on Sunday, May 17, 2015.

Mr. DeTommaso stated that next there are two very important presentations, Update on Instructional Initiative and the Preliminary Smart Schools Bond Plan. We begin with Mr. Seinfeld and the Instructional Initiative.

**INSTRUCTIONAL  
INITIATIVES**

Mr. Seinfeld stated close to 400 students took the AP English exam today. We are preparing our student for the future and the world. We are working on a CDOS plan for the upcoming year. Our students have been actively involved in career development activities, so we are very well prepared for the SED's change in exit certificates. We want to challenge our students. Acceleration is an option. He outlined instructional initiatives. Mr. DeTommaso added that some of these items were prompted by audience members' suggestions at Board meetings. He wants rigor for all students and compassionate educators. Acceleration allows students to take other classes, advanced or not. Mr. Seinfeld stated a Three Tier Plan has been developed for Mathematics. The District will wait for the new standards in Science. Because science will be different than Mathematics, the committee suggested that we encourage non-accelerated middle school students to challenge the advanced class. Students have received letters encouraging them to review their options. The district is planning professional development and curriculum writing projects to prepare for these initiatives.

Mr. DeTommaso stated now that lunch lab has been eliminated and there is a full lab, more students can take these classes. We are overcoming obstacles and problems to give students these options.

Mrs. Goller was advised that since some regents classes will be 1½ periods, students will give up an elective. Mr. Seinfeld advised he will look into the

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possibility of 9<sup>th</sup> graders taking AP Biology but AP Biology students really need a chemistry background.

**INSTRUCTIONAL  
INITIATIVES  
(Continued)**

Mr. DeTommaso stated the next presentation is about the Smart Schools Bond Plan and introduced Mr. Joseph Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services.

Mr. Innaco stated voters authorized the distribution of \$2 billion dollars to improve educational technology and infrastructure to increase student learning opportunities. Bellmore-Merrick's allocation of \$2,160,806 will be used for classroom technology hardware and school safety. All districts must submit a plan demonstrating how funds will be used and apply to SED. SED has a 90 day review and approval process. Mr. Innaco advised he has received some guidelines from NYS and has produced a preliminary investment plan. He reviewed the plan and listed the specific items to be purchased; he added professional development is always a part of this. The final plan is known as SSIP.

**SMART SCHOOL BOND  
ACT PLAN**

Mr. Innaco advised Dr. Pamela Banks it is uncertain if students can get online Programs through the program.

Mr. DeTommaso stated these items are built into the 2015-2016 school budget but if they can be funded by NYS, that frees up money in the 2015-2016 budget.

None 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): 000511440, 030003178, 030003243, 030430015, 030710015, 052420000, 060810006, 071910002, 112280001, 121650000, 370000660, 370000890 and 992450105.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended Special Education vendors for School Year 2015-2016.

Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

The Board of Education accepted Policy No. 4532 – Volunteers (New) for a first reading.

**POLICY**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a Wal-Mart grant in the amount of \$1,000 to the Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**DONATIONS**

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**DONATIONS  
(Continued)**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation in the amount of \$5,000 from the Helen Matchett DeMario Foundation to Mephram High School. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**RETIREEES**

Mrs. DeLauter stated Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's retirees will be honored at our June 3, 2015 regular meeting. All members of our professional and civil service staff who have retired during the 2014-2015 school year will be invited to attend this reception.

**BILLS**

The Board of Ed reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated May 6, 2015, and the corresponding warrants.

**BIDS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

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

**TEXTBOOK  
DISTRIBUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Textbook Central for centralized textbook distribution services for the 2015-2016 school year. Costs are dependent upon the number of participants and are stated with the contract.

**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, 2016, at an annual cost of \$10,224.

**DRIVER'S ED**

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 2015-2016 school year. Per student cost will remain at \$560.

**TRANSPORTATION  
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., We Transport, Inc. and Veterans Transportation Co., Inc. for a one (1) year period beginning July 2015 Summer through School Year 2015-2016 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.

**EDUCATION DATA  
SERVICES**

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 2015-16 school year.

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the New York/Island Cooperative Supply Bidding Resolution for the 2015-16 school year.

**NEW YORK ISLAND  
COOPERATIVE  
SUPPLY BID**

Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education accept and approve the Preliminary Smart Schools Bond Plan. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**PRELIMINARY SMART  
SCHOOLS BOND PLAN**

There was none.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr. Banks asked if all seniors write a term paper and was advised by Mr. Seinfeld that in a January meeting, restructuring 12<sup>th</sup> grade and the different citation processes was discussed. Mrs. DeLauter added her children learned how to do a term paper in North Bellmore elementary schools.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Piskin asked how the Kennedy HS Guidance Department will help students in light of Ms. Connolly's retirement and was advised the district is very confident in Ms. Connolly's replacement.

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education convene a Public Hearing on the 2015-2016 school budget. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING –  
2015-2016 SCHOOL  
BUDGET**

Mrs. Strait Régal gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2015-2016 school budget stating the tax levy will be 2.050%, below the allowable tax rate of 2.073%. The district falls in line with a number of Long Island school districts. This budget maintains, retains and adds items. Some key items mentioned were that this budget will reduce class sizes in collaborative classes by adding nine Special Education teachers. These additional teachers will aid in reducing the number of special needs students from 12 to approximately 8 per collaborative class, adds more nurses and increases security measures. Mr. DeTommaso thanked Mrs. Strait Régal and her team, the administrators and principals for putting this budget together. Mrs. Strait Régal added the budget brochure will be mailed tomorrow, May 7, 2015.

There was none.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

On a motion by Mrs. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk