

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING December 7, 2016

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, December 7, 2016, 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:

Dr. Nancy Kaplan, Vice President  
Marion Blane  
JoAnn DeLauter  
Wendy Gargiulo  
Lisa Katz  
Nina Lanci

The following members of the Board of Education were absent:

Janet Goller, President  
Gina Piskin

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel  
Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
David Seinfeld, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum  
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services  
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education  
Cheryl Fontana, Director of Music/Fine and Performing Arts and Adult Education  
Joseph Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services  
Helen Kanellopoulos, Assistant Director of Special Education  
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations  
Tom Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:08p.m. Dr. Kaplan, Board of Education Vice President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Kaplan welcomed everyone.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the November 2, 2016 and the November 29, 2016 meetings. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated October 31, 2016. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sara Samir of Calhoun High School congratulated both Calhoun Boys Soccer and Kennedy Boys Volleyball teams for becoming champions, their coaches for being named Nassau County Coaches of the Year and team members named All Conference, All State and All Long Island. Calhoun participated in the Virtual

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

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**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Enterprise competition and placed first and earned \$1,000. The Thanksgiving dinner was held last month. Alumni Day was wonderful. Student art was featured in the Tilles Center. The District Choral Show was amazing. The Bulldogs hockey team season has just begun. National and Math Honor Societies held induction ceremonies last month.

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned students from all the buildings performed in the District Choral Show. Additionally, before intra district teams play, we will take a photograph of the teams together. Kennedy's and Calhoun's girls basketball game was the first.

Abigail Jellinek of Kennedy congratulated coaches teams and outstanding athletes for their achievements. She stated all Kennedy's teams are scholar athlete teams. The Thanksgiving Food Drive helped 15 families celebrate the holiday and stocked the Community Cupboard. Key Club's Blood Drive was successful and are currently organizing a Prom Dress Drive. Bring Your Child to Work was held last week. The drama production, "Harvey" went well as did Poetry Out Loud. National and Math Honor Societies held inductions and Career Day was also held last month. French classes' trip to Quebec also went well. One Voice, One Message ambassadors are working with veterans and holiday concerts are on-going.

Mr. DeTommaso added if you have the time, come see the shows and concerts. Attendance is fantastic at these events.

Derek Baumann stated MAP students took a trip to the Cradle of Aviation. MAP students invited veterans from the Brookside Senior Center to their Wall of Honor ribbon cutting ceremony. Forensic students went to a DNA Lab and there were two trips to the Ronald McDonald House. MAP students hosted a fundraiser luncheon. This year's annual Thanksgiving Fest was enjoyable. A Blood Drive netted 25 pints of blood. MAP students are accepting donations for the Community Cupboard.

Mr. DeTommaso stated he received a letter from a senior citizen thanking him for the Senior Citizens Connection newsletter that notifies the community of upcoming events.

Madison Uzwy of Mepham High School stated the entire community enjoyed Mepham's recent TEDx event. She thanked the sponsors. Students donated 131 pints of blood. Community Leadership students escorted elderly veterans through a series of stations distributing supplies. Alumni Day was very successful. A 2017 Science Competition (Intel) celebration was held last month. Students continue work with Habitat for Humanity. All sports teams are Scholar Athlete teams. The drama production, "The Government Inspector" was a great hit. Battle of the Classes was close. Next up is Mepham's annual caroling night, winter concerts and the Polar Express party for children throughout Nassau County.

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Mr. DeTommaso mentioned that Mepham's football team received the Nassau County Community Service Award. He also noted some important up-coming dates.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

He stated earlier tonight we recognized Kennedy's Volleyball team as the Conference and Nassau County champions for the second consecutive year and Calhoun's Soccer team as the Conference, Nassau County and Long Island champions. The Colts played great at the State Final Four in Middletown, NY but lost to eventual champion New Rochelle by a score of 4-3. It was a season that none will ever forget. Both teams' coaches were named a Nassau County Coach of the Year.

Mr. DeTommaso stated about three weeks ago, the district was advised of a threat made to all Nassau County schools. After consulting with the component districts, all five districts sent messages to all parents and staff advising them of this non-specific threat. Not all districts in Nassau County did but we are concerned with the safety of our students and felt notification was important. We have reviewed our notification methods and will make adjustments to the way people are notified.

Mr. DeTommaso also mentioned the inaccuracies in *Newsday's* recent article regarding Bellmore-Merrick CHSD's State Audit and urged everyone to go to the district website to read the district's response to the state. The district is in excellent fiscal condition, recently received a Bond Rating of Aa1 and approved for a loan interest rate of 2% which will save the district more than \$10 million dollars over the next 15 years. Mrs. Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business, explained the state's headline of \$21 million dollars is a distortion and really is the same \$7 million a year for the last three years. This money is set aside for emergencies such as roof and boiler replacements, and unexpected increases in Social Security, TRS, which rose 4% or \$3 million in 2012-2013, and ERS payments. Each year, any remaining funds have been applied to the next year's budget. Tonight the Board will re-establishing the Unemployment and Workmen's Compensation Reserve Funds.

There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000010717, 000010828, 000011042, 000011336, 000011400, 000011439, 000011596, 000011965, 000012626, 000013090, 000013119, 000511785, 000511918, 000511994, 000512244, 000512381, 000512592, 030240000, 030720000, 030720008, 030730007, 030870001, 031190003, 032580000, 033240001, 040200002, 040430007, 040500017, 040540006, 040700005, 042680000, 042710000, 043030000, 050420003, 050450007, 050550011, 060470004, 060620003, 062400006, 070720001, 071220003, 080420000 and 090560014. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

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- DONATION** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve a donation of \$300 from the Bellmore-Merrick Coordinating Council of the PTAs for each of the district's libraries in honor of the Board of Education. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 6-0. Dr. Kaplan thanked the Council of PTAs stating their gift is very much appreciated.
- POLICY** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept Policy No. 4750 – Promotion and Retention of Students. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.
- PERSONNEL** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated December 7, 2016, as amended and stated in the agenda. Mrs. Lanci seconded, and the motion was carried 6-0.
- BILLS** The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated December 7, 2016, and the corresponding warrants.
- BIDS** Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.
- BUDGET SUMMARY** The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.
- Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:
- BUDGET TRANSFERS** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfers up to \$900,000:
1. For the cost of Special Ed Related Services  
From A2250 472 (Special Ed Tuition) to A2250 400 (Special Ed Contractual)
  2. For Summer Tuition  
From A2250 472 (Special Ed Tuition) to F2254 472 (Summer Tuition)
- THOMSON REUTERS** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a twelve (12) month renewal contract with Thomson Reuters for WestlawNext electronic access at a monthly cost of \$259.36.
- CONSULTANT** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, Jacquelyn Nealon, to speak at the District College Financial Aid Night on 9/29/16 at a cost not to exceed \$600 funded by the Calhoun, Mephram and Kennedy Guidance budgets.
- HEALTH PLAN FOR PERMANENT AND PER DIEM SUBSTITUTES** WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central School District employs permanent substitutes and per diem substitutes in the School District; and
- WHEREAS, permanent substitutes and per diem substitutes employed by the School District currently are not eligible for health insurance coverage offered by the School District; and

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WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to offer the Emblem Health HIP Prime HMO II plan to all permanent substitutes and per diem substitutes employed by the School District;

**HEALTH PLAN FOR  
PERMANENT AND  
PER DIEM  
SUBSTITUTES  
(Continued)**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to offer the Emblem Health HIP Prime HMO II plan to all permanent substitutes and per diem substitutes. All such employees shall be responsible for and shall contribute 100% of the cost of the premium for the Emblem Health HIP Prime HMO II Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 2017, the Emblem Health HIP Prime HMO II plan will be offered to all permanent substitutes and per diem substitutes currently employed by the School District and all new permanent substitutes and per diem substitutes upon hire; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the offering of the Emblem Health HIP Prime HMO II Plan to the aforementioned employees.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of the following Bellmore-Merrick CHSD vehicles:

**OBSOLETE/SURPLUS  
PROPERTY**

1994 Ford F600 Stak, VIN 1FDMF60J3RVA12280

1996 Chevy Pick-up Truck, VIN 1GCHK34R5TE237324

Ford Tractor Model 7103, VIJN UV22146

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Bond Referendum Projects Phase 2A construction change orders:

**CONSTRUCTION  
CHANGE ORDERS**

- a. Grand Avenue Middle School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-001-032 –  
Change Order No. 2 in the add amount of \$3,278 for Ambrosio
- b. Merrick Avenue Middle School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-003-039 –  
Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$5,000 for Laser Industries
- c. Kennedy High School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-037 –  
Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$4,000 for Laser Industries

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Bond Referendum Projects Phase 2B construction change orders:

- d. Merrick Avenue Middle School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-003-039 –  
Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$2,212 for Laser Industries
- e. Mephram High School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-048 –  
Change Order No. 1 in the add amount of \$4,457 for LEB
- f. Mephram High School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-048 –  
Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$11,606.78 for Hirsch

**UNEMPLOYMENT  
RESERVE FUND**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education pursuant to Section 6-m of the General Municipal Law:

1. The Board hereby establishes a reserve fund to be known as the Unemployment Reserve Fund;
2. The source of funds for this reserve fund shall be any funds that may be legally appropriated;
3. The balance of this reserve fund shall not exceed \$350,000;
4. Expenditures shall be made from this reserve fund only as required by law to pay into the unemployment insurance fund an amount equivalent to the amount of benefits paid to claimants and charged to the school district.

**WORKMEN'S  
COMPENSATION  
RESERVE FUND**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education pursuant to Section 6-j of the General Municipal Law:

1. The Board hereby establishes a reserve fund to be known as the Workmen's Compensation Reserve Fund;
2. The source of funds for this reserve fund shall be any funds that may be legally appropriated;
3. The balance of this reserve fund shall not exceed \$750,000;
4. Expenditures shall be made from this reserve fund only for the payment of compensation and benefits, medical, hospital or other expense authorized by article two of the workmen's compensation law and expenses of administering the self-insurance program.

WHEREAS, that the Board of Education PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED RESERVES FOR Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Insurance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has reviewed said reserves for compliance with law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby re-authorizes the establishment of said reserves and affirms that the following amounts were previously authorized for transfer into said reserve funds:

Workers' Compensation Reserve: \$9,750

**ATTENDANCE  
FUNCTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following members of the Board of Education are approved to attend the Council of PTAs Founders Day Dinner at the Coral House on March 13, 2017 at a cost of \$47.00 per person.

**TRANSPORTATION  
CONTRACT  
EXTENSION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the extension of school bus transportation contracts with Guardian Bus Company, Inc. for a one (1) year period for the School Year 2016-17 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. Extension parameters listed include large bus and van contracts in all categories, athletic and charter trips to be included.

Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

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There was none.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Rona Baruch asked if the district was working on changing the start time and bus schedule. She mentioned the Association of Pediatrics' recommendation for a later start time for high school students.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. DeTommaso advised the district is looking into it and considering its impact on the component districts as well as analyzing the costs.

Mrs. Lanci thanked Mr. DeTommaso for the Saturday tour of schools he gave to herself and Mrs. DeLauter. She was impressed and proud of our schools. Mrs. DeLauter added the Broadcasting Room in Mephram is phenomenal.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. DeTommaso added kudos to Mr. Simpkins for keeping the work on schedule. We are close to opening many rooms. Much of the work takes place at night. We will have another big summer of work and EPC work will start within the next couple of weeks. The district will see a tremendous savings.

Dr. Kaplan thanked the Central Office administration and staff, the directors and building administrators. She wished everyone Happy Holidays!

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Gargiulo and carried 6-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk