

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING May 3, 2017

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, May 3, 2017, 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:

Janet Goller, President
Dr. Nancy Kaplan, Vice President
Marion Blane
JoAnn DeLauter
Wendy Gargiulo
Lisa Katz
Gina Piskin

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Nina Lanci

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
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 8:12 p.m. Mrs. Goller, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 7 and April 20, 2017 meetings. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 6-1-0 with Mrs. Blane abstaining inasmuch as she did not attend the April 20, 2017 meeting..

MINUTES

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, Report, dated March 31, 2017. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone to tonight's celebration of Bellmore-Merrick accomplishments. The district could probably recognize more people each month because this district is like no other district around. He stated earlier this evening, the district recognized its newest tenured staff.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

**SCHOLASTIC
NATIONAL GOLD
MEDAL PORTFOLIO
AWARD IN WRITING**

Mrs. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Alixandra Wilens of Kennedy High School for having received the Scholastic National Gold Medal Portfolio Award for Writing and stated Alix is a creative, scholarly and supremely motivated individual who is widely recognized for her writing prowess. She has achieved great success across all subject areas and has immersed herself within Kennedy's extracurricular programs. Alix attempts to maximize her opportunities as a writer to raise awareness regarding issues or circumstances that impact others well beyond our immediate surroundings. She proudly serves as Editor-in-Chief of our school newspaper. Amidst roughly 330,000 submissions submitted nationally, Alix won a Gold Medal for her portfolio. This award is received by only 16 seniors nationwide. Alix is a Board Member in Mock Trial and National Honor Society, a National Merit Commended student, an AP Scholar with Honor and a member of the National, English, Math, Science and Foreign Language Honor Societies. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Goller congratulated Alix.

Mr. DeTommaso stated our students have diverse abilities and have always been strong in business. Here are our DECA and FBLA students' accomplishments.

**2017 NY STATE
DECA CHAMPIONS**

Mrs. Katz stated the Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) is unlike other clubs offered in high school. DECA brings the real working world into the classroom. Calhoun DECA students competed in a state competition that is organized by NY's DECA chapter. At this state event, high school students throughout NYS test their ability to think on their feet, devise marketing plans, pitch promotional strategies and publicly speak or interview before a board of qualified corporate judges. The Calhoun community is proud of each and every student who participated. The following Calhoun DECA students placed at the State level and have qualified to compete at the International Career Development Conference held in Anaheim, California: Devon Bayer – 2nd place – Advertising Campaign Event; Olivia Levy – 3rd Place – Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling Event; Sara Samir – 2nd Place – Start-Up Business Plan; Gillian Stapler – 3rd Place – Business Growth Plan; and Julia Oladipo & Jessica Zhang – 5th Place – Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making Event. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Katz congratulated all the students.

**FUTURE BUSINESS
LEADERS OF
AMERICA (FBLA)
2017 NYS CHAMPIONS**

Mrs. Piskin presented Award of Honor certificates to Linda Jiang and Hugh Cheung on placing 4th in the New York State Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competition. FBLA's state and national awards program recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas. Through state-based competition members compete in events that test their business knowledge and skills. Top winners are eligible to compete at the National Leadership Conference each summer. Linda and Hugh's category, Banking and Financial Systems, required them to complete a 100 question test and later provide and present an impromptu solution to a case study to a panel of judges. This is an amazing accomplishment as, not only are they both freshman and first time competitors, they competed against high school students of all ages. This feat earned them a place at the National event in Anaheim, California. Additionally, Hugh placed 5th in the Introduction to Financial Math category. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Piskin congratulated Linda and Hugh.

Ms. Gargiulo presented an Award of Honor certificate to Zahrah Ibrahim stating this past March, Zahrah was faced with a situation nobody would ever want. While attending a community basketball game at Calhoun with her family, she noticed that her grandmother collapsed. Zahrah responded without hesitation and immediately began CPR, continuing chest compressions until the ambulance arrived. Just a few weeks earlier, Zahrah refreshed her knowledge of CPR/AED training in her Physical Education class. As a result of Zahrah's quick action and training, Zahrah saved her grandmother's life. Her family, as well as the entire Bellmore-Merrick community, could not be more proud of Zahrah's ability to keep her composure and be a leader during this life-threatening situation. Mrs. Gargiulo congratulated Zahrah on behalf of the Board.

LIFE SAVING CPR

Mr. Caballero explained that every student in Bellmore-Merrick is exposed to CPR and AED training.

Dr. Kaplan and Mrs. Piskin presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mrs. Jill Levine, a very active member in our school community. Whether it is at an athletic event, a JFK Booster Club meeting, for which she is Co-President, or being active in the PTA, she is a staunch supporter. Through the foundation named after her son, the Forever 9 – The Robbie Levine Foundation's mission is to provide education in the importance of AED's, working to ensure their accessibility in public places and to raise awareness of the need for cardiac screenings in children. Through the foundation, our district has been able to provide AED/CPR training for all students in grades 7-12 for the past 6 years. In addition, Mrs. Levine has made it possible for our coaches to be able to have access to AED's at a level that is unprecedented on Long Island. Most importantly, for the second consecutive year, two students in our district have used this training to save a life. Jill, on behalf of the Board of Ed, Mr. DeTommaso and Central Administration, our teachers, coaches, and support staff, we thank you for all you do for our students and our community. Your willingness to offer assistance is indicative of your dedication to the District and your actions truly exemplify the excellence within the Bellmore-Merrick community. We here at Bellmore-Merrick are extremely fortunate to have the support of The Robbie Levine Foundation and look forward to working closely with you for years to come.

**FOREVER 9 – THE
ROBBIE LEVINE
FOUNDATION**

Dr. Bollettieri stated two teachers, Ms. Rzempoluch and Ms. McMahon, Expressed a desire to open a food pantry and wanted to include the Ambassadors in creating it. The Ambassadors titled it the "Community Cupboard"; plans were made for décor, organization and marketing for donations as well as identifying those in need. Two other staff members, Catrina Christensen and Darlene Boden joined. The Cupboard was inventoried and the shelves were stocked. An idea became a reality. Since its inception, the selfless and heart-filled acts of these four individuals for our community have been countless and priceless. Students from our six schools work together in the Cupboard to help their fellow community members in a warm and

**COMMUNITY
CUPBOARD**

**COMMUNITY
CUPBOARD
(Continued)**

welcoming environment established by these four individuals. There are approximately 600 items that are distributed bi-weekly. As of this week, a total of 5500 items have been distributed. These four incredible, compassionate individuals continue to share beautiful ideas. We greatly appreciate every moment that they give to the Community Cupboard in addition to all that they do for our students every day.

**ONE VOICE, ONE
MESSAGE**

Dr. Bollettieri stated dedication, commitment, perseverance, and passion are just a few words to describe the amazing individuals on the “One Voice, One Message” (OVOM) Committee. A Superintendent’s vision has been threaded into the seams of our schools to create our very culture. Our students understand their mission to learn compassion, sensitivity, respect, dignity and acceptance in bringing their schools, community and beyond together. An idea is discussed at a OVOM meeting and at the Ambassadors’ meeting, students express their thoughts, ideas and give their reflections on experiences. The students receive guidance, support, and direction from the OVOM members. These Committee members inspire their fellow staff members; have the students encourage their friends, they communicate with each other and reach out to the community. These individuals make a difference for our students, for our schools and for our community. We appreciate all that they do from the bottom of our hearts. We are grateful for the countless hours of; organizing, planning, and creating impressive Google Forms, the love for our students and the passion for the cause which are tremendous. All of this completed with the countless other responsibilities that they already carryout so well on a daily basis. As we often share with our students the Gandhi quote “be the change you want to see in the world”... I let them know “they are the change we want to see in the world” and we are so blessed to have them here for our students.

The audience viewed a brief video of OVOM activities.

Mrs. Goller thanked Superintendent DeTommaso for his vision that began OVOM.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

Sara Samir stated six Calhoun students went to the DECA nationals in Anaheim, CA. She congratulated Zahrah for performing CPR on her grandmother. She is proud of the OVOM event for Rise Against Hunger. Spring concerts were amazing and the grand finale was thrilling. A Calhoun student attended the NYS Science Congress in Buffalo and another student earned a Gold medal at the Math Fair. The Senior Experience Fashion Show raised over \$10,00 for Reason to Smile. Mississippi students experienced a day at Calhoun HS. On-tours production is this month. Relay for Life, an overnight event, will be held at Calhoun on May 12, 2017.

Abigail Jellinek congratulated Kennedy teachers who received tenure. The Spring Concert and Art Show were incredible. Kennedy’s Hall of Fame ceremony will be held later this month. Students participated in the SPARK Challenge and won a \$4,500 award. The SADD Talent Show benefited the Community Parent Center. GSA organized the annual Day of Silence and

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students participated in the Rise Against Hunger event. Girls and Boys Track are hosting an event. Girls Softball team is in the play-offs. There are numerous events scheduled before the next Board meeting.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES
(Continued)**

Derek Baumann stated the Community Cupboard has been an eye-opening experience. Farm Sanctuary, an animal rescue organization, presented a program to MAP students recently. They learned the meat and dairy industry has an impact on global warming. A nutritionist visited MAP. A grant has funded MAP's greenhouse. Student viewed the Earth Day film "Born in China." He announced MAP's salutatorian and valedictorian. Students had a field trip to Medieval Times in New Jersey. AP testing is this week and MAP seniors are receiving college acceptance letters.

Mr. DeTommaso stated Derek has been a Student Representative to the Board of Education for three years now.

Ms. Gargiulo stated that she and Derek were both newbies to the BMCHSD Board of Education together and enjoyed his reports from the very beginning. He once told her that MAP feels like home to him. She stated Derek speaks with such pride and exudes kindness and acceptance. He is a true humanitarian and inspires her. Tonight, on behalf of the Board, she wanted to give him tenure. Ms. Gargiulo presented Derek with a certificate.

Madison Uzwy congratulated those receiving tenure. Spring concert was fantastic. Mr. Neiderman celebrated his 31 year career. Thanked everyone involved in last week's world wind meal packaging. Students attended workshops coordinated by CSAF. Safe driving event held today with "Arrive Alive" activities. Relay for Life is scheduled for May 12, 2017, 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. at Calhoun. Students purchased strips of duct tape as a fundraiser for "Stick It to Cancer" and taped some teachers to walls. Girls Lacrosse in conference championship against Friends Academy. "So They Think They Can Dance" was held last month. Italian class had a trip to Ellis Island. "Thoroughly Modern Millie" production was wonderful.

Mr. DeTommaso stated each of these four students sit before the Board and the community each month and do an outstanding job. It's not easy. The Board of Education is still in the process of gathering information regarding the sale of Jerusalem Avenue. He reminded everyone to pay attention to the items listed in Future Dates on the agenda.

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education change the order of the agenda. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**CHANGE THE ORDER
OF THE AGENDA**

Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated April 5, 2017. Dr. Kaplan seconded, and the motion was carried 7-0.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Bollettieri introduced Emily Paluseo and Caterina Dand.

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RETURN TO ORDER OF THE AGENDA Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education return to the order of the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS There were none on agenda items only.

SPECIAL EDUCATION Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011482, 000011517, 000511906, 000512244, 000512432, 040490029, 040750000, 050600002, 370001034, 902380000, 992450022 and 999011287. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended Special Education vendors for School Year 2017-2018. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

POLICIES Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve renumbering Policy No. 5100 HS – High School Attendance Policy (Renumbered). Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

The Board of Education accepted Policy No. 5100 MS – Middle School Attendance Policy (New) (1st reading) for a first reading.

DONATIONS Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept a \$400 Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation Youth Grant from Youth Service America (YSA) to the Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) for MAP's Global Youth Service Day project and increase the appropriations budget by the this amount. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mr. DeTommaso thanked YSA.

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of office furniture from Travel with Joy, valued at approximately \$15,000. Mrs. Katz seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mr. DeTommaso thanked Travel with Joy.

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1,954 from the Mephram Class of 1954 to Mephram Library for library technology and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mr. Harrington advised this Class of 1954 is a very generous group who were very impressed with Mephram's revamped library. Mrs. Goller thanked the Class of 1954 for this very generous gift.

INFORMATION ITEM Mrs. Goller stated we will be honoring our school district's retirees at our June 7, 2017 regular meeting. All members of our professional and civil service staff who have retired during the 2016-2017 school year will be invited to attend this reception.

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The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated May 3, 2017, and the corresponding warrants.

BILLS

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

BIDS

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Textbook Central for centralized textbook distribution services for the 2017-2018 school year. Costs are dependent upon the number of participants and are stated with the contract.

**TEXTBOOK
DISTRIBUTION**

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 2016-2017 school year. Per student cost will remain at \$560.00.

**EAST MEADOW
DRIVING SCHOOL**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve year 2 of the extension of school bus transportation contracts with Guardian Bus Company, Inc. for School Year 2017-2018 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 extension. Extension parameters listed include large bus and van contracts in all categories, athletic and charter trips to be included.

**TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACT
EXTENSIONS**

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the extension of school bus transportation contracts with First Student, We Transport, Inc., Suburban Bus Transportation, Inc., Acme Bus Corporation, Bauman Bus Company, Inc., Veterans Bus and Educational Bus Transportation, Inc. for Summer 2017 beginning July 2017 and School Year 2017-2018 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.

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 2017-18 school year.

**EDUCATION DATA
SERVICE**

WHEREAS, it would be in the joint interest of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and the following school districts (*SEE ATTACHED LISTING*) to participate in cooperative bids for the purchase of various supplies, services, materials and equipment, as advertised by and awarded by

**NEW YORK/ISLAND
COOPERATIVE BID**

**NEW YORK/ISLAND
COOPERATIVE BID
(Continued)**

the Clarkstown Central School District acting as the Lead Agency, as provided General Municipal Law Section 119-0, and,

WHEREAS, each BOARD retains the legal authority to contract with the successful Vendor(s) and shall not be bound by purchase contracts or other agreements made by the other BOARD(S),

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby agrees to participate with the attached named school districts in such cooperative bids.

**ECHOCARDIOGRAM
AND EKG SCREENING**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign an agreement with Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Cohen Children's Medical Center, to provide echocardiogram and EKG screenings for BMCHSD middle school students.

**CONSTRUCTION
CHANGE ORDERS**

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

- a. Calhoun HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-004-048, Change Order No. 5 in the add amount of \$2,191.27 for JNS.
- b. Kennedy HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-037, Changed Order No. 3 in the add amount of \$2,474.01 for JNS.
- c. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-048, Changed Order No. 1 in the add amount of \$3652.11 for JNS.

CONSULTANT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, NKC Choreography, for choreography/workshop with Mephram Varsity Kickline team on 7/25/17 at Brookside, at a cost of \$35 per kickliner, not to exceed \$875 funded by Kickline G.O.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Kaukaras stated he has not received an answer to his questions from last month's meeting. He was advised Mrs. Freeman will call him tomorrow with the response to his Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Bond questions. Mr. DeTommaso reiterated that some of Mr. Kaukaras' questions were about the North Bellmore school district's bond. Mr. DeTommaso advised Mr. Kaukaras to contact North Bellmore school district for answers to his questions concerning North Bellmore's bond. Mrs. DeLauter advised him to speak with North Bellmore's business official, Mark Schissler.

Mr. Kaukaras also asked where the money from the sale of the Jerusalem Avenue school and property would go.

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**PUBLIC HEARING –
2017-2018 SCHOOL
BUDGET**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education convene the Public Hearing for the 2017-2018 School Budget. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Freeman explained the budget is broken down into three parts and briefly reviewed the budget brochure which has been mailed out and is available here at tonight's meeting. The only change from last month's budget presentation is a change in the allowable tax rate of 3.23%. It has been reduced to 2.9%.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 9:25 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Katz, seconded by Mrs. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 10:55 p.m.

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the Addendum to the Personnel Report of May 3, 2017. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Gargiulo and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk