

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING September 6, 2017

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, September 6, 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:

Dr. Nancy Kaplan, President
Nina Lanci, Vice President
Marion Blane
Steve Enella
John Ferrara
Wendy Gargiulo
Janet Goller
Gina Piskin

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel
Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Michael Harrington, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
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 7:59 p.m. Dr. Kaplan, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Kaplan welcomed everyone and stated she hoped everyone had a wonderful summer. She felt Mr. DeTommaso's opening day of school remarks were truly inspiring and added he pushes us all to be better.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the August 2, 2017 meeting. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-1-0 with Mrs. Piskin abstaining.

MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated July 11, 2017. Mr. Enella seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso began by stating our hearts go out to the people in and around Houston in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and hope for the best for the people of Puerto Rico and Caribbean islands in the path of Hurricane Irma. He welcomed everyone back to the 2017-2018 school year adding it is good to see everyone. This is his 20th year in Bellmore-Merrick. It was a smooth opening day of school. He thanked all the principals and staff. The following principals gave brief summaries of their opening day: Ms. Hollings, Mr.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(Continued)**

Gomez, Mr. Owenberg, Mrs. Ellinghaus, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Conte. The schools are already fundraising for Hurricane Relief and a district-wide day is planned for 9/11. Mr. DeTommaso praised Mr. Simpkins and the district's custodial staff for the great job they did getting the buildings ready for the first day. The buildings look beautiful. He complemented the teaching staff stating they have gotten down to business very quickly. This year's theme is "Connecting with Kindness and Caring" adding we always focus on instruction and academic performance. He gave an update on Bond projects stating that because of the Energy Performance Contract (EPC), the district has new Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting. Summer work included new HVAC and labs. The Bond was originally presented with a possible percentage rate of five percent (5%). \$42.9 million has received an interest rate of 1.96% and the remaining \$7 million has an interest rate of 2.117% because of the district's good financial status. This will save the community about \$12 million in interest payments. Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the sudden passing of Paul Adamo of School Construction Company (SCC). Mr. Adamo led \$42 million worth of work in Bond projects over the past four years and will be missed.

DATA PRESENTATION

Mr. Harrington gave a presentation on the exam results for the 2016-2017 school year. He thanked the staff stating Advanced Regents diplomas reached an exceptional rate in all the schools. Each year, more students are taking Regent exams in middle schools and high schools and the passing rates are high. Mastery rates have increased for Regents exams, ELA and Math assessments. He stated it is well-known that the Geometry Regents exam this year was riddled with mistakes.

Mr. DeTommaso stated that over a two year period, more than 150 students have taken advanced classes and reached mastery level. He is considering a Safe/Harmless policy and is reviewing a Westchester school district's idea to only give the five (5) required Regents exams. In a college survey conducted last year by district staff, it was determined that only a few colleges looked at Regent exam results but all did look for rigor in a student's courses. Forty (40) weeks of school work is more telling than a two (2) hour exam.

Mr. Harrington stated, due to AP for All, there is an increase in the number of students taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes and exams with very successful results. The district is offering more computer science and business classes this year because the students are connecting with the teachers and curriculum. He thanked the Board of Education for reinstating Summer School.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Ms. Ellinghaus gave a Summer School presentation on Summer School and thanked Mr. Conte for the use of Grand Avenue MS. Four programs were held in the building: Summer School, Bridge Program, Extended School Year (ESY) and Driver's Ed. Students from Bellmore-Merrick, Seaford, Wantagh, Herricks, both Levittown high schools and Sewanahka attended. 165 students took at least one class. 372 students registered to take the Regents exams plus 42 walk-ins. Nine exams were given in two days of testing. Twelve (12) additional graduates were added to the Bellmore-Merrick Class of 2017.

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Ms. Fontana thanked the Board for supporting the Bridge Program. Four teachers, Mary Donnelly, English Chairperson; Barbara Green, Kennedy; Jamie Romito and Wendy Simson, both from Calhoun, gave a presentation. Any student who fails two or more subjects in middle school, must attend the Bridge Program. The Bridge Program's mission is to establish a supportive environment that helps to reconnect students with school. 14 students attended this summer. This was a successful pilot program. The teachers each gave a summary in the following areas: humanities, math and science and special events. Genius Hour helped students find their passion, conduct research and put a plan into place. Two students, Jefferson Garcia and Joshua Liatto created YouTube videos. These projects incorporated foundational skills. A Bagel Breakfast Meet and Greet held at Calhoun HS introduced the students to principals and staff at the high schools. Service Learning took place one day a week and was focused locally to keep students invested here. Two other students have continued to volunteer with Second Chance Animal Rescue. On the last day, awards were distributed at a celebratory picnic. Jefferson Garcia stated without this program, he would have been left back and now he has started high school with less stress. Josh Liatto stated initially he was not looking forward to this summer but felt better each day and enjoyed going. He is now prepared and confident in high school and very thankful.

BRIDGE PROGRAM

Dr. Kaplan stated Mr. Harrington's presentation was outstanding and she is fully confident that he will oversee instruction. She thanked Mrs. Ellinghaus and the teachers of the Bridge Program adding that Jefferson's and Josh's public speaking abilities are very good.

Mr. DeTommaso advised members of the audience to review the future dates listed on the agenda.

There were none on agenda items only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve Policy No. 8110.1 – District Video Surveillance on School Property. Mr. Enella seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

POLICIES

The Board of Education accepted the following two policies for a first reading:
Policy No. 4301 – Special Education Students (New)
Policy No. 5425 – Automated External Defibrillator (Revised)(Renumbered)

Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education approve the following placements recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011573, 000012205, 000512112, 030140001, 050450007, 121160002, 370000510 and 992450148. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated September 6, 2017, as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

PERSONNEL

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- BILLS** The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated September 6, 2017, and the corresponding warrants.
- BIDS** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
- BUDGET SUMMARY** The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated September 6, 2017.
Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:
- BUDGETED RESERVE USE** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve for the payment of sick leave for retirees in the 2016-2017 school year in an amount up to \$600,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Employee Retirement Reserve for payment of employer retirement expense to the New York State Employee Retirement System in the 2016-2017 school year in an amount up to \$1,945,385.
- CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Phase 3 Bond Referendum Projects:
1. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 3, in the add amount of \$14,860.00 for Hirsch
 2. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 4, in the add amount of \$9,270.03 for Hirsch
 3. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 2, in the add amount of \$29,457.00 for Ultimate Power
 4. Merrick Avenue MS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-003-040, Change Order No. 1, in the add amount of \$16,756.00 for Renu
 5. Kennedy HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-038, Change Order No. 1., in the add amount of \$20,083.00 for Renu
 6. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 3, in the add amount of \$7,304.00 for Renu
 7. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 4, in the add amount of \$14,712.00 for Renu
 8. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-0-253-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 3, in the add amount of \$29,457.00 for Ultimate Power
 9. Kennedy HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-038, Change Order No. 2 in the add amount of \$7,295.00 for Renu
- DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education re-adopt the District-wide School Safety and Building-level Emergency Response Plans. Ref: Ed Law §§ 2801-a and 807.
- SEQRAs** WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to embark upon the proposed John F. Kennedy High School Capital Improvement Projects including Floor Tile Replacement, Tennis Court & Parking Lot Reconstruction (Project), listed in attachment A hereto; and

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WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA);

**SEQRAs
(Continued)**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and the Board of Education, as the lead agency, has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the Project as a whole, listed in attachment A hereto, is classified as a Type II Action as defined by Section 617.5(c)(8) of the SEQRA Regulations and, therefore, requires no further review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this resolution to the New York State (NYS) Education Department together with a copy of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Project Review Exemption based on the Letter of Resolution.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to embark upon the proposed John F. Kennedy High School Capital Improvement Project Roof Replacement (Project), listed in attachment A hereto; and

WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and the Board of Education, as the lead agency, has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the Project as a whole, listed in attachment A hereto, is classified as a Type II Action as defined by Section 617.5(c)(8) of the SEQRA Regulations and, therefore, requires no further review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State (NYS) Education Department together with a copy of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Project Review Exemption based on the Letter of Resolution.

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

The Board of Education did receive an e-mail.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lisa Derwin stated she has an issue with the summer reading. She was disappointed with the book assignment and thinks summer reading should be about keeping up reading skills by choosing a book students are interested in especially because one book does not fit all children. Mr. DeTommaso advised the Board will consider her comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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PUBLIC COMMENTS Dr. Kaplan was advised it will be discussed with the Board of Ed before next summer. Mr. Harrington stated there are two models for summer reading under consideration now and it will be a topic for the English Department chairs.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS There was none.

ADJOURNMENT On a motion by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk