

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING April 9, 2018

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, April 9, 2018, 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 Personnel 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
Emily Paluseo, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Tom Volpe, Director of Transportation/Security & Employee Safety Officer
Ken Zisel, Assistant Principal of Districtwide Services
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. Dr. Kaplan, Board of Education President, welcomed everyone and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

MINUTES

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, for the month ended February 28, 2018. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone. Earlier tonight we recognized a very successful team and a student's accomplishment. Calhoun's Cheerleading team is the Nassau County Champion and Kennedy student Jessica Rosen is the recipient of a very prestigious award, the National Gold Medal from Scholastic Art and Writing. We always have many awards and if we recognized them all, we'd be here all night. We will now recognize Jason Boland for receiving the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award from the Harvard Club.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

**DISTINGUISHED
TEACHER OF THE
YEAR**

Ms. Gargiulo presented an Award of Honor certificate to English teacher Jason Boland recognizing him as a Distinguished Teacher of the Year by the Harvard Club of Long Island. Mr. Boland was nominated by Calhoun graduate and present Harvard student, Julia Losner for this award. Mr. Boland is a product of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. A graduate of Calhoun High School, he began his educational career at Merrick Avenue Middle School, and then after three years, he continued on to Calhoun High School teaching students of all grades including 11 AP English Language. A former Herald reporter and editor, Mr. Boland has functioned as the *Hoofbeats* advisor for the last twelve years. He has been invited to speak at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's annual convention, presenting to over 200 other advisers and journalism students about "Reinventing your school newspaper." An all-year contributor to the Bellmore-Merrick school community, Mr. Boland has also functioned as Girls Varsity Softball coach for the past fifteen years and a summer school teacher for the past twenty years. On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Gargiulo congratulated and thanked Mr. Boland for his tremendous impact on Bellmore-Merrick.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated everyone. He stated college and university acceptance letter are out. He is proud that our students have the opportunity to go to the schools they choose due to the wonderful foundation they receive at Bellmore-Merrick. Our students are prepared to go off into the world. He gave a brief summary of the security measures the district has taken since last month. All students have been issued IDs, monitoring of public websites, additional security guards for round-the-clock coverage, assigned NCPD Resource Coordinator Officer Monez, Security Audit to be performed on 4/19-26/18, Mephams' transition to one main entrance through the lobby and vestibule building to begin in the near future.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. DeTommaso announced that student representatives Gina Connors and Jordan Ladd were not able to attend tonight's meeting. He had the principals give a brief overview of the past month at Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) and Mephams HS.

Mrs. Ellinghaus stated seniors have been receiving college acceptance letters to schools such as the University of New Haven and Farmingdale. Students observed "*Twelve Angry Men*" and MAP students wear their IDs on red lanyards.

Mr. DeTommaso stated Bellmore-Merrick has one of the finest Alternative Learning programs in New York State. This is year twelve and the quality of education is second to none.

Mr. Gomez stated it has been a busy month at Mephams. Earlier this month, Mephams students held a Cultural Night and an Open Mic Night. All three nights' performances of "*In the Heights*" were amazing.

Daniel O'Keefe also congratulated Mr. Boland and the Cheerleading team. He stated Calhoun students participated in the Walk-Out and hosted a Debate Night. Seniors won "Class Night". "*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*"

was a success. Honor Society inductions were held. There were 20 medalists at the DECA trip and Model UN also had a trip. He advised he will be attending Binghamton University in the Fall.

Rachel Katz stated seniors won Kennedy's Class Night. Students have sponsored many community service events such as the Prom Dress Drive. The production of "*Fiddler on the Roof*" was fantastic. Honor society inductions were held. She congratulated Jessica Rosen, the Cultural Arts Award recipients and Dr. Bollettieri. STEM Career Fair was informative. All JFK fall and winter sports teams qualified for play-offs. Kennedy students held a Walk Out which was very respectful. She has committed to Cornell University in the Fall.

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned that Dr. Bollettieri will be recognized as a 2018 Nassau BOCES Education Partner at a dinner ceremony this Wednesday evening. Mr. DeTommaso added the annual 5K Run/Walk was held in March.

Dr. Bollettieri stated there were 381 runners this year and \$7,585 was raised to benefit the Community Cupboard. She thanked everyone who participated in any way and added a special thanks to Robyn Einbinder and Joe Netto.

Mr. DeTommaso stated the Community Cupboard helps 40 families on a bi-weekly basis.

Dr. Bollettieri introduced two new chairpersons, Ann Donaldson, Social Studies, and David Prince, Math.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. DeTommaso stated the 2018-2019 School Budget is very responsible to the community. The tax levy is 2.65%. The budget includes additional teachers and funding from the sale of the Jerusalem Avenue school. Included in this budget is the establishment of Health and Wellness Centers at each of the schools from 3:00 to 6:00 PM weekdays. He feels this will be an enormous help for kids and families. The district will not go over the cap.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Kate Freeman gave a Powerpoint presentation on the 2018-2019 School Budget. She stated this budget continues programs, expands and adds new initiatives, adds 12 positions (four guidance counselors and one social worker), increases the number of security guards and establishes Health and Wellness Centers. The \$159,788,043 budget is an increase of 6.1 million dollars (3.9%) with a proposed tax levy of 2.65%. She displayed the past ten years' budget numbers, state aid amounts, schedule of reserves and tax cap formula. Benefits and debt service have increased. This year's CPI is 2%. Proceeds from the sale of Jerusalem Avenue will be put into a Reserve Account for tax reduction.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the upcoming dates listed on the agenda. He stated not all work in the schools is Bond work. The budgets have included building and grounds maintenance work. This work is performed by our custodians.

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There were none on agenda items only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board accepted the following policy for a first reading:

POLICY

Policy No. 5440 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse (revised) (1st reading)

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following policy:

Policy No. 5460 – Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect in a Domestic Setting (revised)(2nd reading)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011776, 000013120, 000511597, 000511801, 000512043, 000512126, 000512667, 030140001, 052150000, 053410000, 071210000, 080360000, 092030003, 201600053, 201700172, 370000223, 370000510, 992450231 and 999011248.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept a \$5,000 donation from the Estate of Frank M. Merklein, Class of 1940, for the exclusive and discretionary use of the Bellmore-Merrick Broadcast Program. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

DONATION

Dr. Kaplan thanked the Mr. Merklein's family for the generous donation.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated April 9, 2018, as stated in the agenda. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was passed 8-0

PERSONNEL

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated April 9, 2018, and the corresponding warrants.

BILLS

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

BIDS

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated April 9, 2018.

BUDGET SUMMARY

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

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund Appropriate of one hundred fifty nine million, seven hundred eighty-eight thousand, forty-three dollars (\$159,788,043)

BUDGET PROPOSITIONS

**BUDGET
PROPOSITIONS
(Continued)**

to be raised through taxation in the several districts included with the Central High School District after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.

PROPOSITION NO. II – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is hereby authorized to expend the sum of one million, five hundred thirty two thousand, three hundred seventy six dollars (\$1,532,376) representing Capital Reserve Fund monies for the following purposes: districtwide paving and concrete work, track resurfacing, floor and ceiling tile replacement, roof replacement and/or resurfacing, tennis court refurbishment, turf replacement, door replacement, abatements, electrical and plumbing upgrades, fuel tank replacement and related work, structural work (brick, concrete and steel) and ADA compliance. Since the funds to be expended hereunder come from the Capital Reserve Fund, approval of this proposition will not require a tax levy upon the real property of the district. This Proposition shall be independent of Proposition No. I.

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

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

**FEDERAL SINGLE
AUDIT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Federal Single Audit Report for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District for the year ended June 30, 2017.

**BANK CUSTODIAL
AGREEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, approve a Custodial Agreement with JP Morgan Chase Bank to utilize Irrevocable Letters of Credit issued by Federal Home Loan Bank of New York as Eligible Collateral and authorize the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

MEDICAID BILLING

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Zycron Industries, Highland, New York, for the provision of Medicaid Billing Services, commencing July 1, 2018 and expiring June 30, 2019, at a cost of 15% of monies received and retained by the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Special Education will represent the District with respect to this agreement.

**RECEIPT,
COLLECTION AND
REVIEW OF
CERTIFIED PAYROLL
RECORDS**

WHEREAS, contractors and subcontractors engaged by a school district for construction work are required to pay prevailing wages to their workers and are required to submit certified payroll records to the school district in connection with their obligation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Labor Law §220, the Board of Education designates Jon Simpkins as the individual responsible for Receipt, Collection and Review for facial validity of Certified Payroll Records.

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1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare the following items obsolete and approve their disposal:
 - a. 1989 Chevy pickup, VIN 2GCDC1425K1228977, tag #200010240008
 - b. 1975 Center trailer, VIN 610T135DX, tag #200010240006

**OBSOLETE/SURPLUS
PROPERTY**

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare Merrick Avenue MS cafeteria tables, tag #s: 003557, 004314, 004319, 004321, 004322 and 004324, obsolete and approve their disposal.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete Calhoun textbooks listed in an Office of the Principal memo dated 3/20/2018 and approve their disposal.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of the following items:
 - a. 1980 Rogers Tractor Mount Sweeper, Model #720, Serial # PO-1615
 - b. 2010 Rogers Tractor Mount Sweeper, Model #41, Serial # 81720-420

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Bond Referendum Projects Phase IV – Grand Avenue MS, Merrick Avenue MS, Calhoun HS, Kennedy HS and Mephram HS Owner-Contractor agreement with Crossroads Construction with a contract sum of \$942,400.00, subject to additions and deductions.

**OWNER-CONTRACTOR
AGREEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a municipal advisor services agreement with Munistat to provide research and analysis at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR
SERVICES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Cooperative Bidding Resolution for the 2018-2019 school year:

**COOPERATIVE BID -
2018-2019 – NASSAU
COUNTY ASSN. OF
BUILDINGS AND
GROUNDS**

WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of Nassau County Public School Districts, during the 2018-2019 school year, to bid cooperatively for the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment and repairs (the “Commodities”); and

WHEREAS, the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District (the “School District”) is desirous of participating in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities, as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education has reviewed the Cooperative Bid Procedures (“Procedures”) governing its rights and responsibilities should it elect to participate in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints the Superintendent or his designee to represent it in all matters relative above; and

COOPERATIVE BID - 2018-19 NASSAU CO. ASSN. OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Continued) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Procedures, the Board of Education agrees to award bid item purchases according to the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Boards of Education of the Cooperative School Districts, if such award is in the best interest of the school district.

INTER-MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an Inter-Municipal Transportation Management Services agreement between Bellmore-Merrick Central HS District, the Bellmore UFSD, the Merrick UFSD, the North Bellmore UFSD and the North Merrick UFSD authorizing inter-municipal cooperation and assistance with and among each other for the consolidation of their transportation management services and administration of the transportation management by a single transportation coordinator for the 2018-19 school year.

INTER-MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE 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 2018-19 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

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

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.

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District approve the provision of bus transportation to particular non-public schools for a period of three years starting with the 2016-17 school year. This period of time will become irrelevant if an eligible student should register for transportation to the school in question during this time. The three year period will restart once there are no longer eligible students in attendance. (NY State Education Law §3635.)

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

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Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Mobius Arts Scholarship at Mephram HS of two (2) \$10,000 awards. **SCHOLARSHIPS**
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Mobius Entrepreneurship Grant at Mephram HS of two (2) \$10,000 awards.

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

Mr. DeTommaso stated the district has received a lot of money from alumni. He mentioned the almost \$500,000 from a former JFK teacher and tonight's scholarships and donation.

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

Samantha Beltre asked about the status of changing the high school start time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jo Ann Erhard asked about the transportation cost to BMCHSD if North Bellmore leaves the consortium.

Carson Termatto asked for an update on security considerations.

Monica Blair asked about the timeframe for discussions regarding armed security guards in the schools.

Dr. Kaplan stated she has been asked to be a member of the Nassau County Police Commissioner's Community Council which will be delving into school safety and hopefully we will receive more clarity over the next few months.

Mr. DeTommaso advised there is a cost difference for armed guards. Armed guards would cost more.

Dr. Kaplan commented that she attended two high school plays, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, and they were outstanding.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Gargiulo advised she is involved in baseball for Special Education students and asked everyone to spread the word for students to get involved adding it is a great community service project.

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Enella and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 9:14 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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On a motion by Mrs. Blane, seconded by Mrs. Piskin and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 11:29 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk