

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING December 5, 2018

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, December 5, 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:

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

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel
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
Emily Paluseo, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Tom Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 p.m. Mrs. Lanci, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. Lanci began the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of former President George H.W. Bush.

MINUTES

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the November 7, 2018 meeting. Ms. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Piskin moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated October 31, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso began by welcoming everyone and said this evening is the night of champions. He stated that earlier in the evening we recognized Mepham's Boys Soccer team for winning the Nassau

County Championship and Kennedy's Boys Volleyball team for winning the Nassau County, Long Island and New York State Championships. This is the first time in history since the program started in 1938 that the soccer team has won a championship. This is the second New York State win for the volleyball program. He congratulated both teams on their accomplishments.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked Mr. Harrington, the directors and chair people for organizing the 9th Grade Scheduling Night for parents of students that will be going into high school next year. This program gives students and parents an opportunity to review the courses and make informed decisions on their education. They learn about the various courses that are available to help fulfill their high school experience.

Mr. DeTommaso stated that the counseling and wellness centers are fulfilling what we hoped that they would with students coming in on their own and making new appointments. An agreement with South Oaks and Northwell Health will give more support for our students which will be further discussed next month.

Mr. DeTommaso said he is proud and pleased to announce that on November 29, 2018 we closed on the Jerusalem Avenue property for twelve million dollars and we still own 5.5 acres of the property. He is happy that this property is going to BOCES, which deals with differently disabled students. He thanked the current and previous Boards of Education.

Mr. DeTommaso said that the Community Cupboard was able to give out ninety turkeys and big baskets of food for Thanksgiving dinner to families in need. Two weeks later the Community Cupboard supplied additional food for fifty families and will continue to help families throughout the holiday season. The Bellmore Lions Club will be helping families in need next week. He thanked the community for their support and said this is the core of Bellmore-Merrick. From his family to everyone and their families, happy holidays.

VIRTUAL ENTERPRISE

Ms. Gargiulo presented Award of Honor certificates to the members of Calhoun's Virtual Enterprise Team, DefenseLine. The team won the Elevator Pitch contest at the Business and Entrepreneurship Leadership Conference for their concept of a line of products that can detect date rape drugs in drinks. The CEO of the team, Branden Rosario gave a one-minute pitch about the company. Mr. DeTommaso congratulated the team and their teacher, Mr. Palazzo. Ms. Lanci congratulated the team on behalf of the Board of Education and said that the team members are truly poised and she hopes they advance further in the competition.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

Matthew Alexander from Meadowbrook Alternative Program is not feeling well and was not present.

Gabriela Daza from Mepham High School said that Battle of the Classes raised money for Building Homes for Heroes and that Ryan Shannon, U.S. Navy Petty Officer has received a mortgage free home; he will be visiting Mepham to meet the students that have helped him get this home. She congratulated her fellow students that were inducted into the Honors Societies. The Drama Club presented “Up the Down Staircase” and gave a great performance. The blood drive collected ninety-nine pints of blood and Bellmore-Merrick Broadcasting filmed many events throughout the month. She congratulated the winning soccer and volleyball teams along with the many students that received awards. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Jonathan Mashal from Kennedy High School said that students participated at a Jones Beach clean-up, collected food for struggling families for Thanksgiving and Student Ambassadors visited the United Nations. The Advanced Science Research students recently attended Northwell Health SPARK and he congratulated the students for being state finalists in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition. He also congratulated Morgan Marcus for designing the new Bellmore-Merrick Art & Music Logo. He said students will be wrapping presents for the Polar Express Holiday Party and they will be having a Town Hall meeting with administrators. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Juliana Tirino from Calhoun said that students raised over \$2,200 for the Community Cupboard at their Thanksgiving Dinner. They had the Brotherhood Concert and Choral Showcase and students gave amazing performances. The National Honors Societies inducted twenty-one new members. The Health Fair was a success. She especially enjoyed a trip to Mississippi with fellow students and saw how life in Mississippi is different from ours in New York. She wished everyone a happy holiday and a healthy new year.

Ms. Lanci mentioned the future dates and thanked everyone for their support with the Polar Express Holiday Party. There are seven hundred children in Nassau County that are living in homeless shelters. The Polar Express Holiday Party is an amazing event where they transform the Brookside building and help some of those children and families during the holidays. They will have a petting zoo, eat hot dogs and cotton candy and give presents to everyone that is in need and attends. She said the caliber of this community is so impressive and supportive.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none on agenda items only.

DONATIONS

Ms. Piskin moved that the Board of Education accept a donation from the staff of the Brookside Building of \$410.00 to the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's CHAMP Program at Kennedy High School and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

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

Ms. Lanci thanked the administrators and staff.

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$35,351.06 from the Estate of Dorothy Reinhard to establish the Robert E. & Harry E. Reinhard Scholarship Award. The scholarship will be awarded to a Mephram senior who plans to continue his/her music education.

Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Ms. Lanci thanked the Estate.

Ms. Piskin moved that the Board of Education accept the following resolutions:

SPECIAL EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors list for the 2018-2019 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE):000011288, 000011313, 000012860, 000013120, 000014841, 000511375, 000511654, 000513223, 030430009, 030430010, 040540006, 041630001, 050600002, 060590004, 060690000, 061430001, 070720004, 071700001, 083090001, 100290003, 102570000, 131261293, 171811592, 181911122, 201600057, 201700008, 201800110, 201800141, 201800183, 201800186, 370001081, 370001112, 370001244, 370001277, 370001623, 370001821, 992450196 and 992450250.

PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated December 5, 2018 as stated in the agenda.

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

BILLS

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated December 5, 2018, and the corresponding warrants.

BIDS

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

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated November 30, 2018.

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

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, having reviewed an Agreement involving a member of the non-instructional staff in executive session, hereby approves such Agreement and authorizes and directs the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education President to execute such Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan for the Annual External Audit for the School Year 2017-2018.

OBSOLETE FURNITURE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of four cafeteria tables.

Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion carried 8-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Lanci said we did not receive Board correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Betsy Lashin commended the Bellmore-Merrick Board of Education, Central Administration, Mephram High School and Grand Avenue Middle School educators for providing an exceptional educational experience for her three sons.

Summer Marfani, a student at Calhoun, requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar. Eid is very special to her, like Christmas to a lot of people. Last year an exam was scheduled on Eid and she had to take the exam at a later date, alone. She feels she shouldn't have to choose between school and her holiday.

Imke Hassan requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar. Her children attended the district. When they were young they enjoyed being off when other students were in class but as they went up in grade, the demands of school made them not enjoy the day off for the holiday. She asked if any other religions are requesting that days be added to the school calendar. Mr. DeTommaso said nobody has requested it but that the Board of Education is having discussions about other holidays.

Raina Elbaz requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar. She said that she has been going to many meetings and would be happy to give any additional information to help the Board of Education make a decision. She inquired about which district makes this decision, each elementary district or the central high district. School Attorney, Chris Powers explained that there are five free standing school districts that are trying to coordinate their school calendars but there is no program in place to organize this. Eid does not affect the school calendar next year but they will continue to discuss it. There is no requirement that all of the school districts be in agreement but it would be ideal if they were.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk