

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MAY 6, 2020

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, May 6, 2020 via Zoom video conference in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 for alternative means for public entities to conduct public meetings.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Marion Blane, Board of Education President
Gina Piskin, Vice President
Edward Corona
John Ferrara
Janet Goller
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Nina Lanci
Tracey Miller

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
Mikaela Coni, Administrative Assistant for Business
Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education met in Executive Session via video conference at 7:15 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter, the budget and the many challenges the district has faced due to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Ms. Blane, Board President called the meeting to order at 8:24 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Blane led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Blane welcomed everyone and acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week, thanking the teachers for their dedication. She also acknowledged the beginning of Nurse Appreciation Week and thanked our nurses. She thanked the entire staff for their support and acknowledged the challenges our students have faced. Ms. Blane assured the seniors that everyone is working very hard to find alternative ways to celebrate their accomplishments.

Ms. Blane explained that pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1, tonight's public meeting will be streamlined, recorded and a transcript will be available at a later date. She further explained that Board Policy # 2350 identifies the order of business for a regular Board of Education meeting and entertained a motion to remove Public Comments for tonight's meeting only.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0 the Board of Education removed the Public Comment sections from this meeting only and changed the order of business accordingly.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the April 1, 2020 and April 21, 2020 meetings.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2020.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso started by congratulating the sixteen teachers that earned tenure earlier this evening. He also congratulated Mr. Harrington for receiving tenure as Assistant Superintendent. He knows that everyone already does an amazing job and they will continue to do the best they can.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the entire staff for everything they have been doing for the past two months and how they have responded during this crisis. He is proud of the incredible things the staff have done to reach out to the kids and the community. He also thanked the parents and the PTA for their support and communication.

Mr. DeTommaso explained that the District is in the process of figuring out how to have successful graduation and moving up ceremonies. He assured everyone that we are going to do whatever we can to make sure kids are recognized for the work they have put in over the years. Mr. DeTommaso said that the District is also working on creating a remediation program to help prepare kids this summer for their next year's subjects. Lastly, he said the District is working on how to re-open in September. Mr. DeTommaso explained that there are so many unknown circumstances surrounding re-opening, but we are working on many different scenarios. He assured everyone that we are doing everything we can to make sure that we have the highest quality opening of school no matter what it looks like.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the entire community for volunteering, donations, for coming together and supporting the school district. He said the District is here for you if you need academic support, emotional support, and in case you need us in other ways. He said the Community Cupboard is continuing to support over 55 families and that is all due to the donations from the community. He thanked the cooks and food services director, Joanne Finelli for serving over 400 meals per week and acknowledged the amazing work the elementary districts are also doing for our kids. Mr. DeTommaso said we will get through this, together.

Mr. DeTommaso explained that the District is in the budget process right now and at this point the budget is set at a 2.56% levy, which is under the tax cap and one of the lowest in Nassau County, but it can change. He said we know the State is having difficulties and we are waiting for guidance from the Governor's office, but we are ready to make changes if needed. He announced that the Board of Education meeting in June has been rescheduled to June 2nd for the Budget Hearing.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Mary Beth Vetro in her new position of Special Education Chairperson at Merrick Avenue Middle School. He told everyone to stay strong, please let us know your needs and what we can do to help you. We are here for you.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS—*Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments for this meeting only.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Blane noted that we will be honoring our retirees at the next meeting.

A. Information Item

We will be honoring our school district's retirees at our June 2, 2020 regular meeting.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved consent agenda items VII.B through IX.I:

B. Special Education

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended Special Education vendors for the 2020-2021 school year.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE):
000011389, 000011448, 000011476, 000011723, 000011728, 000012020, 000012052,
000012118, 000012195, 000012214, 000012342, 000012390, 000012423, 000012443,
000012455, 000012555, 000012797, 000013372, 000014864, 000512005, 000512043,
000512235, 000512341, 000512616, 000512653, 000512709, 000512716, 000512998,
000513040, 000513588, 000513589, 000514046, 050620001, 052020000, 080440004,
080790001, 081420000, 082330008, 090770001, 100539904, 102020004, 120810000,
121740000, 121740001, 131261232, 131261345, 131261366, 131261969, 131262703,
131264473, 181910028, 181911336, 181911361, 201600064, 201600108, 201700017,
201700060, 201800050, 201800110, 201800141, 201800160, 201900119, 370001119,
370001138, 370001241, 370001244, 370001269, 370001296, 370001322, 370001452,
370001553, 370001585, 370002055, 900010686, 992450072, 992450195, 992450202,
999011167, 999011198, 999011199, 999011419.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – May 6, 2020

- A. Tenure Recommendations
- B. Terminations
- C. Resignations
- D. Appointments
- E. Recommendation for Permanent Employment
- F. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- G. Civil Service Substitute
- H. Assigned Services – Athletics
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- J. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellations

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant dated May 6, 2020

B. Budget Summary dated April 30, 2020

C. 2020-2021 Budgeted Reserves and Property Tax Report Card

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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 school year in an amount up to \$2,300,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Teachers' Retirement Reserve Sub-Fund for payment of employer retirement expense

to the New York State Teacher' Retirement System in the 2020-2021 school year in an amount up to \$1,000,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Workers Compensation Reserve for payment of Workers Compensation expense in the 2020-2021 school year in an amount up to \$250,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Reserve for Tax Reduction to reduce taxes and fund appropriations in the 2020-2021 school year in an amount up to \$2,000,000.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission to the State Education Department and publication of the 2020-2021 Property Tax Report Card.

D. Transportation Contract Extensions

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the extension of school bus transportation contracts with Suburban Bus Transportation, Inc. for Summer 2020 beginning July 2020, and school year 2020-2021 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.

E. Textbook Distribution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Textbook Central for centralized textbook distribution services for the 2020-2021 school year. Costs are dependent upon the number of participants and are stated with the contract.

F. Education Data Service, Inc.

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 \$9,484, and Skilled Trades & Ancillary services at a cost of \$2,000 for the 2020-2021 school year.

G. New York/Island Cooperative Bid

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 the Clarkstown Central School District acting as the Lead Agency, as provided by 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.

- H. BOCES of Nassau County
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for the use of one (1) classroom at Kennedy High School from 9/1/2020 – 6/30/2021 at a rental rate of \$7,834.00 for the ten-month period and \$1,657.00 annually per student in connection with mainstreaming.
- I. 2020-2021 Fire Inspection Report
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Fire Marshalls' 2020-2021 Inspection Reports.

The Board of Education tabled item IX.J and no motion was made.

- J. TLC Brookside Rent Relief
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District authorizes the Board President to enter into the First Amendment to the Agreement between TLC at Brookside, Inc. and Bellmore-Merrick CHSD.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved item IX.K.

- K. Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Budget/Slate of Officers
WHEREAS, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association has submitted its proposed 2020-2021 Budget and proposed 2020-2021 Slate of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee, for the approval of its member boards, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education authorizes the District Clerk to record the outcome of the votes and notify Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association of the results.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Proposed Budget for the 2020-2021 school year (as accepted by N-SSBA's Executive Committee) be, and hereby is approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Proposed 2020-2021 Slate of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee (as presented by N-SSBA's Nominating Committee) be, and hereby is approved.

- X. CORRESPONDENCE
The Board of Education did not receive correspondence.
- XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.
- XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS
Mr. DeTommaso acknowledged Teacher's Week and Nurses Week. He gave a special thanks to our teachers and nurses. Mr. DeTommaso asked that everyone please look at the photos and videos from the high school parades. He said is really shows what education is all about and the joy everyone had in seeing each other.
- XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION
On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk