

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JULY 14, 2020

Page 1

The Organizational meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Tuesday evening, July 14, 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  
Melissa Cmar-Grote  
Edward Corona  
Janet Goller  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Nina Lanci  
Gina Piskin  
Tracey Miller

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel  
Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Michael Harrington, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
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 6:33 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and school reopening plans.

The meeting was called to order by Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk at 7:12 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Guccione announced the appointments to the Board of Education for the 2020-2021 School year:

Bellmore UFSD	Marion Blane, Janet Goller
Merrick UFSD	Dr. Nancy Kaplan, Gina Piskin
North Bellmore UFSD	Melissa Cmar-Grote, Nina Lanci
North Merrick UFSD	Edward Corona, Tracey Miller

IV. ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

Mrs. Guccione asked for nominations for the position of President of the Board of Education. Ms. Lanci moved to nominate Ms. Piskin and Mr. Miller seconded. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and the motion was carried 8-0. Mrs. Guccione administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Piskin.

V. ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Guccione asked for nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education. Dr. Kaplan moved to nominate Mr. Corona and Ms. Blane seconded. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and the motion was carried 8-0. Mrs. Guccione administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Corona.

Mrs. Guccione turned the meeting over to Ms. Piskin who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items VI through XII.

VI. APPOINTMENTS:

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the appointments and salaries of the following for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. Appointment of School District Auditor
2. Appointment of Treasurer
3. Appointment of Data Protection Officer
4. Appointment of District Clerk
5. Appointment of Deputy Treasurer
6. Appointment of Records Access Officer
7. Appointment of Records Retention and Disposition Officer
8. Appointment of Title IX Coordinator
9. Appointment of Section 504 Coordinator
10. Appointment of Asbestos Compliance Officer
11. Appointment of Purchasing Agent
12. Appointment of Acting Purchasing Agent
13. Appointment of Property Control Manager
14. Appointment of Medicaid Compliance Officer
15. Appointment of Payroll Certification Officer
16. Appointment of 403 (b) Liaison
17. Appointment of Chief Emergency Officer
18. Appointment of Chemical Hygiene Officer
19. Appointment of Faculty Officer
20. Appointment of District Wellness Coordinators

VII. DEPOSITORIES FOR SCHOOL FUNDS

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following banks as depositories for school funds:

1. Chase Bank, Bellmore – Operating and Investment Accounts
2. First National Bank of Long Island – Operating and Investment Accounts
3. MBIA Class – New York – Cooperative Liquid Assets Security System – Investments
4. M&T Bank – Collateral Accounts

VIII. CHECK SIGNATURES

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to sign all checks pertaining to school funds and that the District Clerk's signature be used as an alternate.

B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Business to certify all payrolls for the 2020-2021 school year.

IX. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY INSURANCE

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will maintain a blanket Public Employee Dishonesty insurance policy in the amount of \$5,000,000.

X. OFFICIAL DISTRICT NEWSPAPERS

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the designation of Bellmore Herald Life and Merrick Herald Life as official District newspapers. (Ed. Law 2004)
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the designation of Newsday as the official District newspaper only for the purposes of the Nassau County Transportation Consortium, the Nassau County Directors of Facilities Purchasing Consortium and the Long Island School Nutrition Directors Association.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 7, 2020

XII. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT - May 31, 2020

XIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Ms. Piskin and Mr. Corona. He welcomed Ms. Cmar-Grote to the Board of Education and thanked everyone for serving this board and their elementary district Board of Education.

Mr. DeTommaso said the primary focus right now is the re-opening of schools. He said that the NYS Education Department (NYSED) released 28 pages of guidance. Mr. DeTommaso explained that the NYS Department of Health also released guidance, which differed from the NYS Education Department’s guidance. The official guidance will be released from the NYSED tomorrow, which should have about 150 pages. The district will go through the official guidance very carefully with the elementary districts.

Mr. DeTommaso explained that the District has a re-opening committee and many excellent sub-committees, which have been working together for over seven weeks on plans for re-opening. The District will have to submit three plans to the Governor by July 31<sup>st</sup>. We must submit a remote learning plan, a hybrid plan that is a mix of in person and remote learning and a regular re-opening plan with restrictions. The Governor will then make a decision about the re-opening of school and which plan to put in place. Mr. DeTommaso said that it seems like the Governor will make a decision by region, based on the infection rate. Mr. DeTommaso explained that if the infection is at 9% we will have to close, but Nassau County is currently under 1%, which is way below the closing infection rate.

Mr. DeTommaso said he sent a letter to the community about the remote plan on June 26<sup>th</sup>. He explained that if at some point in the future we have to close due to a positive case of COVID-19, the building will be closed for two days. The first day will be a complete closure of the building and the second day the building will close for cleaning. During those two days, we will have remote learning. The Scheduling and Curriculum Committee, led by Mr. Harrington is now finalizing a hybrid version. Mr. DeTommaso explained that we are required to have a plan in place but that does not mean will have a hybrid re-opening. The third plan is re-opening with restrictions. The re-opening with restrictions is very challenging but we will be ready with our plan. The key part of re-opening is the social distance piece. One set of guidance states that school districts must have the maximum distance where possible. Another guidance says 6 feet of distance must be in place and a third guidance says distance must be 6 feet where possible. Mr. DeTommaso said that he wants kids back in school but we cannot have them in the building if it is not safe.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the parents for their emails and input about what they want for our kids but explained that we have to wait for the Governor to make a decision. Governor Cuomo will make a decision the first week of August. Mr. DeTommaso thanked everyone for completing the Health and Wellness Survey. He said that the District received 1000 responses in a day and a

half. He also said that our Academic Refresher program begins Monday with over 700 students in this program, which covers a variety of subjects. Mr. DeTommaso explained that the district is hard at work, focusing on re-opening safely. He said a letter will go out this week and we will continue to keep everyone informed as we go forward, including sharing the plans prior to submitting them to the Governor.

Dr. Kaplan thanked everyone on the re-opening committees for working together and for sharing information between the CHSD and component districts. She also thanked everyone for putting together the refresher courses and for the very special moving up ceremonies.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS - *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments for this meeting only.

XV. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved items XV.A through XV.B.

A. Policies

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education re-adopt all policies and Code of Ethics in effect during the 2019-2020 school year for the 2020-2021 school year.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following policies for a second reading:

Policy No. 5100 HS – High School Attendance Policy

Policy No. 8131 – Pandemic Planning

B. Donation

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1,954.00 from the Mephram Class of 1954 to be used for various items in the W.C. Mephram High School Library and increase appropriations budget by the same amount.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$3,150.00 from the Grand Avenue Middle School PTA for the purchase of agendas for the students of Grand Avenue Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year and increase appropriations budget by the same amount.

Ms. Piskin thanked Mephram Alumni and Grand Ave PTSA for their generous donations.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items XV.C through XV.G.3.

C. Impartial Hearing Officers (IHOs)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the list of Impartial Hearing Officers (IHO) as maintained by the New York State Education Department Impartial Hearing Reporting System IHO Rotational List or the 2020-2021 school year.

D. Standard Work Day

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reaffirm the standard workday at seven (7) hours.

- E. Treasurer  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the position of Treasurer as a Public Officer and employee and that the appointment of the Treasurer is a one (1) year term commencing July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.
- F. Dignity Act  
1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the Dignity Act upon the recommendation of the district-wide school-based planning and Shared Decision-making Committee.  
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the appointments of the recommended 2020-2021 Dignity Act coordinators in each of the district schools.
- G. Special Education  
1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended appointments to the Summer Committee on Special Education.  
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised recommended Special Education vendors for the 2020-2021 school year.  
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following placements recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011152, 000012906, 031430003, 040270000, 050380002, 050490002, 050600009, 060670004, 083090001, 090770001, 100780001, 131261354, 131261666, 131263384, 131264473, 171810790, 181910185, 201600003, 201600036, 201600108, 201700017, 201800141, 201800215, 201900116, 201900119, 370001600, 370001627, 992450184, 992450314, 999010194 and 999011419.

XVI. PERSONNEL REPORT – July 14, 2020

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report as stated in the agenda.

- A. Resignations
- B. Appointments
- C. Salary Reclassification
- D. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- E. Cancellation
- F. Assigned Services – Athletics

XVII. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant dated July 14, 2020  
The Board of Education reviewed the bills and corresponding warrant
- B. Bids  
On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.
- C. Budget Summary dated June 30, 2020  
The Board of Education reviewed the budget summary.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items XVII.D through XVII.V.

D. District Owned Cell Phones

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the list of job titles requiring cellular phones for the 2020-2021 school year.

E. External Auditor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Cullen & Danowski, LLP for External Auditor services for fiscal year ending 6/30/21 at an annual cost of \$48,200 and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Business to sign an engagement letter.

F. Legal Services - 2020-2021 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign an agreement with Ingerman Smith, LLP to provide legal counsel in the amount of \$23,260 annually for Board counsel services and \$28,090 annually for Labor counsel services and \$230 per hour for additional legal services for the period 7/1/20-6/30/21.

G. Claims Auditor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its president to sign an agreement on behalf of the Board of Education with Nawrocki Smith, LLP for the duties and responsibilities of Claims Auditor for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District for fiscal year ended 6/30/21 at a cost not to exceed \$25,078.

H. Third Party Administrators

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following as Third Party Administrators for fiscal year ending 6/30/21 at the indicated rates:

1. Wright Risk (Workers' Compensation) \$46,218.46 per year
2. USI (unemployment cost control services) \$ 4,400.00
3. Western Suffolk BOCES (flex plan) \$ 53.00 per participant per year

I. Insurance Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following insurance services providers:

1. NYSIR Comprehensive Coverage
2. Edwards & Co. Pupil Benefits (student accident)
3. J. Flynn Insurance Agency Group life and disability; dental insurance
4. Sterling & Sterling Excess Coverages:
  - a. Excess Workers' Compensation
  - b. Excess Flood & Earthquake
  - c. Cyber Data Compromise

J. Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Tri-State REACH, Inc. to provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to its eligible employees.

K. Internal Auditor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an inter-municipal agreement with QUESTAR III to perform internal auditing services and one risk assessment from 7/1/20 through and including 6/30/21 at a cost of \$21,775.

L. Nassau BOCES Cooperative Transportation Bid

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the results of the 6/22/20 Nassau BOCES Cooperative Transportation Bid and award the contracts based on BOCES' recommendation. BOCES recommended that, based on the detail information included in the bid (item specifications and unit price), the bid be awarded to the lowest responsible bidders meeting specifications for Non Public and Special Education Transportation for the 2020-2021 school year.

M. Affordable Care Act Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Seneca Consulting Group from 7/1/20–6/30/21 for the provision of Affordable Care Act consulting services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

N. Bellmore-Merrick Child Care

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign a one-year lease agreement with Bellmore-Merrick Child Care Program for the use of space at the Brookside School from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$14,107.82 and authorize its President to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

O. Asset Inventory Software

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with AssetWorks to provide support of the district's Asset Inventory software from 7/1/20 – 6/30/21 at an annual cost of \$1,450.00.

P. Budget Transfer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following budget transfers to cover 2019-2020 school year expenses:

From: A2250.490 (Special Ed BOCES)	\$ 380,000
To: A2250.400 (Related Services)	\$ 380,000
To cover Special Ed Related Services	

From: A2110.130 (Instructional Salaries)	\$ 34,800
To: A2110.400 (Instructional-Contractual)	\$ 34,800

To cover Official Consultant LTD/Thomas Sweeney Services – Leave Replacement

From: A9060.800	\$ 45,000
To: A2010.450 (Curriculum Supplies)	\$ 45,000

To cover costs for Vex Robotics Kits

Q. School Safety Plans

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has reviewed the district-wide and building-level School Safety Plans for the 2020-2021 school year and directs that the district-wide school safety plan and a summary of the building-level emergency response plan be made available for public comment.

R. Reimbursement for Attendance Functions

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6830 permits school district employees, officials and members of the Board of Education to be reimbursed for reasonable, actual and necessary out of pocket expenses which are legally authorized and incurred while traveling for school related activities; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools determined that Central Office Administrators were required to attend certain functions in the best interest of the School District, including the BMUST Retirement/Annual Dinner, Nassau BOCES Awards Dinner, PTA Founders Day, Cultural Arts Luncheon, JFK Hall of Fame Awards Dinner; and

WHEREAS, members of the Board of Education in the best interest of the School District also attended such functions; and

WHEREAS, Central Office Administrators and Board Members attended and paid for said events; and

WHEREAS, such expenses are eligible for reimbursement, pursuant to Board Policy 6830.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes reimbursement to Central Office Administration and Board members for their attendance at said events; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent of Business or her designee to process said reimbursement.

S. Athletic Trainer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Professional Athletic Training Services, PLLC, to provide athletic trainer services for School Year 2020-2021 at a cost not to exceed \$116,179.

T. Consultation Services Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Long Island Home d/b/a South Oaks Hospital for the provision of psychological and behavioral health consultation services at an annual cost of \$109,245 prorated for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

U. Safe Schools Training Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve and agreement with Vector Solutions, to provide Safe Schools Training from July 15, 2020 through July 14, 2021 at a cost of \$7,650.

V. Transportation Settlement Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a settlement agreement between the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District as a member of the Transportation Consortium and Dell Transportation Corp. for the period March 16, 2020 to June 30, 2020 and authorize the Board President to sign said agreement.



XVIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Piskin stated the Board of Education did not receive correspondence.

XIX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments for this meeting only.

XX. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Piskin welcomed Ms. Cmar-Grote to the Board of Education and said that she is looking forward to working with her and meeting her in person.

XXI. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:38 p.m.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pattianne Guccione*

Pattianne Guccione  
District Clerk