

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, September 9, 2020, in the Auditorium 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:

Gina Piskin, President
Marion Blane
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Janet Goller
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Nina Lanci
Tracey Miller

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Edward Corona, Vice President

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
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil 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 Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security
Emily Paluseo, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education met in Executive Session at 6:29 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and school reopening plans.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Piskin, Board President at 8:07 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. Piskin asked for a moment of silence to honor all of the first responders and those that have lost their lives to COVID-19 and to honor the upcoming anniversary of 9-11.

Ms. Piskin thanked Mr. DeTommaso and the administration, directors, principals and entire staff for all of their efforts preparing for the new school year. She also thanked all of the teachers who have spent the summer learning how to teach all over again under these new circumstances. She said that the first two days have been amazing and that the Board of Education is confident we will have a great school year.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** Dr. Kaplan seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the August 5, 2020 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated July 31, 2020.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Opening Day of School

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the entire staff and Board of Education for all of the hard work everyone has put in over the past few months preparing for the re-opening of schools. He said that the amount of work put in and the dedication everyone has is amazing.

Mr. DeTommaso said that the first two opening days went relatively smoothly. He said that the six schools, Electrical Program and the Prep Academy all got underway very well and we are off to a great start. We are evaluating everything, the hallways, arrivals, departures etc. and we will continue to evaluate throughout the school year. He said that the kids have been incredible and it really shows that they want to be here.

Mr. DeTommaso said that kids belong in school. If it is safe and everyone is doing what he or she should be doing, we will transition into a full opening. Every decision made will be based on the safety of the students and staff. If we cannot open safely in a full model we will not do so.

Mr. DeTommaso said that this has been a challenging time for everyone, not just us, but also the kids and parents. He explained that there has been a lot of inconsistency with the guidance from NYS, which has made planning very difficult. There is no guidance on Driver's Education and inconsistency in fall sports. There was never a meeting or a full vote from Superintendents on the opening of fall sports. The District has said from the beginning that we feel that kids should be playing in fall sports and we have sent a letter to the Governor, NYS Public High School Athletic Association and Section VIII expressing that opinion. Fall sports is supposed to be re-evaluated, and Mr. DeTommaso assured everyone that the District is doing everything possible to have fall sports start up again.

Mr. DeTommaso said that it is very important that everyone understand what we have dealt with for opening day, the virus, Driver's Education, athletics, twelve feet of distance for choir, band, physical education etc. He thanked the staff and parents on the re-opening committees for all of their time and hard work. He reminded everyone that should we get a positive case, we will be guided by the Nassau County Department of Health and they will let us know if we need to close. Mr. DeTommaso explained that the District does not do testing or contact tracing. The District will communicate with the Department of Health and they will provide contact tracing. He explained that Nassau County defines close contact being within six feet of someone for 10-15 minutes. If you are not within those guidelines, you will not get a call from the Department of Health.

Mr. DeTommaso asked the Board of Education and audience if anyone had any questions. Ms. Cmar-Grote asked about bus ridership. Mr. DeTommaso said that ridership is down because a significant amount of parents opted out and are dropping their kids off at school.

B.	<u>Future Events</u>	
	September 17	High School Back-to-School Night – To Be Determined
	September 24	Middle School Back-to-School Night – To Be Determined
	September 28	Yom Kippur – Schools Closed
	October 6	Fall Guidance Program – 9 th Grade
	October 7	Board of Education Meeting

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments on agenda items.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items VII.A through VIII.J.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Policy

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

Policy No. 0110 – Sexual Harassment (Revised)

Policy No. 0110.1 – Sexual Harassment of Students (New)

Policy No. 0110.2 – Sexual Harassment of Employees (New)

B. Special Education

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

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Committee on Special Education recommended placements: 000011446, 000013130, 000013225, 000511616, 080650010, 102570005, 102570006, 201700054, 201900160, 202000031, 202000034, 370001600 and 999011419.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT dated September 9, 2020

- A. Termination
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments
- D. Salary Reclassification
- E. Leave Requests
- F. Rescind Appointment
- G. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellations
- H. Assigned Services – Athletics
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- J. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant dated September 9, 2020

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills and the corresponding warrants.

B. Bids

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.

C. Budget Summary dated August 31, 2020

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items IX.D through IX.F.

D. Obsolete/Surplus Property

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education render obsolete and approve the disposal of two inoperable air conditioners at Merrick Avenue Middle School.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education render obsolete and approve the disposal of 465 Spanish Textbooks that are no longer in use at Merrick Avenue Middle School.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education render obsolete and approve the disposal of a 2002 GMC Corbeil Bus (VIN: 1GDJG31F821179210), Tag # 200010240024.

E. Construction Change Orders

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Site & Interior Reconstruction Change Orders at W. C. Mephram High School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-053:

1. Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$17,028.35 for The Land Tek Group, Inc., the Site Work Contract.
2. Change Order No. 2 in the add amount of \$23,000.00 for The Land Tek Group, Inc., the Site Work Contract.
3. Change Order No. 3 in the add amount of \$20,541.48 for The Land Tek Group, Inc., the Site Work Contract.

F. Budget Transfers

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfer to cover 2019-2020 school year expenses:

From:	A2250.490 (Special Ed BOCES)	\$ 214,000
	A2250.400 (Related Services)	\$ 61,000
To:	A2250.472 (Special Tuition)	\$ 275,000

To support special education tuition expenses.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfer to cover 2020-2021 school year expenses:

From:	A1620.400 (Fuel)	\$ 215,000
To:	A1620.450 (COVID-19 Supplies)	\$ 215,000

To cover costs for COVID-19 reopening supplies and PPE.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfer to cover 2020-2021 school year expenses:

From:	A2250.471 (Private Tuition)	\$ 27,364
To:	A2250.472 (Public Tuition)	\$ 27,364

To support special education tuition expenses.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

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

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kellie and Tara Shuart requested that 10th grade students be able to leave the school campus for lunch, explaining going home during the day gives her a mask break and makes the school experience seem more normal. Mr. DeTommaso said that this issue was discussed tonight during Pre-executive session and that it is about finding the balance. He said that the building Principals have made some good points about letting the 10th grade out for lunch and that a decision would be made shortly.

Gayle Gordon thanked Mr. DeTommaso and the entire administration for including parents and for work that everyone has put in over the summer. She said the feedback from her children and other parents has been great and she feel very confident about the school year.

Wayne Baci wanted to know why students are not permitted to drink in the classroom. Mr. DeTommaso explained that the District does not have the capability to clean the barriers in every room between periods. Mr. DeTommaso said if a student needs to drink or take a mask break, they should raise their hand and walk into the hallway. In addition, if we open for full in person classes then there will not be enough distance for masks to be off for any reason.

Tara Casimano asked why the students need masks and plexi-glass partitions. Mr. DeTommaso explained that the District had to interpret two sets of guidance from NYS, which include six feet of distance, masks and barriers, and the guidance was not clear. He further explained that if the District goes to full in person classes then we will not be able to keep the 6-foot distance and will need masks and barriers to stay within the guidelines. The District's legal team determined a district needs 6-feet of distance or masks and barriers.

Dr. Kaplan thanked the administration for what they dealt with here in the CHSD and for working with the elementary districts. She said everyone coordinated efforts and acted as one K-12 district. She is very grateful for everything.

XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk