

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING APRIL 7, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, April 7, 2021, 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:

Gina Piskin, President
Edward Corona, Vice President
Marion Blane
Janet Goller
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Nina Lanci
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 for 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 at 6:28 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, COVID-19, regents and the school budget.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Piskin, Board President at 8:08 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** Ms. Lanci seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the March 3, 2021 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2021.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Presentations

Budget

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business did not give a budget presentation.

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone and congratulated the Girl's bowling champions of Nassau County. He commended the coach, Kerri Cinelli on the team's tremendous accomplishment, especially in such a challenging year.

Mr. Caballero congratulated the team and said this is the first team to make a county championship this year.

Nassau County Girls Varsity Bowling Champions

Marissa Anselmo	Mepham High School
Beth Delles	Calhoun High School
Lauren DeMarco	Calhoun High School
Shannon Lisle	Calhoun High School
Noelle McIntosh	Calhoun High School
Sophie Orlich	Calhoun High School
Kylie Persampire	Mepham High School
Caitlin Snoddy	Calhoun High School
Kyra Wauchope	Calhoun High School

Mr. DeTommaso acknowledged the Kennedy High School girls basketball team for their accomplishments of winning 8-0 in conferences this season. He also commended the Kennedy High School wrestling team for going as far as they possible could this season. Mr. DeTommaso explained that the seasons were shortened this year but the teams performed outstandingly and he is certain that these teams would have been Nassau County Champions if the season had a normal timeframe.

Mr. DeTommaso said that in the past seven months a lot has centered around COVID-19 and safety measures. He said we have had an incredibly successful year with kids excelling like never before. The District has had five Regeneron finalists, six National Merit Semi-Finalists, five National Merit Finalists and two National Merit winners. The district has also had, and will continue to have, successful concerts, plays and athletics, which are huge accomplishments in this challenging year. Mr. DeTommaso also mentioned the success of our special programs, which maximize opportunities for kids such as, Prep Academy, CHAMP, Cosmetology, the Electrical Program, On-Tour and BMB Broadcasting. Mr. DeTommaso congratulated the kids, and thanked the parents and staff for their constant support. He said the District opened seven months ago and has accomplished things that no other district has been able to accomplish such as having intramural sports for winter 1 and 2. We coordinated with our elementary districts and acted as a single K-12 district and have done the best possible for our kids and families while having our kids in full time since September 25, 2020.

Mr. DeTommaso discussed the guidance that the CDC recently released for schools to open with three feet of distance with use of barriers. He explained that three feet of distance does not change the six feet regarding quarantine requirements. Mr. DeTommaso explained that some schools have more distance and some have more attendance but the quarantining is happening more from kids carpooling, having lunch out and other off campus activities than it is from in school activities. He understands how frustrating it is to be quarantined, but we are doing what we are required to do. He mentioned that the new COVID-19 variants are of concern but we continue to monitor the infection rate and that we will continue to do everything needed to keep our kids safe.

Mr. DeTommaso explained that we were supposed to have a presentation tonight for the 2021-2022 school year budget, which would have presented the lowest tax levy in ten years. He further explained that NYS just approved the State budget today, which gave the District more State Aid than anticipated. This District must now decide how to best allocate the additional State Aid and put forth the best budget possible. The average tax levy on Long Island is 1.88% and Bellmore-Merrick CHSD is at 1.45%. There will be a public meeting on April 20, 2021 to vote on the school budget. He thanked Ms. Coni and her team for doing an amazing job on this budget.

B. Future Dates:

April 20

BOCES Vote

May 5

Board of Education Meeting

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments for this meeting.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved agenda items VII.A.1 through VII.A.5.

A. Donations

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$2,100.00 from the Mephram High School baseball team towards the purchase of a batting cage for the baseball field, and increase the appropriations budget by the same amount.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$300.00 from the Merrick Lions Club Foundation Inc. for the Community Cupboard.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$150.00 from the Kiwanis Club of the Bellmores, Inc. for the Community Cupboard.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$120.00 from the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD Coordinating Council of PTAs for the Community Cupboard.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of six ping-pong tables with an approximate value of \$2,298.00 from the Calhoun Sports Boosters for Calhoun High School.

Ms. Piskin thanked everyone for the donations.

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

B. Special Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011333, 000012214, 000012380, 000012556, 000013017, 000512108, 000512130, 000512135, 000512341, 080440007, 082140000, 131261226, 131261480, 131261996, 181911133, 201700017, 201700135, 201900125, 202000067, 202000097, 202000133, 202110205, 370001541.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – April 7, 2021

- A. Resignations
- B. Appointments
- C. Recommendation for Permanent Employment
- D. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- E. Volunteer
- F. Salary Reclassification
- G. Miscellaneous – Cell Phone Reimbursement
- H. Assigned Services - Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- J. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- K. Assigned Services – Athletics

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – April 7, 2021

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

B. Budget Summary – March 31, 2021

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

Ms. Coni explained that with the increase in State Aid, it is best to hold off on adopting the budget so the District can put forth the best budget possible for the taxpayers. She said the public hearing will take place on April 20, 2021 for the BOCES election/vote and for the District's budget adoption.

Ms. Piskin announced that the Board of Education has unanimously decided to adjourn item IX.C to April 20, 2021.

C. Adoption of Budget Proposition - ADJOURNED TO APRIL 20, 2021

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 sixty-nine million, six hundred forty-five thousand, nine hundred fifty-four dollars (\$169,645,954) 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.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved agenda items IX.D through IX.G.

D. 2021-2022 Fire Inspection Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Fire Marshalls' 2021-2022 Inspection Reports.

E. Obsolete/Surplus Property

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of five (5) televisions, three (3) projectors, two (2) DVD/VCRs and two (2) television carts at Mephram High School.

F. Consultant

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, The Business & Education Leadership Authority, to provide a Teaching and Learning Excellence Consultation and Presentation for teachers and staff, at a cost of \$6,500.000.

G. 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.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 6-2, the Board of Education approved agenda item IX.H.

H. Employment Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby authorizes and directs the Board President to execute addendum No. 8 to the April 2013 Employment Agreement between the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. John DeTommaso.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved agenda items IX.I through IX.O.

I. Municipal Advisor Services

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 \$1,000.00.

- J. Cooperative Bid – 2021-2022 – Nassau County Association of Buildings & Grounds
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Cooperative Bidding Resolution for the 2021-2022 school year:

WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of Nassau County Public School Districts, during the 2021-2022 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

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.

- K. Inter-Municipal Transportation Management
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the renewal of an existing 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 2021-2022 school year.
- L. 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 2021-2022 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.)

M. 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 2021-2022 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.

N. Special Counsel – Lewis Brisbois, LLP

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute an Engagement Letter with Lewis Brisbois, LLP, subject to final review by Ingerman Smith, LLP, wherein Lewis Brisbois is appointed as Special Counsel to the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District (“School District”) at the rate of \$225 per hour for the purpose of representing and defending the School District in connection with a lawsuit captioned as *Dominic Baldi v. ABB, Inc.*, New York County Index No. 190217/2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute a Disclosure and Consent Agreement with Ingerman Smith, L.L.P. agreeing to joint representation as to counsel and guidance of the School District with other school districts named in the lawsuit in the form attached hereto on behalf of the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute a Consent to Joint Representation with Lewis Brisbois, LLP agreeing to joint representation in the defense of the School District with other school districts named in the lawsuit, subject to final review by Ingerman Smith, LLP.

O. 3020-a Decision

WHEREAS, per N.Y. Education Law Section 3020-a, disciplinary charges were preferred against a certain tenured teacher of the School District;

WHEREAS, the State Education Department assigned the disciplinary case a particular case number, that is State Education Department Case No. 35,619;

WHEREAS, a hearing was held and completed before Jay Nadelbach, Esq., the designated Hearing Officer in this matter;

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2021, the Hearing Officer issued his final decision in the form of the Opinion and Award regarding the case;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the N.Y. Education Law, the Board of Education is obligated to implement said decision;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education having reviewed the Hearing Officer's decision in the form of his Opinion and Award, hereby authorizes the implementation of the decision and terminates the tenured employee, known to the Board of Education in Executive Session, from his employment in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, effective close of business April 9, 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to take necessary administrative steps for the implementation of the decision.

XI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Lanci asked Mr. DeTommaso to talk about plans for prom and graduation. Mr. DeTommaso said that we are currently working out details for prom and graduation. We are considering outdoor graduations and multiple proms but we are awaiting further guidance from NYS on the number of participants allowed.

Ms. Piskin congratulated all of our athletes and thanked all of the teachers, staff, principals and administrators for working so hard and for keeping our kids safe.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

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

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments for this meeting.

XIV. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk