

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING APRIL 6, 2022

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, April 6, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside Educational Center at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

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

The following members of the Board of Education were not present:

Edward Corona, President
Janet Goller

Also present:

Michael Harrington, Superintendent of Schools
Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Scott Bersin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
David Seinfeld, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration
Eric Arlin, Executive Director of Alternative Education
Emily Paluseo, 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
Maura Kempton, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Tom Volpe, Supervisor of Transportation
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lanci called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 6-0, the Board of Education moved to appoint Michael Harrington as the Acting District Clerk during Executive Session.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 6-0, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and a specific personnel issue.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 6-0, the Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. Lanci asked for everyone for moment of silence for the families affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 6-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the March 2, 2022 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2022.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Harrington said that tonight is an exceptional night and that as we recognize some amazing student-athlete accomplishments. He said that last year's winter athletic season lost many opportunities due to a shortened season and for these kids to come back and become champions is outstanding. He said that they accomplished this for themselves, their classmates, the community and for the class of 2021 who didn't get a chance to compete. Mr. Harrington congratulated them for all they have accomplished.

A. Presentations

All-American - Winter Track

Ms. Cmar-Grote presented an Award of Honor certificate to Amokrane Aouchiche from Mepham High School and said that Amokrane earned All-American status at the Nike Indoor Nationals for his 5th place finish in the 5K. He has earned multiple All-County accolades in Cross Country and Winter Track and won the County Championship in Winter Track (3200 meter), running the fastest all-time season in Nassau County at 9:31.

Ms. Lanci presented and Award of Honor certificate to Camylin Blake from Mepham High School and said that Camylin earned All-American status in the 60 hurdles at the Nike Indoor Nationals. At Nationals, Camy also led off the 4x200m relay that broke the school record. Camy is a three time Division Champion a two time Conference Champion, three time County Champion, five time All-County as well as Long Island Champion, New York State runner-up and All-American. Additionally, she holds the school record in the 55 hurdles, 60 hurdles and 100 hurdles.

New York State - All-State - Wrestling

Ms. Miller presented and Award of Honor certificate to Raymond Adams from Calhoun High School and said that Raymond had an outstanding junior season finishing with a 33 and 6 record. Ray won both the Sprig Gardner and South Side tournaments and finished second in Nassau County, which qualified him for the NYS Championships as the 8th seed in the tournament. Ray won four matches, defeating the #4 and #2 seeds and ultimately earning him a 4th place finish and All-State honors.

Nassau County Champions - Calhoun - Girls Winter Track

Kamila Agudelo	Milan Alexander	Julia Baguiao
Yolina Bastien	Megan Bhansingh	Nalani Booker
Skylar Bruno	Felicia Capizzi	Rose Cepeda
Evalice Colon	Shea Connolly	Carly Curnutt
Eva Doscher	Kimberly Fagnoli	Emily Ganz
Molly Gargan	Julianna Gonzalez	Taylor Halvorsen
Rachel Hyland	Ryann Jordan	Paulina Kakalos
Sophia Kayantas	Erika Klein	Dominique Lewis
Sofia Macias	Katelyn Macnamara	Gabriella Manfre
Sara Manson	Kelly Martin	Emily Maxwell
Charlotte McElwaine	Julie Moehringer	Sofia Monastero
Lily Napoli	Amanda Nevins	Penelope Orlando
Aleyna Ozay	Omana Phillips	Katherine Pucella
Julianna Razza	Lauren Rosario	Madeline Ryan
Samantha Sanchioli	Kaitlin Slattery	Kaitlyn Stibritz
Olivia Trinkus	Emily Tuzzolo	Sofia Zampella
Camryn Zubiria		

Ms. Lanci presented Award of Honor certificates to the entire team and said that the Girls Track Team began the winter season with a single goal in mind-win the County! The team knew this wouldn't be a simple task as Calhoun has never won a county title in Girls track and field before. The girls knew it would be a team effort if they wanted to achieve their goals. They needed all facets of the team to complete and score in all events, and that is just what they did. The girls went on to rack up points in practically every event.

Mr. Harrington said it was an incredible honor to congratulate the students, adding that this was reflective of everything that has been accomplished during March. Mr. Harrington discussed the many wonderful events that took place in March, such as a youth summit to raise awareness of mental health, packed auditoriums for concerts and plays at each school and the Chop Your Locks Charity event that raised over \$70,000 to benefit the St. Baldrick's Foundation. He said that spring sports are off to a great start and welcomed the student representatives back to our Board of Education meetings.

Student Representatives

Julie Moehringer from Calhoun High School said there have been many exciting things happening in and around Calhoun. She said that students in the senior class have been receiving college acceptance letters, which is very exciting. On March 4th Calhoun hosted their first class night in three years which was amazing. The following week the business club DECA departed for their first trip since February, 2020 which was a huge success, taking home about 60 medals. Julie thanked the Board of Education for their support as the Calhoun band, choir and orchestra will heading to Disney for their spring trip. In closing, Julie said the Senior Experience students will be hosing their fashion show to fundraise for the Starlight Children's Foundation and she encouraged everyone to buy a ticket for a great cause.

Nicole Rosen said that Kennedy High School held its annual Wellness Week in early March and that during the week, students attended assembly programs on mental health and wellness. She said that on March 11th, Kennedy had their annual Trivia Challenge and raised over \$800 to benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation of Nassau County. In addition, Kennedy Student Government held its basketball tournament, Cougar TV celebrated the 50th episode of its morning announcement program and the spring sports season is off to a great start. Last, she said that she is proud of the work of the students and staff to support the people of Ukraine. She said that the school community raised over \$700 and collected an enormous amount of supplies for Ukraine.

Anthony Scotto from Mepham High School said Mepham continued to be a busy pace in March and he congratulated Amokrane Aouchiche and Camylin Blake on their accomplishments. Anthony spoke about Carl Wilken, who was a guest speaker at the school who did great humanitarian work in Rwanda. Mepham hosted their first full in-person Chop Your Locks for Charity event since 2019 and raised over \$70,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation. He thanked everyone for their support and said that the donation site will remain open. He congratulated the students that participated in the spring musical Beauty and the Beast, the Honor Society inductees, Katherine Orellana for becoming the first Mepham female to earn an Eagle Scout award, BMB program on being named a 2022 Student Television Network Broadcast Excellence Award winner and the World Language poster contest winner Alexandra Mulqueen. Last, he spoke about the fundraising events hosted by Mepham to support Ukraine.

Mr. Harrington thanked the student representatives and said he is happy to hear they are celebrating events again which is so important for our students. Mr. Harrington thanked the Board of Education for their continued support of our students, programs and events and he is grateful for all that we have accomplished in our schools.

Curriculum Presentation World Languages Expo

Mr. Harrington reflected on the time when the district came up with an idea to re-invent how World Language was taught in our schools. He said that the district decided to move into a fully immersive program for teaching World Language. Mr. Bersin added that we have a terrific World Language program that takes a progressive and immersive approach.

Ms. Owenburg, Ms. Kaplan and Mr. Montes gave a presentation on the World Language program. They discussed the history of the program and how they researched strategies to implement the philosophy "INSPIRE", which is their basis for instruction in the classroom. They said that students are taught communication skills and use current events and relatable topics to learn about the culture and language. Students leave the program learning another language but they also gain life skills and college readiness. They also have the opportunity to receive the NYS Seal of Biliteracy on their diplomacy. Four students gave the audience a summary of their Seal of Biliteracy Presentation in the world language they are learning and in English. Madeline Chaaffer of Calhoun gave her presentation in French, Olivia Perrone of Calhoun HS gave her presentation in Italian, Helena Fu of Mepham HS gave her presentation in Mandarin and Desiree Rigaud of Kennedy HS gave her presentation in Spanish.

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Mr. Harrington thanked the teachers and students for their wonderful presentations. He also said this is an important month about opportunities, pathways and experiences for students. He thanked Ms. Coni for her incredible work and asked her to give a presentation on the upcoming budget.

Budget

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business thanked the Board of Education and Mr. Harrington for their continued support of the programs that allow our students to reach their highest potential. She gave a presentation on the proposed 2022/2023 school budget of \$177,106,499 and explained that the 2022/2023 budget meets all of our budget goals. The 2022/2023 budget will have a 4.08% budget increase from the current school year due to inflation and allowable growth factors. The tax levy increase of 2.11% is keeping under the tax cap and under the average since the induction of the tax cap. The expenditure increase is comprised of increases in salaries and benefits including adding new teaching positions, supplies, materials, contractual agreements and debt service. Regarding revenue, Ms. Coni explained the increase in State Aid and Foundation Aid, which is not expense driven or restricted on spending. She also explained the use of Fund Balance to offset the tax burden for constituents and the change in PILOT payments to reflect a more accurate estimate. Our 2022/2023 proposed school budget maintains our special programs and services. It includes some program enhancements such as adding HVAC to the Electrical Program, NYS Certification for Cosmetology students and enhancements in STEAM opportunities. The district will be maintaining the partnership with Northwell Health/South Oaks and will continue with technology upgrades.

Ms. Coni discussed the Capital Reserve Projects for the middle schools. The improvements will include parking lot, tennis court and track resurfacing. It will also include renovations to the Family and Consumer Science room and replacement of the stage curtains and gym partitions.

Ms. Coni mentioned that the Public Budget Hearing will take place on May 4, 2022 and the budget vote will take place on May 17, 2022. She said that all of the budget information is available on our website and said that if anyone has questions to contact her.

Mr. Harrington thanked Ms. Coni and her team for their incredible work. He mentioned the future dates and wished everyone celebrating Ramadan, Passover or Easter a happy holiday and hopes everyone has a relaxing Spring Recess.

B. Future Dates

April 12	STEAM Career Fair at Kennedy Calhoun Senior Experience Fashion Show Mepham English Honor Society Induction
April 14-22	Spring Recess – Schools Closed
April 26	High School National Honor Society Induction BOCES Vote
April 28	Kennedy Concert I Calhoun Blue Concert Mepham Concert I
May 3	Superintendent’s Conference Day – No School for Students

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

Mr. Corona stated:

“The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at Board meetings. To allow for public participation, a period not to exceed 30 minutes shall be set aside during each Board meeting. Any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall complete an information card. Questions are to be addressed to the Board President, not to individual board members. Personal attacks on individual board members, administrators and staff will not be tolerated and may be cause to adjourn the meeting. There will be no back and forth dialogue. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, it would be appreciated if each visitor would limit his/her remarks to not more than three minutes or ask only one question. Public discussion on matters relating to staff and students, by which their reputation, privacy, or rights to due process, or those of others could be in some way violated, is prohibited.

Having said that, please note that the Board is here to listen. The public comment period is not designed to be a discussion. Accordingly, please do not expect the Board to respond to your concerns and questions tonight. This is because we take your concerns and questions seriously and want to have sufficient time to process and research issues, if need be. We will, however, respond to your questions and concerns at a future meeting, or have the proper staff member get back to you at the appropriate time.

I also want to point out that under state and federal privacy laws we are unable to entertain any comments or questions about school personnel. Please know, however, that we take personnel concerns very seriously. On these matters, we would ask you to go through the appropriate administrative channels.”

There were no public comments made on agenda items.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved agenda item VII.A.

A. Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$300.00 from the Bellmore-Merrick United Secondary Teachers for the Community Cupboard in honor of Dr. Bollettieri’s retirement.

Ms. Lanci thanked BMUST for the donation.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved agenda item VII.B.

B. Special Education

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors list for the 2021-2022 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: 000010259, 000010653, 000011704, 000011714, 000011729, 000012293, 000012390, 000012449, 000012507, 000013128, 000013208, 000013345, 000014856 ,000512445, 000512746, 000513103, 081970002, 131261269, 131261273, 131261770, 131262239, 131262262, 171811592, 81910204, 192010274, 201600062, 201800040, 201800204, 202100024, 202100150, 202110555 and 370001903.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved agenda items VIII.C through VIII.G and an addendum that was added to the original Personnel Report.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – April 6, 2022

- A. Resignations
- B. Appointments
- C. Assigned Services - Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- D. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- E. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- F. Assigned Services – Athletics – Intramurals
- G. Assigned Services – Athletics – Spring

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – April 6, 2022
The Board of Education reviewed the bills and corresponding warrant.

- B. Bids
On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.

- C. Budget Summary – March 31, 2022
The Board of Education reviewed the budget summary.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items IX.D through IX.K.

D. Adoption of Budget Propositions

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 seventy-seven million, one hundred six thousand, four hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$177,106,499) 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.

Proposition No. 2 – Capital Improvement Projects

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is hereby authorized to expend the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) representing the balance of monies in the Capital Reserve Fund established on May 2016 for the following purposes: parking lot, tennis courts and track resurfacing, floor and ceiling tile replacement and renovation of the family and consumer science classrooms at Grand Avenue and Merrick Avenue Middle Schools. Since the funds to be expended hereunder come from the Capital Reserve Fund approval of this proposition will not require a tax levy upon the real property of the district. This Proposition shall be independent of Proposition No. 1.

E. Obsolete/Surplus Property

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of one metal cabinet located in the girls locker room at Merrick Avenue Middle School.

F. Scholarship

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Strive for Excellence Award at Mephram HS of \$1,000.00 every year until the death of the bestower, Dr. Lance Blackshaw.

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.

- H. Cooperative Bid – 2022-2023 – Nassau County Association of Buildings & Grounds
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Cooperative Bidding Resolution for the 2022-2023 school year:

WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of Nassau County Public School Districts, during the 2022-2023 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.

- I. 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 2022-2023 school year.
- J. 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 2022-2023 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.)

K. 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 2022-2023 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.

The Board of Education tabled item IX.L and there was **NO MOTION** made.

L. Resolution- Settlement of Litigation

WHEREAS, Mieczyslaw Szozda and Genowefa Szozda commenced litigation against the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, and multiple other defendants; and

WHEREAS, in connection with said lawsuit the School District asserted various defenses to the claims alleged by Mieczyslaw Szozda and Genowefa Szozda against the School District; and

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to settle their claims to avoid further litigation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby authorizes settlement of the action titled “Mieczyslaw Szozda and Genowefa Szozda, Plaintiffs, -against- CBS Corporation, f/k/a Viacom Inc., successor by merger to CBS Corporation, f/k/a Westinghouse Electric Corporation, et al., [including but not limited to] . . . Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District” venued in New York State Supreme Court, County of New York, Index No. 190325/2020 in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Release and Settlement Agreement and Release Medicare Addendum between the parties, said agreements having been reviewed and approved in Executive Session with the Board and counsel for the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President and/or Superintendent of Schools to execute the above-mentioned agreements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the School District’s attorneys of record to execute any and all other documents necessary to effectuate said settlement and/or discontinue of the action.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Education did not discuss any old or new business.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Lanci stated the Board of Education received 2 mailed correspondences and 17 emails between and February 18, 2022 and April 1, 2022.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Corona stated:

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I also want to point out that under state and federal privacy laws we are unable to entertain any comments or questions about school personnel. Please know, however, that we take personnel concerns very seriously. On these matters, we would ask you to go through the appropriate administrative channels.”

Lauren A. asked if there are any plans to upgrade the baseball field at Mepham HS, which she feels is not safe.

Mr. Harrington said that it is not in this year’s budget but that it will be looking into for the future and said he would have Mr. Caballero reach out to her since she feels that there is a safety issue.

Tara C. said that bathrooms are not readily available to students and that there has to be a better way to deal with bathroom issues that do not require students going to another floor to use a bathroom.

Mr. Harrington said there has been some progress with making bathrooms more readily available to students. He said that the problems began with maintenance during COVID-19 but as we return to normal, this is an area that needs improvement.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 6-0, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. to discuss a specific personnel issue.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 6-0, the Board of Education moved to appoint Michael Harrington as the Acting District Clerk during Executive Session.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 6-0, the Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 10:29 p.m.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved the following motion that has been added to the agenda:

Appointment of Principal of Wellington C. Mephram High School

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Anthony DeMartinis as the Principal of Wellington C. Mephram High School, effective July1, 2022.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 6-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk