

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2022

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, October 12, 2022, in the Board of Education Conference Room 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, President
Janet Goller, Vice President
Marion Blane
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Edward Corona
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Gina Piskin

The following member of the Board of Education was not present:

Tracey Miller

Also present:

Michael Harrington, Superintendent of Schools
Scott Bersin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Eric Gomez, 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 7-0, the Board of Education moved to appoint Michael Harrington as the Acting District Clerk during Executive Session.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss a specific personnel issue and pending litigation.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 7:25 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. Lanci asked for a moment of silence in honor of Fire Prevention month, to remember fallen NYC Captain Alison Russo and all of our firefighters and police officer serving their communities.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the September 7, 2022 and September 23, 2022 meetings.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2022.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Harrington welcomed everyone and said this has certainly been an incredible month in the Central High School District. He said it is remarkable to think that we are already into the month of October with our first month of school filled with highlights from student and staff achievements and tonight's agenda is a reflection of what an incredible school district this is. We have three athletes who competed in the Maccabiah Games in Israel, All-State musicians, a presentation on one of our newest programs in the district and we welcome for the first time, our 2022-2023 student representatives. Mr. Harrington welcomed Town of Hempstead Councilman Christopher Carini and Nassau County Legislator Steve Rhodes saying they are both very dedicated to this community.

A. **Presentations**

Town of Hempstead Councilman Christopher Carini and Nassau County Legislator Steve Rhodes congratulated four students for their unique and prestigious achievement of competing in the 2022 Maccabiah Games in Israel. They presented each the following students with a Certificate of Recognition and a Citation:

Maccabiah Games in Israel - Presentation by Councilman Christopher Carini

Brianna Frier	Mephram High School
Jessica Nachamie	Kennedy High School former student
William Siegel	Calhoun High School
Isabelle Sivin	Kennedy High School

Mr. Harrington said that the month of September has been an unbelievable month, filled with spirit and energy, which included two of the three homecoming celebrations, dances, pep rallies and field trips.

Mr. Harrington announced that the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District ranked 66 in the nation from Niche.com's 2023 study of 10,751 school districts across the United States. This represents an incredible accomplishment, and a significant climb in the rankings since 2019. The District was also ranked 15 in the State of New York out of 700 districts. Mr. Harrington said all three of the district's high schools, John F. Kennedy in Bellmore, Sanford H. Calhoun and Wellington C. Mephram, ranked in the top 60 in NYS out of many thousands of high schools statewide. He also said that both Grand Avenue and Merrick Avenue middle schools were listed in the top 40 in New York. He explained that these rankings are based on factors obtained from the U.S. Department of Education and include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality and public school district ratings. Mr. Harrington said that normally we don't look at these rankings and scores but when they come out like they have, we realize how lucky we are to have such a supportive Board of Education and we thank and congratulate the community, this is a reflection of what we stand for in Bellmore-Merrick.

Ms. Goller explained that each year, young musicians throughout New York State receive the exciting notification that they have been selected to participate in the NYSSMA All-State Music Festival. This year the Bellmore-Merrick Music Department is proud to announce we have four students selected along with four additional alternate spots. Ms. Goller presented Award of Honor certificates to the following students on this accomplishment:

New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) – All State

Aden Abramovitz	Kennedy High School – Chorus, Tenor 2
Massimo Marino	Kennedy High School – Symphonic Band, Bassoon
Ruby Mattes	Mephram High School – Symphonic Orchestra, Double Bass
Liam Osborne	Mephram High School – Instrumental Jazz Ensemble, Tenor Trombone

New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) – Alternate

Jessica Blumberg	Kennedy High School – Orchestra, Violin
Amanda Falls	Calhoun High School – Chorus, Soprano 2
Fiona Wong	Calhoun High School – Band, Snare Drum
Liam Osborne	Mephram High School – Jazz Piano

Curriculum and Instruction

Surf for All Program

Mr. Harrington mentioned this year's theme of Pathways-Path-Purpose and said that when students find their pathway, the adults in the District ensure they stay on path so the student finds their purpose. He said the Surf For All program is one of the programs that keep in line with our theme.

Mr. Caballero, Ms. Paluseo, Ms. Kempton, Mr. Arlin and Mr. Balestrieri gave a presentation on the Surf for All Program. Ms. Paluseo explained how lucky we are to offer this program to our students. She explained how the initiative started for our Prep Academy student but the program has now expanded to include our MAP students. She said the program has helped our students overcome fears of the water and build confidence while learning how to surf.

Mr. Caballero thanked the Board of Education for their support of the program and for always doing what is best for our community.

Mr. Balestrieri said this program not only have a physical aspect, but there is a mental aspect to the program which helps students build confidence, promote team building skills, teaches students to follow directions and promotes safety and awareness. The program also presented summer volunteer opportunities for two of our students.

Prep Academy student Frankie Geccedi said he was so happy to be surfing and learned how to paddle by himself. Prep Academy student Matthew Pietraniello said the program is amazing and it has helped him with focus and judgement, he loves the program. MAP student Jordan Nelson said it is a team building experience the best gym class and he has a great time surfing.

Mr. Balestrieri gave a video presentation of the students surfing that he filmed while in the water.

Ms. Lanci thanked everyone for their presentation and said it was nice to see the students so happy.

Mr. Harrington also thanked everyone for the presentation and said it is a perfect reflection of how this District thinks outside of the box, saying he is very proud of everyone. Mr. Harrington welcomed our new student representatives to our Board of Education meetings and said he looks forward to hearing from them every month.

Student Representatives

Jordan Nelson will be representing the Meadowbrook Alternative Program/Prep Academy and Electrical Training program. He said that so far this year students have been getting to know each other and took a field trip to the Brookville Outdoor Center. The leadership class will be hosting a Kindness Campaign where students write kind messages in exchange for a cup of hot or cold apple cider. He said MAP and Prep Academy students have been enjoying the Surf for All program on Fridays in Long Beach and the new art class in Prep Academy is working on a big art project which will be revealed later this year. He also said the Electrical Training program has doubled in size, now has daytime hours and students are finishing OSHA training. He said the Brookside Educational Center will have Spirit Week at the end of the month and he is looking forward to a successful year.

Rachel Oppenheim from Kennedy High School said the first month has been very exciting with lots of events like Spirit Week and Homecoming. She said Kennedy hosted a White Out event at Homecoming to wrap up the exciting week. She discussed the Virtual Enterprise class explaining that students applied for positions in a sneaker company called Patch Attach and said this class offers a unique learning experience. Lastly, she mentioned that 30 Kennedy alumni were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame this year and she looks forward updating the Board of Education throughout the year.

Sophia Tripicciono from Calhoun High School said the year is off to a great start with a very exciting Homecoming early in the school year. She said it began with a Pep Rally and Homecoming Dance with students dancing in the courtyard with music from their Rock Band. She said the Calhoun On Tour program had their first Improv Night and is preparing for their production of King Lear. She said the Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams finished their seasons undefeated and the Boys and Girls Volleyball teams and Soccer teams are all doing great. Finally, she said the clubs and community service opportunities are plentiful and students are looking forward to everything that will be accomplished throughout the year.

Lily Yopez from Mepham High School said it has been a busy place and everyone is looking forward to a productive and exciting school year. She said in early September, Mepham honored those affected by the tragic events that occurred on 9/11, as well as our service men and women, by holding a passing in silence between 2nd and 3rd periods. She mentioned that Mepham will host its 85th Homecoming this weekend with a Pep Rally and Pirate's Fest prior to the game, they are looking forward to crowning a homecoming King and Queen while cheering on the football team. She announced that Mepham received a "School of Distinction" award for the 2021-2022 school year. She congratulated Valedictorian Matthew Manno, Salutatorian Gabriella Simal, and NYSSMA All-State students Liam Osborne and Ruby Mattes. In closing, she said there has been a positive tone at Mepham and students look forward to a great year ahead.

Mr. Harrington congratulated the student representatives for doing an amazing job on their first presentation and he looks forward to hearing from them every month. He mentioned the upcoming dates and said that October is school Leadership Appreciation Month and next month we look forward to recognizing our Board of Education.

B. Future Events

October 15	Mephram Homecoming
October 18	High School World Language Honor Society Induction
October 25	High School Math Honor Society Inductions
October 28-29	Calhoun On-Tour Shakespeare Production
November 2	Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved item VII.A.

A. Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of a golf cart valued at \$11,995.00, from the Calhoun Sports Boosters to the Calhoun High School Athletics program.

Ms. Lanci thanked the Calhoun Sports Boosters their generous donation.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items VII.B through IX.H.

B. Special Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following recommendations for placement made by the Committee on Special Education: 000010279, 000011723, 000012455, 000012468, 000012827, 000013099, 000013128, 000016112, 000512123, 131261257, 192010274, 201900009, 202200081, 202200103, 202200115, 202200119, 222312451 and 370002062.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – October 12, 2022

- A. Tenure Recommendation
- B. Termination
- C. Resignations
- D. Appointments
- E. Salary Reclassification
- F. Recommendation for Permanent Employment
- G. Leave Requests
- H. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- J. Assigned Services – Athletics – Fall 2022
- K. Assigned Services – Athletics – Winter 2022

IX. BUSINESS

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – October 12, 2022 - *Information Only*

B. Budget Summary – September 30, 2022 - *Information Only*

C. Indoor Worker/Student Occupied Space

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education re-affirm the practice of maintaining heat in all indoor worker/student occupied spaces, excluding processing spaces (freezers and coolers) and gymnasiums, at 68° Fahrenheit from October 15th through April 15th, and 65° Fahrenheit from September 15th through October 14th and April 16th through May 31st.

D. Snack Vending

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an extension to a vending contract with Dover Gourmet Corporation Vending for the 2022-2023 school year for the provision of vending services in the District via the BOCES contract. The District will receive a commission on total sales; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Food Services Director is the District's authorized representative as concerns this agreement.

E. Obsolete Equipment/Property

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of approximately 430 Science Explorer textbooks no longer in use, located in classrooms and lab rooms at Grand Avenue Middle School.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of approximately 460 Big Ideas Math textbooks no longer in use, located in a storage room at Grand Avenue Middle School.

F. Authorization of Virtual Meetings

WHEREAS, the 2022-2023 New York State Budget Bill, S. 8006-C and A. 9006-C, amended the Open Meetings Law to provide for a new Section 103-a;

WHEREAS, Section 103-a of the Open Meetings Law allows for public meetings to be conducted via videoconferencing effective April 9, 2022, subject to certain conditions and limitations;

WHEREAS, the New York State Executive Orders 11-11.9 extended the suspension of the Open Meetings Law's videoconferencing rules until September 12, 2022;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to take advantage of the flexibility offered through videoconferencing for its meetings;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that effective October 7, 2022, the Board of Education may conduct any public meetings via videoconferencing in accordance with Section 103-a of the Open Meetings Law, provided that all requirements of Section 103-a have been met prior to any public meeting which is to be conducted via videoconferencing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to establish and post written procedures for public meetings held pursuant to Open Meetings Law Section 103-a on the District's website.

G. Corrective Action Plan

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2021-22 Internal Control Risk Assessment performed by the Internal Auditor, Questar III.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan of the 2021-22 Audit of Information Technology performed by the Internal Auditor, Questar III.

H. Budget Transfer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfer to cover 2022-2023 school year expenses:

From: A1620.400-00-8300 (Fuel Oil)	\$50,000.00
To: A1620.425-00-0000 (Repairs-Buildings and Grounds)	\$50,000.00

To cover costs for repairs to the Univentilators throughout the District.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

No old or new business discussed but Ms. Piskin mentioned that the Merrick School District will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary as a school district and is gearing up for the celebration. They will be looking for committee members and will soon host a meeting.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education received two emails between September 2, 2022 and October 7, 2022.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk