

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, November 2, 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
Tracey Miller
Gina Piskin

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
Steven Goodstat, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lanci called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

On a **MOTION** By Ms. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education moved to appoint Michael Harrington as the Acting District Clerk during Executive Session.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, the 2023-24 school calendar and the external audit review.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 7:35 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. Lanci asked everyone to think about all of our veterans as we celebrate Veteran's Day next week. She thanked our veterans for their service.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the October 12, 2022 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 September 30, 2022.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. **Presentations**

Mr. Harrington welcomed everyone to the meeting and changed the order of the Superintendent's report.

Annual External Audit Review

Alan Yu of Cullen and Danowski, LLP gave a presentation on their audit of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's finances ending June 30, 2022, which had an operating deficit of five million dollars. He was pleased to report that there are no reportable findings and the District's financial health is consistent. He added that the District maintains a strong fund balance that is on par with other districts. He reported that most of the previous recommendations were positively implemented. They found no material weaknesses, clean internal controls and a said this is a very positive report.

School Board Recognition

Mr. Harrington said it has been an unbelievable month. He said that 56 musicians became All-County and will perform in NYSSMA. He said many of the sports teams made playoffs and that the swim team won the division championship and the Calhoun Cross Country team won the county championship.

Mr. Harrington said that November is when we get to honor our Board of Education. He said that this school district would not be able to accomplish all that it does without this incredible board. He explained that by serving on the high school board, these board members have committed to serving on two Boards of Education. He said they make smart decisions and we are in a great place because of them. Mr. Harrington congratulated Ms. Piskin on being chosen for the 2022 Women of Distinction award and said she was recently honored at a dinner with State Legislator Dave McDonough.

Ms. Fontana thanked the Board of Education for the countless hours of time they have given to our students and community. She said our board members are dedicated and caring, always making decisions that are best for our kids and always support the music and art programs.

Merrick Avenue and Grand Avenue Middle School art students presented the Board of Education with a collaborated art piece, depicting the cover of the book "What the Road Said" by Cleo Wade, which coincides with this year's theme of "Pathways, Path, Purpose".

Prep Academy Art 3 students presented the Board of Education with an art piece that was made by combining pieces from each student to form one picture of their school mascot, a husky.

Kennedy High School students “JFK Voices” gave a musical performance of “Can’t Help Falling in Love” to the Board of Education in honor of their dedication to the school community.

Curriculum and Instruction - Cosmetology Program

Mr. Melkonian said cosmetology students are learning state-of-the-art trends in styling, hair coloring, nail enhancement, and skin care and have the opportunity to turn their passion into a lifelong career. He welcomed the students of the cosmetology program, teacher Ms. Pendl and our partners, staff from De La Mer Salon & Spa to give a presentation to the Board of Education. They thanked the Board of Education for their support of the program and the renovations to the salon at Calhoun High School. The students showed the audience how to create a beach wave hairstyle on a mannequin while the staff of De La Mer Salon & Spa explained the program. They explained that students are not only learning techniques, they are learning the business side, networking and marketing skills. In honor of Board Appreciation Month, the Board of Education was offered free salon services by the students.

Mr. Harrington thanked them for the demonstration and said the adults working in the program have vision, which develops passionate learners and gives students a pathway and purpose.

Ms. Piskin said she loves that the students are learning the entire business and Dr. Kaplan thanked De La Mer Salon & Spa for their support in the community.

Student Representatives

Jordan Nelson from the Meadowbrook Alternative Program/Prep Academy and Electrical Training program said students are still enjoying the surfing program. He said that Brookside celebrated Halloween with costumes and a parade followed by Spirit Week. Jordan also mentioned the Multi-Faith Assembly and picture day. He thanked the North Merrick School District and Mephram High School for hosting Trunk or Treat with proceeds benefiting the Community Cupboard. He said students are looking forward to welcoming veterans, as they will be coming to Brookside for a presentation on November 10th for Veteran’s Day.

Nicole Giordano (filling in for Rachel Oppenheim) from Kennedy High School said the past month has been just as exciting as the first. They held a fun and energetic safe Halloween last week with costumes and dancing. Next week they will have Academic Field Day where students will attend workshops held by their teachers so they can all connect on a different level. She said the senior class sold breast cancer awareness shirts and raised over \$1500.00 to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Lastly, she congratulated the inductees to the Word Language and Math Honors Societies and said it was her pleasure to be here tonight.

Sophia Tripiccione from Calhoun High School said that they had a very successful “Pink Out” senior game and sold shirts to raise money for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. She said the football team made it to the playoffs and both the boys and girls volleyball teams are in the playoffs. Sophia also mentioned that On Tour will be showing their play King Lear this week. Lastly, she talked about the Halloween Dance for the Special Education program and said on Halloween they had a costume contest to raise money for the Music Never Stops: Tyler Seaman Foundation.

Lily Yepez from Mephram High School said they are gearing up for a busy November as they plan for many exciting events. She said on October 27th they hosted their annual Trunk or Treat but was the first time it was completely organized by students. She congratulated the 2022-2023 Outstanding Physical Education Student award recipients, Samantha Nadler and Domenick Novello. Looking forward, students will carry on the tradition of the Flag Field of Honor to benefit the Tunnel to Towers foundation and will host their first Stairway Climb on November 10th to pay tribute to the heroes and victims of September 11, 2001 along with our servicemen and women. She congratulated the athletes of the month and said students are looking forward to the Battle of the Classes on November 16th.

Mr. Harrington thanked the students for their presentation and said they all did a fantastic job. He mentioned the future dates and thanked the Board of Education for everything they do for our community.

B. Future Dates

November 3	Middle School 6 th Grade Curriculum Orientation Night
November 4-5	Calhoun On Tour Shakespeare
November 8	Election Day – Half Day for Students Superintendent’s Conference Day
November 11	Veteran’s Day – Schools Closed
November 15	Fall National Honor Society
November 16	Mephram Battle of the Classes
November 18-19	Kennedy and Mephram Fall Drama Productions
November 21	District Vocal Showcase
November 22	Parent-Teacher Conferences High School and Middle School Half Day for Students
November 23	Half Day for Students - Virtual
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Day Recess – Schools Closed
December 1	High School Parent Orientation
December 7	Calhoun & Kennedy Winter Concert 1 Board of Education Meeting

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved item VII.A.1 and VII.A.2.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Donations

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$300.00 from the Bellmore-Merrick Council of PTAs representing a donation of \$50.00 for each school’s library, 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 WoodmenLife Chapter 467 for the Community Cupboard.

Ms. Lanci thanked the PTA Council and Woodmen Life for their donations.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items VII.B through IX.I.

B. 2023-2024 School Budget Process

1. Budget Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Budget Calendar.

2. Date of Budget Vote

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Annual Budget Vote for the 2023-2024 School Year be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

3. Registration and Voting Costs

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District sharing budget voter registration and voting costs with each component district when the budget vote for the Central High School District and the component districts are held on the same day.

4. BOCES Budget Vote/Trustee Election – Tuesday, April 18, 2023

5. Annual Public Hearing – Wednesday, May 3, 2023

C. Special Education

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors for School Year 2022-2023.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000012507, 000013174, 000513619, 000513768, 060480003, 073440001, 091170000, 091740001, 131261153, 131261687, 131261740, 201800262, 202000018, 202000067, 202000133 and 202200085.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – November 2, 2022

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

IX. BUSINESS

- A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – November 2, 2022 - *Information Only*
- B. Bids
- C. Budget Summary – October 31, 2022 - *Information Only*

D. NFHS Network School Broadcast Program

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a contract with NFHS School Broadcast Program, powered by 2080 Media, Inc. d/b/a Play On! Sports, for livestreaming services of Bellmore-Merrick CHSD sporting events on our home fields for the 2022-23 school year at a cost of \$9,000.00.

E. Eastern Suffolk BOCES Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program

WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the "Participant") is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the "Program") in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES' standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding the bids, and reporting the results to the Participant.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

F. Reserve Funds

WHEREAS, at its June 1, 2022, Board of Education Meeting, the Board of Education authorized a transfer of an amount not to exceed two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2022, to the Capital Reserve (ED LAW §3651); and

WHEREAS, at its June 1, 2022, Board of Education Meeting, the Board of Education authorized a transfer of an amount not to exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2022 to the Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund (New York State Teachers (GML 6-r.); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined the actual amounts that are being transferred from the General Fund to these funds specified herein; now

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2022 to the existing Capital Reserve (ED LAW §3651), and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of eight hundred seventy eight thousand fifty four (\$878,053) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2022 to the existing Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund (New York State Teachers (GML 6-r,))

G. Audit Report

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Audit Report of Cullen and Danowski, LLP, including the accountant's opinion, financial statements and management letters, for the school year ended June 30, 2022.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan for the Annual External Audit for the School Year 2021-2022.

H. Budget Transfer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfers to cover 2021-2022 school year expenses:

From: A2630.490-00-0000 (BOCES Computer Services)	\$ 1,407,552.84
To: A9788.600-00-0000 (GASB 87 Debt Service - Principal)	\$ 1,342,831.32
To: A9788.700-00-0000 (GASB 87 Debt Service – Interest)	\$ 64,721.52
To re-allocate BOCES Lease expense to Debt Service as per GASB 87	

I. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of a paper folding machine in the main office of Kennedy High School.

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Page 8

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

No old or new business was discussed.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education received two emails between October 7, 2022 and October 28, 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. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk