

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DECEMBER 7, 2022

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, December 7, 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
Tracey Miller

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

Edward Corona
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
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
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. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 5-0, the Board of Education moved to appoint Michael Harrington as the Acting District Clerk during Executive Session.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 5-0, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss the 2023-24 school calendar and a specific personnel matter.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 5-0, the Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 7:29 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence in honor of Pearl Harbor day.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 5-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the November 2, 2022 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2022.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. **Presentations**

Mr. Harrington welcomed everyone to the meeting and said he hopes everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wished everyone a happy holiday season. He said the heart of Bellmore-Merrick CHSD has really shined the past few weeks, starting with the efforts of Thanksgiving and collecting donations to put together 125 baskets for those in need. He also discussed the Polar Express Event that took place on December 3rd by Nina Lanci and the Bellmore Lions. This awe-inspiring event is a community-minded effort for kids who are gifted food, crafts and toys. He thanked Ms. Lanci, Ms. Cmar-Grote, students of the Leo Club and the caring and compassionate people involved that helped over 500 kids across Nassau County.

Ms. Lanci explained that the Polar Express Event takes a year of planning. She thanked Ms. Cmar-Grote, Grand Avenue Middle School and everyone involved for making miles of smiles for kids. She said that kids and families have the opportunity to receive food, clothes, and crafts as they walk towards the auditorium to see the stage filled with toys. Every child receives a toy but more importantly, they are given the gift of kindness.

Mr. Harrington said that we had an incredible month in athletics, which we will highlight at next month's Board of Education meeting. We also had great music productions and tonight have started our Winter Concert series at the schools. Mr. Harrington said tonight we will highlight the AP Capstone program and said it couldn't have happened without our English Department Chairs: Kim Serpe, Adeline Atkins and Mary Allegretta and our Social Studies Chairs: Robyn Einbinder, Ann Donaldson and Christina Cone.

Curriculum and Instruction – AP Capstone

Mr. Bersin said that AP Capstone has two components, AP Seminar and AP Research. Students are offered the program in 10th grade and make a two-year commitment to the program. The courses equip student with independent research, teamwork and communication skills, preparing them for their careers and college.

Dr. Allegretta showed a documentary that highlighted the program and showed how beneficial it is for students. The documentary explained how AP Seminar builds critical thinking skills as students evaluate sources and bias and develop evidence-based arguments. In AP Research, students design and conduct individual research projects and present an academic paper. Upon completion of the program, student receive an AP Capstone Diploma and an AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

Student Representatives

Jordan Nelson from the Meadowbrook Alternative Program/Prep Academy and Electrical Training program said there have been many positive things since the last meeting. He mentioned the Veteran's Day Parade through the halls at Brookside, a distracted driving seminar and a visit from their therapy dog Hook. He also said they made Thanksgiving baskets for the Community Cupboard and had a field trip to see "A Christmas Carol". Looking forward, they will be hosting their third Kup O' Kindness Bar and he wished everyone happy holidays.

Rachel Oppenheim from Kennedy High School said it was another exciting month at Kennedy and students really enjoyed their first Academic Field Day in which teachers held workshops for students on a variety of topics. She also mentioned the orientation for the middle school students, the drama presentation of “Cloud Seven” and that the JFK Band finished in the top five of the News12 Long Island’s Sounds of the Season. She also said that the student government raised \$5,000 to benefit the Community Cupboard during the holiday season.

Sophia Tripiccione from Calhoun High School said amazing things have been happening at Calhoun. She said that the Girls Volleyball team won the New York State Championship, the Boys Volleyball won the County Championship and the Boys Cross Country won the County Championship and placed tenth at state finals. They also inducted 13 new members into the National Honor Society and hosted the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. In closing, she said the Gender Equality Club is hosting a Bethany House Holiday drive and are collecting toiletries and snacks.

Lily Yopez from Mepham High School said they have had quite the month starting with Football making it to the County Championship and a swimmer and a Cross Country runner making it to state finals. She also discussed the Battle of the Classes event in which students raised \$12,000 for the Tunnel to Towers Organization. They also honored the Hope for Haiti Cause and the Leo Club participated in the Polar Express Drive. In closing, she congratulated the students that were selected All-Eastern musicians and BMB.

Mr. Harrington thanked the students for their presentation and said they are all incredible. He mentioned the future dates and wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

B. Future Dates

December 8	Middle School Concert I Sprig Gardner Tournament @ Calhoun
December 9	Sprig Gardner Tournament @ Kennedy Calhoun On Tour Holiday Improv
December 10	Sprig Gardner Tournament @ Mepham
December 13	Calhoun & Mepham Poetry Out Loud Kennedy ASR 9 th Grade Information Night
December 14	Calhoun & Kennedy Concert II Mepham Concert I
December 15	Middle School Concert II
December 20	Mepham Winter Concert II
December 26-30	Holiday Recess – Schools Closed
January 2	Holiday Recess – Schools Closed
January 4	Board of Education Meeting

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

Ms. Lanci 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.

There were no public comments made on agenda items.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items VII.A through IX.G.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Adult Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended new Adult Education courses for the Spring, 2023 semester.

B. Special Education

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised recommended Special Education vendors for the 2022-2023 school year.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) for the following cases: 000011039, 000011347, 000011566, 000011729, 000012281, 000013046, 000013644, 000512106, 000512112, 000512136, 000512852, 000513052, 080740001, 081290000, 090220001, 090710000, 091680001, 101060000, 101300000, 102020004, 02580002, 103210000, 110100019, 110870000, 131261281, 131261472, 131261695, 131261716, 131261783, 131262066, 131262163, 131262367, 131262432, 131262558, 131262619, 131262703, 131262786, 131263289, 131263317, 181910098, 181910109, 201900072, 201900101, 202000034, 202100031, 202200031, 222312298, 370001318, 370001494, 370001588, 992450247.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – December 7, 2022

- A. Resignations
- B. Appointments
- C. Recommendation for Permanent Status
- D. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- E. Salary Reclassification
- F. Leave Requests
- G. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- H. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- I. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- J. Assigned Services – Athletics

IX. BUSINESS

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – December 7, 2022 - *Information Only*

B. Bids

C. Budget Summary – November 30, 2022 - *Information Only*

D. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of two electric typewriters form the Personnel Department at the Brookside Educational Center.

E. Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District has an approved Annual Professional Performance Review (“APPR”) Plan in place, effective for the 2022-2023 school year;

WHEREAS, the District has submitted an Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department since compliance with the independent evaluator requirement would create an undue burden on the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves and ratifies the District’s November 8, 2022 submission of the Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department.

F. Transportation Contract – Oceanside UFSD and Guardian Bus

BE IT RESOLVED, that as of August 30, 2022, the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District to enter into a piggyback contract with the Oceanside UFSD and Guardian Bus Co. Inc., for the transportation of students to an out-of-district non-public school. This would result in a cost savings to the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, as the original contracted cost is substantially lower than new contracts that have bid out to schools of similar distance.

BE IT RESOLVED, that as of August 30, 2022, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District may piggyback off the Oceanside UFSD’s current year contract with Guardian Bus Co. Inc., for the transportation of students to the following school:

- Summit School (Upper & Lower Campus) Queens NY

G. Scholarship Application

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Marc Stein Memorial Scholarship Award. The scholarship of a variable amount will be awarded to a John F. Kennedy High School student that plays boys varsity soccer, who is a selfless, committed leader and who has hard work ethic.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

No old or new business was discussed.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education received four emails between October 28, 2022 and December 4, 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. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk