

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 4, 2023

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, January 4, 2023, 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
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Tracey Miller
Gina Piskin

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

Edward Corona

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
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. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Ms. Blane 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. Miller, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss the 2023-24 school calendar, the Brookside bleacher project and a specific personnel matter.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 7:32 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the December 7, 2022 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2022.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. **Presentations**

Mr. Harrington wished everyone a happy new year and said that December was an incredible month that really showed spirit of Bellmore-Merrick. He said in December we had winter concerts and poetry out loud competitions. He welcomed Katelyn Dunn back from maternity leave and thanked everyone who helped while she was out. Mr. Harrington also said that the winter athletic season is off to a great start and next month we will recognize our Fall Championship teams.

Polar Express Recognition

Anthony Fisher	Luke Fishetti	Matthew Goodman
Declan Haugh	John Honovic	Lillian Kaufman
Michael Miele	Thomas Pirozzi	Gavin Steele
Gabriella Vayman	Jessica Weiss	Steven Zweigbaum

Mr. Harrington said that the Polar Express Event that took place on December 3rd really is an extraordinary event that serves as a reminder of the power of giving back and what the holidays should be about. He thanked Ms. Lanci and the Bellmore Lions for modeling selfless service for the rest of the community. He also thanked the students who donated their time and efforts to make the day special for families in need. He thanked the Mephram Leo Club, Ambassadors, Ms. Cmar-Grote and her daughters and the extraordinary service by our middle school student volunteers.

Ms. Lanci thanked the community for their dedication and enthusiasm. She said that this year middle school students had the opportunity to help with the event. She said they helped by decorating, handing out gifts and cupcakes and were so enthusiastic. She hopes that they come back next year, they were amazing. Ms. Lanci said that families from homeless shelters received coats, hats, socks, toiletries, gifts and bags of goodies. She asked that if anyone knows of any person or family in distress, please contact her or the Bellmore Lions for assistance.

Curriculum and Instruction – Athletics

Mr. Harrington thanked Mr. Caballero and said that under his leadership our athletic department has excelled. He said tonight's athletic presentation is another reminder of how fortunate we are to be part of a school community where the Board of Education supports new opportunities for students. Over the last ten years, Mr. Caballero, our building athletic coordinators and our coaching staff have transformed the district's athletic program.

Mr. Caballero gave a PowerPoint presentation to the audience that summarized the district's participation in athletics. He said that in review of 2022 the district had numerous teams win Nassau County, Long Island, Conference/Division and New York State Championships. He also said there was a large number of scholar-athlete teams in all three seasons and several Academic All-Americans.

He explained that the district's current student enrollment is 5160 of which 1871 participated in fall sports (35% of the student body). He further explained that those numbers do not include student participation in clubs or intramural sports. Mr. Caballero said that winter sports participation is usually lower than fall or spring because there are fewer teams, but when we add student participation in music and student participation in athletics, the total of number of students involved in just these two additional activities is about 60% of the student body.

Mr. Caballero said that the District is part of Section 8 and he recently accepted a leadership position with them. He said is often asked how the District accomplishes so much. He says it is all possible do to the amazing dedicated students and supportive staff. In addition, we are very fortunate that the leadership team and Board of Education always support new programs and makes decisions that give positive experiences for our students.

Dr. Kaplan said that our athletic department has really improved under Mr. Caballero's leadership. She said that kids are proud to be part of a team and that athletes in this District receive a great experience that they will always remember.

Student Representatives

Jordan Nelson from the Meadowbrook Alternative Program/Prep Academy and Electrical Training program said in December, MAP and Prep Academy students enjoyed a field trip to Roosevelt Field mall, a bowling field trip to Levittown Lanes. Prep Students also went to see "A Christmas Carol" at the theater in Port Jefferson. The MAP Leadership class hosted another Kup O' Kindness bar and participated in the More Good Today Project to spread acts of kindness. In preparing for Martin Luther King Day of Service, Brookside is collecting beverages.

Rachel Oppenheim from Kennedy High School said in December, students enjoyed Alumni Day by attending assemblies. She also said that the wrestling team is having a terrific season and the National Honor Society held its annual door decorating competition to benefit the Community Cupboard. The Virtual Enterprise teams and many business students participated in the Bellmore-Merrick Business Challenge and had a great experience. She said students are looking forward to Cougar Talk and a school-wide Rock, Paper Scissors tournament next week, and Jam the Gym nights in February.

Sophia Tripiccione from Calhoun High School said in December, students held their annual Candy Cane Volleyball Tournament and hosted their door decorating contest which raised money for the Community Cupboard. She also said students enjoyed an assembly for Alumni Day and themed basketball games to show school spirit.

Lily Yepez from Mepham High School said that in the spirit of the holidays elementary school students visited to hear musical performances and the Mepacapella group went caroling. They also hosted Doors for a Cause and a festive gingerbread fundraiser to benefit the Community Cupboard. She said that BM Broadcasting covered the gym volleyball tournament and the Bellmore-Merrick Business Challenge, which can all be viewed online. She said that BMB students are raising money to attend the Student Television Network Awards (STN) in California and will host a breakfast at Applebee's this Sunday to raise funds for the trip. In closing, she congratulated students Sam Nadler, Riley Fried and the cheer team.

Mr. Harrington thanked the students for their presentation and mentioned the future dates.

B. Future Dates

January 5	Calhoun Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction
January 11	Kennedy Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction
January 12	Guidance Program for 11th Grade
January 13	MLK Day of Service
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Schools Closed
January 24-27	Regents Exams – High School Classes Cancelled
February 1	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.

Rachel P. asked if the items on the agenda referenced “See Attached” are available to the public. Ms. Lanci explained that they are available by request to the District Clerk

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

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Special Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000010352, 000011961, 000012577, 000012797, 000012888, 000013062, 000013128, 000014818, 000512629, 000513361, 000513496, 000514041, 000514183, 061430001, 073440001, 110060004, 131261167, 131261297, 131261805, 131262043, 131262997, 131264537, 181910163, 201900100, 201900106, 202000148, 202100008, 202100030, 202100067, 202110557, 202110594, 202200030, 202200101, 370001299 and 370001848.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – January 4, 2023

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

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – January 4, 2023 - *Information Only* (Previously sent)

B. Bids (Previously sent)

C. Budget Summary – December 31, 2022 - *Information Only* (Previously sent)

D. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment/Property

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of five computer carts located at the Brookside Educational Center.

E. Transportation Contracts

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District to enter into a piggyback contract with the N. Bellmore UFSD and Dell Transportation Co., for the transportation of students to an out-of-district non-public school effective September 1, 2022. 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, effective September 1, 2022, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District may piggyback off the N. Bellmore UFSD's current year contract with Dell Transportation Co. Inc., for the transportation of students to the following school:

- Center for Developmental Disabilities

2. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District to enter into a piggyback contract with the Lawrence UFSD and Stork Bussing, LLC., for the transportation of students to an out-of-district non-public school effective December 7, 2022. 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, effective December 7, 2022, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District may piggyback off the Lawrence UFSD's current year contract with Stork Bussing LLC., for the transportation of students to the following school:

- Aspire Academy

F. New York State Cosmetology Examinations Rental Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with New York State Department of State, for the use of Calhoun High School facility for the administration of the New York State cosmetology examinations from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

- G. SEQRA – Purchase and Installation of New Bleachers at Brookside Educational Center
WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvement at the District’s facilities: (1) purchase and install new bleachers and related items at the Brookside Educational Center; (hereinafter the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, said capital improvement is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2); and

WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(10));

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Projects are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1),(2) and (10) of the SEQR Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Project is a Type II Action, which require no further review under SEQR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

- H. Inter-municipal Cooperative Agreement with Nassau County
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an inter-municipal cooperative agreement with Nassau County for the purchase and installation of new bleachers and related items at the Brookside Educational Center and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

No old or new business was discussed.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education received one mailed correspondence and seven emails between December 4, 2022 and December 23, 2022.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jay W. asked if the Board of Education is considering writing a letter to Governor Hochul regarding a possible mandate on children to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend school next year.

Mr. Harrington said that he has not received any notification about such a mandate. He said that in the past, the District has written letters to the Governor and the District will monitor the situation.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk