

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING FEBRUARY 1, 2023

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, February 1, 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
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
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
Emily Paluseo, 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 6:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

On a **MOTION** By Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Goller 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 Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss a specific personnel matter.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 7:06 p.m.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0, the Board of Education changed the order of the agenda and moved into the Auditorium to present Award of Honor Certificates to three Calhoun sport teams that won championships.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Presentations

Mr. Harrington welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated the sports teams. He said these teams show true grit and overcame many obstacles to win these championships. He also congratulated their coaches and parents on these tremendous accomplishments.

Mr. Corona presented Award of Honor certificates to the Calhoun Boys Cross Country team and said they had an incredible season and remained undefeated throughout the season in large part due to the leadership and strong performances of the team.

Calhoun Boys Cross Country-Nassau County Champions

Andrew Ammirati	Matthew Belmonte	Anthony Cheng
Joseph Ciniglio	Matthew Cora	Lucas Fazio
Gavin Giordano	Dylan Giordano	Jacob Graber
Michael Gunn	William Hughes	Amir Ibrahim
Logan Koenig	Dieg Martinez	Aidan Murphy
Luke Pierce	Daniel Pietraniello	Reinnier Rubio
Logan Schaeffler		

Ms. Cmar-Grote presented Award of Honor certificates to the Calhoun Boys Varsity Volleyball team and said they had another great season and were named Conference Champions for the third year in a row.

Calhoun Boys Volleyball-Nassau County Champions

Thomas Bello	Sean DiPaola	Harley Finkelstein
Jayden Finkelstein	Anthony Franco	Luke Gallo
Charles Imhof	Max Jose	Matthew Kalfas
Dylan Palmer	Ryan Pucella	Zahi Rahman
Mark Restivo	Sam Saldarelli	Brian Sanchez
Evan Schneir		

Dr. Kaplan presented Award of Honor certificates to the Calhoun Girls Varsity Volleyball team and said the team had a historic run to the States this season after facing tremendous adversity during the regular season.

Calhoun Girls Volleyball-NYS Champions

Jaclyn Cunha	Johanna Esposito	Gabriella Facciponti
Ava Giuliano	Olivia Katz	Julia Lawrence
Danielle Lawrence	Carly Lawrence	Gianna Lucchi
Ella Maldonado	Grace Miller	Sofia Monasero
Amanda Nevins	Olivia Ruisi	Amelia Secor
Cameron Tighe	Gianna Wood	Victoria Zovich

The Board of Education moved into the Board of Education Conference Room to continue the meeting.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the January 4, 2023 meeting.

V. 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 December 31, 2022.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Presentations

Mr. Harrington said we had a fantastic month in January and the past week (which is typically quiet due to midterm and Regents testing), was filled with many great events. He mentioned the Vex Robotic Tournament, Science Olympiads and MLK Day of Service. He also said the Prep Academy students created sensory games for the Old Mill Elementary school and all of our schools participated in Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Mr. Harrington said earlier we had the opportunity to recognize three Championship teams from Calhoun, Boys Cross Country, Boys Volleyball and Girls Volleyball. He congratulated the two young men we are about to recognize, Tyler Bossoondial and Luke Feldman, who were among the 300 best and brightest young scientists in the Nation. Mr. Harrington also congratulated their science chair, Mr. Soel and teachers Ms. Frank and Mrs. Vandergoot. He also congratulated Ms. Thompson for achieving National Board Certification.

Regeneron Science Competition Scholars

Ms. Goller presented Tyler Bissoondial of Kennedy High School with an Award of Honor Certificate and said since elementary school, Tyler has received recognition for his advanced research skills. Some of his accolades include being a Broadcom MASTERS finalist and International Science and Engineering Fair participant two years in a row. His National and International level achievements include: REACH Challenge 2nd place National Finalist, Genius Olympiad Finalist and International Bronze Medalist, Spellman HV Clean Tech competition International Top 10 finalist and an eCYBERMISSION Top Six National finalist. While Tyler was studying for the disease Detectives event as part of Science Olympiads, he came across an article discussing the largest epidemics in the world, where he came across nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). This led to the development of his research An Omics Approach to elucidating the Mechanism of Action for Hepatocellular Carcinoma Development in Diet-Induced Murine Models of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis.

Ms. Piskin presented Luke Feldman of Kennedy High School with an Award of Honor Certificate and said Luke is a kind, respectful and bright young man. He is one of Kennedy's top academic achievers whose personality also makes everyone love, admire and share in high school spirit. Luke found his niche in student government where he helps plan and run many school events. Luke is also heavily involved in our prestigious Advanced Science Research program where he invested countless hours of his time to his graduate-level research project, *Sulforaphane Mitigates the Phenotypic Expression of ALS in Drosophila melanogaster via Upregulation of the NRF2 Pathway*. While studying broccoli sprouts, Luke learned that they contain a chemical called Sulforaphane. This chemical has many benefits to the human body including fighting off diseases like ALS. By experimenting with flies and various levels of sprout consumption, his research allowed for the theory that the sulforaphane in the sprouts activated the genetic pathway responsible for reducing oxidative stress, allowing for harmful effects to be counteracted. This research has the potential of mitigating the effect of ALS. Luke has distinguished himself through superior academic achievement, exemplary character, leadership and service to school and community.

National Board Certification

Ms. Lanci presented Erin Thompson, a teacher at Mephram High School with an Award of Honor Certificate and said Erin embarked on this journey in 2018 but was delayed by COVID. This designation only emphasizes what we already know: Erin is a true master of her craft. Since coming to Bellmore-Merrick in 2000, Erin has taught Global History & Geography 9R, including collaborative inclusion, Global History & Geography 9H, AP World History, AP European History, and AP Research. Erin is a leader in our department in every sense of the word. She has mentored every new teacher of Global History and AP World History at Mephram High School. Last summer she spent a week in Kansas City serving as an AP Reader for the AP World exam and then came back to turnkey what she learned. She is a tireless worker, closing the building every night. But what makes Erin most special is her kindness and care for her students. Every student who is lucky enough to have Erin as a teacher is all the better for it.

Mr. Harrington congratulated Eric Caballero for being recognized as a Certified Athletic Administration by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). Mr. Harrington explained that to earn this distinction, Mr. Caballero has demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. The voluntary certification process included a thorough evaluation of his educational background, experience, and professional contribution, as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written examination.

Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Einbinder gave a PowerPoint presentation on the One Voice, One Message Ambassador Program. She explained how the program is in its' tenth year and how it represents all of the hallmarks of Bellmore-Merrick. She said every school has signed a pledge to be a "No Place for Hate" and participate in at least three activities during the MLK Week of Service. Student Ambassadors from each school explained to the audience about the many ways that they participate in the MLK Week of Service such as class lessons, posting inspirational quotes and compliments and donating to the Community Cupboard. They each talked about how being an Ambassador affects them in such a positive way.

Student Representatives

Jordan Nelson from the Meadowbrook Alternative Program/Prep Academy and Electrical Training program said students are enjoying Spirit Week as we lead up to the Brookside Day of Bonding. He said the Prep Academy Art class created sensory games and walked over to Old Mill Road Elementary school to teach the students the games. Jordan also mentioned that every student passed the English regents and 13 new students started at MAP. Also, the MAP Leadership class is working on the Balloon Mission and are collecting used balloons to save the environment and had a successful MLK Day of Service by painting a new mural in the MAP Hallway.

Rachel Oppenheim from Kennedy High School said January was packed with events such as the annual Rock Paper Scissors Tournament to benefit the Special Olympics. She congratulated the wrestling team and the Regeneron Scholars for their accomplishments. She also said students enjoyed the Cougar Talks, Kennedy's Esports Tournament and Lunar New Year celebrations.

Sophia Tripiccione from Calhoun High School said for MLK Day of Service, students had presentations during their Social Studies classes to learn about Martin Luther King and what he accomplished on Long Island. She congratulated the Tri-M Music Honors Society inductees, the Girls Basketball team, the Kickline team and the Cheer team for their accomplishments. She also said students had a successful College Night and are looking forward to many upcoming events.

Lily Yepez from Mephram High School said for it has been an exciting half of the school year. She talked about the MLK Day of Service activities that are taking place and the Holocaust Remembrance Day. She congratulated BMB for placing in the Student Television Network competitions. She also congratulated the Hockey, Cheer, Bowling, Wrestling, Track and Kickline teams for various accomplishments.

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

B. Future Dates

February 4	On Tour Winter Show
February 10-11	On Tour Winter Show
February 14	Mephram Art Honor Society Induction
February 15	Calhoun Art Honor Society Induction
February 20-24	Winter Recess – Schools Closed
March 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.

There were no public comments.

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.A through IX.F.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. School Calendar 2023-2024

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended 2023 – 2024 school year calendar.

B. Policy

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following policy for a first reading:

Policy No. 6800 - Payroll Procedures (Revised)

C. Special Education

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education recommended vendors for the 2022-2023 school year.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the CSE: 000012797, 000013042, 000014585, 000014904, 000015473, 000016308, 000512112, 000513460, 000513525, 000513852, 000514273, 093510001, 131261650, 131261716, 181910157, 181910163, 201800115, 201900106, 202100008, 202111132, 202200033, 202200138, 202200144, 202200156, 212210643, 212210941, 370001861, 370001925 and 370002031.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – February 1, 2023

- A. Resignations
- B. Appointments
- C. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- D. Salary Reclassification – 2022-2023
- E. Salary Reclassification – 2023-2024
- F. Leave Requests
- G. Rescind Resignation
- H. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- J. Assigned Services – Athletics - Winter
- K. Assigned Services – Athletics

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – February 1, 2023 - *Information Only*
- B. Budget Summary – December 31, 2022 - *Information Only*
- C. Attendance Function
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools attendance at the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) 2023 Winter Institute Conference from March 5 through March 7, 2023.
- D. 2023-2024 Fire Inspection Report
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Fire Marshalls' 2023-2024 Inspection Reports.
- E. Obsolete Equipment/Property
 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of various iPads, iMacs, Desktops, Projectors, Laptops, Touchpoint Tablets, Intralogic DVRs, Printers, Interactive Flat Panels and Chromebooks, located throughout the district.
 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of a 2003 GMC Savanna Cargo Van used at Grand Avenue Middle School.

F. Health and Welfare Services Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to execute contracts to provide health and welfare services to specific students who reside in the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD and attend a non-public school in one of the following school districts for the 2022-2023 School Year:

- Bellmore Public Schools
- Brentwood Union Free School District
- Garden City Union Free School District
- Great Neck Public Schools
- Hempstead Union Free School District
- Hicksville Union Free School District
- Jericho Union Free School District
- Manhasset Union Free School District
- Mineola Union Free School District
- Plainedge Union Free School District
- Rockville Centre Union Free School District
- Seaford Union Free School District
- Smithtown Central School District
- South Huntington Union Free School District
- Syosset Central School District
- Uniondale Union Free School District
- West Islip Public Schools

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

No old or new business was discussed.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education did not receive mailed correspondence and received one email between December 23, 2022 and January 27, 2023.

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. Blane, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk