

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING APRIL 3, 2023

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Monday evening, April 3, 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
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
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education
Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security
Emily Paluseo, 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 6:33 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 Ms. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss a specific personnel matter and the school budget.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 7:45 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the school shooting in Nashville, TN.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 6-0-2 (Ms. Goller and Ms. Piskin abstained) the Board of Education approved the minutes from the March 1, 2023 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2023.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Presentations

Mr. Harrington congratulated all of the student athletes that we honor tonight, saying that these students are hard-working and have made tremendous accomplishments. He also congratulated Ms. Hollings, Mr. Caballero, coaches and the parents for their dedication to these students.

New York State - All-State - Track

Ms. Miller presented Sara Manson of Calhoun High School with an Award of Honor certificate and said in her fifth and final winter track and field season, Sara made it a point to claim the title of All-State. A title that has escaped her the past couple of years. Sara's senior season has been nothing less than spectacular earning herself three conference championships in Long Jump, 55 meter hurdles, and the Triple Jump. She helped the Colts claim their fifth straight Conference Championship which is the longest winning streak on Long Island. Sara would follow up her perfect conference meet with another two wins at the County meet, helping her team earn their second consecutive Conference title and score the most team points out of any Nassau County team, male or female. Sara finished the season as the top triple jumper in Nassau County and represented Section 8 at the New York State championships on March 4th in Staten Island. She came into the meet ranked 17th in the State but would have a tremendous day breaking her own school record jumping 36 feet 9 inches. That jump would land Sara at number six in New York State and seventh in the Federation. Sara will head up to Boston March 11th to compete in the triple jump and 60 meter hurdles at the New Balance National Championships. Congratulations Sara!

Ms. Goller presented Logan Schaeffler of Calhoun High School with an Award of Honor certificate and said Logan has achieved something that very few athletes ever get to experience: he won both the State and Federation meets in the 1600-meter run, setting a new school record with a time of 4:13.5, breaking the old record by over 8 seconds. This time he also broke the Section 8 record and achieved the fastest indoor time in New York State. His time puts him in the top 20 in the entire nation, an achievement that is truly remarkable. Logan's run was nothing short of incredible. For most of the race, he was sitting in fourth place behind three other talented runners. Then, with just two laps to go, he overtook the runners in front of him, but the race was far from over. With just 150 meters left, Logan was passed by one of his competitors and it seemed like his hopes of winning the race were gone. However, Logan refused to give up. He dug deep once again, summoning every last ounce of energy he had and made a stunning comeback in the final stretch of the race. In the end, Logan crossed the finish line first! Logan's dedication to his sport, his team and his own personal development is truly inspiring. He is a true team player, always encouraging his fellow athletes and inspiring them to be the best that they can be. Congratulations Logan!

New York State - All-State – Wrestling

Dr. Kaplan presented Raymond Adams of Calhoun High School with an Award of Honor certificate and said Ray ended his wrestling career for Calhoun High School as a two-time All-State and a three-time All-County wrestler. Earlier in the season, Ray was voted Outstanding Wrestler at the Battle at the Beach and Sprig Gardner tournaments. He also placed 4th in the prestigious Eastern States Classic and in the off-season won the New York State Freestyle and Greco-Roman State Championships. Ray concluded his senior season with a season record of 44-6, a career record of 110-22 and a New York State Championship 3rd place finish! Thanks to his relentless work ethic and determination, Ray also excels in the classroom where he maintains a 98 average and received 1450 on the SAT's. Congratulations Ray!

Nassau County Champions – Track – Calhoun High School

Alexa Addonizio	Julia Baguiao	Isabella Barnes
Yolina Bastien	Yasmiry Bermudas	Skylar Bruno
Olivia Caditz	Brooke Cancellarich	Lylah Cassidy
Samantha Cohen	Makayla Condela	Shea Connolly
Carly Curnutt	Anna Ftizpatrick	Taylor Halvorsen
Sophia Hines	Brynn Hutchins	Rachel Hyland
Paulina Kakalos	Sophia Kayantas	Katelyn Macnamara
Gabriella Manfre	Sara Manson	Oliva Marzigliano
Emily Maxwell	Jamie Menninger-Low	Brooke Mintzer
Lily Napoli	Amanda Nevins	Aleyna Ozay
Briana Pena	Omana Phillips	Katherine Pucella
Kaitlin Slattery	Nicole Slattery	Kaitlyn Stibritz
Emily Tuzzolo	Isabella Vieni	Sofia Zampella
Camryn Zubiria		

Mr. Corona presented each student with an Award of Honor certificate and said The Girls track team at Calhoun had one goal in mind entering this past season; win the County Championship! The girls would start the season off strong, setting personal bests and training harder than they ever had. Each day the leaders would constantly remind the team what they were working for. As happy as the team was, they weren't satisfied, they wanted another county championship. The team would wind up only competing 13 girls at the county, a number that is staggeringly low for this meet; however these 13 were some of the toughest girls in Nassau and it showed that day. The team would go on to dominate the field events and pick up some very important points on the track, beating perennial county champs Valley Stream North for the second year in a row. The girls would score 114 points which was the most on Long Island this past winter on the girls or boys side. The team would also send a stunning 11 girls to the National Championships in Boston and New York City; the most the program has ever sent in a single season. This was a historic season for the Girls and one for the record books! Congratulations girls!

Mr. Harrington said that March was a busy month and we are looking forward to hearing from our student representatives when they return next month. March had wonderful musicals and said it was wonderful to see the performances with packed audiences. He also said Mepham hosted the St. Baldrick's event and raised nearly \$70,000 to benefit child cancer research. On March 28th, students from across the District attended the Nassau County Youth Wellness Summit at the District's Brookside building which was hosted by The Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide to help students with problem solving, goal setting, leadership, and overall well-being.

Mr. Harrington said that our hearts go out to the families affected by the school shooting in Nashville, TN. He said that this is a difficult time and safety is a priority in the District. He had a meeting with Nassau County Police Commissioner Ryder and said Nassau County Police are enhancing school patrols with additional police cars that dedicated to school surveillance. These dedicated police cars will remain available to schools at all times and are prepared to respond to an emergency. Mr. Harrington discussed the District's focus on mental health and the partnership with Northwell Health/South Oaks, which added a host of resources for students and staff. He also discussed the District-Wide Threat Assessment Team, the first in Nassau County. The District-Wide Threat Assessment Team helps identify and assess threats to the District but also helps identify any students that need extra support. Mr. Harrington said the District will continue to stay committed to the health and welfare of our students and staff.

Budget

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business thanked the Board of Education, administrators and the community for their collective efforts to support needs of our students and for continuing to ensure the focus is on the whole child. She gave a presentation on the proposed 2023/2024 school budget of \$188,863,521 and explained that the 2023/2024 budget meets all of our budget goals. The 2023/2024 budget will have a 6.64% budget increase from the current school year due to a large increase in Foundation Aid. This increase is repayment of State Aid withheld in prior years. The tax levy increase of 2.37% is keeping under the tax cap. She explained some of the budget drivers, such as inflation of goods and services, health insurance, utilities, transportation, Special Education and technology.

Mr. Bersin explained that the return of State Aid supports everything that is in the 2023/2024 proposed school budget. He explained that this budget offers increased opportunities for students and builds upon the theme of Pathways-Path-Purpose by further developing the District's ability to create individual academic avenues for each student. It maintains our special programs and services and offers more opportunities all around for middle school students. It includes some enhancements in STEAM, the 1:1 Chromebook Initiative and online learning platforms. The proposed budget will allow for enhanced professional development opportunities and a new ENL center at Kennedy High School.

Ms. Coni explained the Capital Reserve Project, which will expend \$1.6M from Capital Reserve. The improvements will include parking lot and sidewalk reconstruction, tennis court reconstruction, track resurfacing/replacement, exterior bleacher reconstruction, and family and consumer science classroom reconstruction at Merrick Avenue Middle School. It will also include district-wide interior alterations, exterior building envelope reconstruction at the middle schools, district-wide replacement of stage curtains and rigging,

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district-wide sound and lighting upgrades in the auditoriums, district-wide floor/ceiling replacement, district-wide HVAC reconstruction, district-wide electrical reconstruction, district-wide plumbing reconstruction, and district-wide abatements.

Ms. Coni mentioned that the Public Budget Hearing will take place on May 3, 2023 and the budget vote will take place on May 13, 2023. She said that all of the budget information is available on our website and said that if anyone has questions, please contact her.

Mr. Harrington thanked Ms. Coni and Mr. Bersin for their presentation. He mentioned the future dates and wished everyone a happy holiday season and hopes everyone enjoys their time off.

B. Future Dates

April 4	Senior Fashion Show at Calhoun
April 6-14	Spring Recess – Schools Closed
April 18	Mephram English Honor Society Induction High School National Honor Society Induction Board of Education BOCES Vote
April 21	Superintendent’s Conference Day – No School for Students
April 25	STEAM Career Fair at Kennedy Kennedy National Business Honor Society Induction Calhoun Science Honor Society Induction
April 26	All High Schools Spring Concert I
April 28-29	NYSSMA
May 3	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. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved agenda items VII.A.1 through VII.A.3.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Donations

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$100.00 from the Arlene and Lisa Grand for the Community Cupboard.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$510.80 from the Bellmore Presbyterian Church for the Community Cupboard.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500.00 from the North Bellmore American Legion Post 1749/1749 and VFW 2770 for the John F. Kennedy Band.

Ms. Lanci thanked them for the donations.

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

B. Special Education

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors list 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 Committee on Special Education: 000011039, 000012555, 000012850, 000013128, 000013145, 000013201, 000013325, 000014059, 000014202, 000015208, 000016117, 000512883, 000513296, 000513839, 000514293, 073300000, 082590000, 131261121, 131262857, 181910039, 201600112, 201900009, 202100140, 202110561, 202200061, 202200103, 202200155, 202200187, 212210998 and 222311275.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – April 3, 2023

- A. Termination
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments
- D. Recommendation for Permanent Employment
- E. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- F. Leave Requests
- G. Salary Reclassification
- H. Assigned Services - Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- J. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- K. Assigned Services – Athletics – Intramurals
- L. Assigned Services – Athletics – Winter
- M. Assigned Services – Athletics – Spring

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – April 3, 2023 - *Information Only*

B. Bids

C. Budget Summary – February 28, 2023 - *Information Only*

D. Adoption of Budget Propositions

Proposition No. 1 – Central High School District Budget

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund Appropriate of one hundred eighty-eight million, eight hundred sixty-three thousand, five hundred twenty-one dollars (\$188,863,521) to be raised through taxation in the several districts included with the Central High School District after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.

Proposition No. 2 – Capital Improvement Projects

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is hereby authorized to expend the sum of one million six hundred forty thousand dollars (\$1,640,000) representing the balance of monies in the Capital Reserve Fund established on May 2016 for the following purposes: Merrick Avenue MS parking lot and sidewalk reconstruction; Merrick Avenue MS tennis court reconstruction; Merrick Avenue MS track resurfacing/replacement; Merrick Avenue MS exterior bleacher reconstruction; Merrick Avenue MS family and consumer science classroom reconstruction; district-wide interior alterations; Middle Schools exterior building envelope reconstruction; district-wide replacement of stage curtains and rigging; district-wide sound and lighting upgrades in the auditoriums; district-wide floor/ceiling replacement; district-wide HVAC reconstruction; district-wide electrical reconstruction; district-wide plumbing reconstruction; district-wide abatements. Since the funds to be expended hereunder come from the Capital Reserve Fund approval of this proposition will not require a tax levy upon the real property of the district. This Proposition shall be independent of Proposition No. 1.

E. Receipt, Collection and Review of Certified Payroll Records

WHEREAS, contractors and subcontractors engaged by a school district for construction work are required to pay prevailing wages to their workers and are required to submit certified payroll records to the school district in connection with their obligation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Labor Law §220, the Board of Education designates Jon Simpkins as the individual responsible for Receipt, Collection and Review for facial validity of Certified Payroll Records.

- F. Cooperative Bid – 2023-2024 – Nassau County Association of Buildings & Grounds
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Cooperative Bidding Resolution for the 2023-2024 school year:

WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of NASSAU COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS, during the 2022-2023 school year to bid cooperatively for the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment and repairs (the “Commodities”); and

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District (“the School District”) is desirous of participating in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities, as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education has reviewed the Cooperative Bid Procedures (“Procedures”) governing its rights and responsibilities should it elect to participate in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby appoints the superintendent or designee to represent it in all matters related above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Cooperative Bid Procedures, the Board of Education agrees to award bid item purchases according to the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Boards of Education of the Cooperative School Districts, if such award is in the best interest of the school district.

- G. Inter-Municipal Transportation Management
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the renewal of an existing Inter-Municipal Transportation Management Services agreement between Bellmore-Merrick Central HS District, the Bellmore UFSD, the Merrick UFSD, the North Bellmore UFSD and the North Merrick UFSD authorizing inter-municipal cooperation and assistance with and among each other for the consolidation of their transportation management services and administration of the transportation management by a single transportation coordinator for the 2023-2024 school year.

- H. Non-Public School Transportation
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District approve the provision of bus transportation to particular non-public schools for a period of three years starting with the 2023-2024 school year. This period of time will become irrelevant if an eligible student should register for transportation to the school in question during this time. The three-year period will restart once there are no longer eligible students in attendance. (NY State Education Law §3635.)

- I. Scholarship Establishment
1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Richard Daoust Memorial Award. The scholarship of \$500.00 will be awarded to a John F. Kennedy High School student that exemplifies Mr. Daoust's passionate desire to appreciate each day and to be actively involved in, and not just a witness to, change. The award will go to an AP Government and Politics student that demonstrates a passion for the subject matter, a strong work ethic, and a dedication to the overall school community.

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2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of The Evan Nicholas Bradshaw Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship amount will be determined based on fundraising amounts and will be awarded to a student that has an 85+ average in a science related field/chemistry or veterinary science.

J. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of a 2002 GMC Corbeil Bus (VIN#1GDJG31721225125) and a 2006 Ford Corbeil DW4 (VIN#1FDWE35P66HB18336).

K. Approval of Letter Agreement/Extension of Probation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education herewith authorizes and approves a certain Letter Agreement and General Release between a certain probationary employee #5590 and the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education herewith extends the probationary period for the above-referenced probationary employee from January 27, 2024 to January 27, 2025, in accordance with the above-referenced Letter Agreement and General Release.

L. East Meadow Driving School

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with East Meadow Driving School for the provision of In-Car Driver Education instruction, with vehicles, for the summer, fall and spring semesters of the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$625.00 per student.

M. Inter-municipal Cooperative Agreement - Transportation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an inter-municipal cooperative agreement with Bellmore UFSD, North Bellmore UFSD, North Merrick UFSD and Merrick UFSD for the purpose of seeking proposals for transportation services for the 2023-2024 school year.

N. Budget Transfers

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: A2250.490	(BOCES-Spec Ed)	\$400,000
To: A2250.400	(Special Ed-Related Services)	\$400,000
To cover costs for Special Ed related services		

O. Worker's Compensation Reserve

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2016, the voters approved a Capital Reserve Fund for the funding of certain capital projects; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2016, the Board of Education approved the creation of a Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 6-j of the General Municipal Law; and

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WHEREAS, in the resolution to create the Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund, the Board declared any amount greater than \$750,000 in this fund to be in excess and the Board of Education approves a transfer of all excess funds in the Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund currently has \$890,798.50, which is beyond the \$750,000.00 maximum amount permitted in the fund; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to transfer the \$140,798.50, excess from the Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund as set forth in the Board of Education's December 7, 2016 resolution to create the Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the transfer of \$140,798.50 from the Workers' Compensation Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund in accordance with the December 7, 2016 resolution creating the Workers' Compensation Fund.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Piskin asked about the date/time for the Board to meet on the BOCES Budget/Election. Ms. Lanci said the Board of Education will meet on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Piskin wanted to know more about Holocaust Remembrance Day. Mr. Bersin explained that every year, more has been added to the day of events. Mr. Harrington said that a rise in anti-Semitism shows that more work needs to be done.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education received two pieces of mailed correspondence and received three emails between February 17, 2023 and March 30, 2023.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Felicia C. asked if the District would consider making a lunch period mandatory for students. She feels that students would benefit mentally by taking a break during the day. Mr. Harrington said everyone is an advocate of a lunch period, especially with the pressures of college and we will continue to have these discussions.

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. Cmar-Grote and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk