

Board of Education Meeting (Wednesday, March 6, 2024)

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, March 6, 2024 in the Board Conference Room of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside Educational Center, 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

Members present:

Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

Member not present:

Nancy Kaplan

Also present:

Michael Harrington, Superintendent of Schools

Scott Bersin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Eric Arlin, Executive Director of Alternative Education

Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security

Maura Kempton, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services

Tom Volpe, Supervisor of Transportation

Christopher Powers, School Attorney

Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

1. Opening

A. Call to Order at 6:40 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Acting District Clerk

Motion to appoint Michael Harrington as the Acting District Clerk during Executive Session.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Melissa Cmar-Grote.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

D. Executive Session

Motion to convene into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

Motion by Gina Piskin, second by Marion Blane.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

E. Reconvene to Public Session

Motion to reconvene into Public Session at 7:25 p.m.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

F. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education Meeting Minutes 2/7/24

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the February 7, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Melissa Cmar-Grote.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

Not Present at Vote: Megan C Ryan

3. Approval of Treasurer's Report

A. Treasurer's Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2024.

Motion by Marion Blane, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

Not Present at Vote: Megan C Ryan

4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Harrington welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that our student representatives are not here tonight so he will give the highlights of the busy and exciting two weeks since February break. He mentioned that Kennedy and Calhoun's Class Nights went really well which is a tribute to the Principals and teachers' hard work. He mentioned the advances in STEAM and how Kennedy is being recognized in Memphis, TN. He also mentioned that the middle school robotics teams competed in Queens, NY and were in the top of the competition throughout the day. We also had seven high school robotics teams that went to the NYS Championship in Kanoah, NY last weekend. Mr. Harrington said there are currently 85 kids participating in robotics and he thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Harrington said that winter sports is wrapping up and it has been a tremendous season for Mr. Caballero and our athletic program. He mentioned the basketball playoffs, Nassau County cheer competitions and the Calhoun girls track team winning the Nassau County Championship. He said that that all three Kickline teams are in Orlando, FL for Nationals and the Bellmore-Merrick Bulldogs hockey team had a great season and qualified for States. Mr. Harrington said that Calhoun's DECA club is going to Rochester, NY for competitions which is a great opportunity for kids. Mr. Harrington said he had the pleasure of attending the Challenger Games, an event that brings our Special Education students together with faculty in a student vs. faculty basketball game. He said that the atmosphere was incredible and he thanked everyone for creating such a wonderful environment.

Mr. Harrington congratulated the teachers being honored tonight and thanked them for their hard work and dedication to kids.

A. Award of Honor Presentation - Harvard Club of Long Island Distinguished Teacher Award

Ms. Piskin presented an Award of Honor certificate to Rosemarie Zannino and Helmut Schleith and said "Each year, Harvard alumni across Long Island interview hundreds of Long Island seniors who have applied to Harvard College to hear about the talented, hard-working teachers who have inspired them. The Harvard Club values the teacher's contributions to the accomplishments of these Long Island students, setting rigorous standards, modeling disciplined effort, and sharing their love of learning and joy in achievement. The Harvard Club, in seeking to honor our outstanding Long Island teachers, asks current Harvard undergraduates to nominate the middle and high school teachers who made the greatest difference to their lives. Congratulations Mr. Helmut Schleith and Ms. Rosemarie Zannino on being two of ten teachers across the 125 districts of Long Island to be recognized in this way!"

B. Award of Honor Presentation- Mepham Science Research Department

Ms. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to the Mepham Science Research Department and said "Congratulations to the entire High School Science Research Department at Wellington C. Mepham High School for your dedication in guiding your students in their scientific pursuits. Your program's commitment to providing students with opportunities to engage in hands-on research, participate in competitions, and collaborate with mentors undoubtedly plays a pivotal role in shaping the future generation of scientists, researchers, and innovators. Through

your guidance, students are not only expanding their academic horizons but also developing critical thinking abilities, problem-solving skills, and a deep appreciation for scientific research.

C. Curriculum, Instruction and Data Presentation - Middle School Advisory Program

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Ms. Dunn, Mr. Conte, middle school assistant principals and teachers to explain the Middle School Advisory Program, a social/emotional program scheduled twice per month for every student. This program offers students the opportunity to engage with a smaller group of peers and teachers in a non-academic setting.

During the presentation, they highlighted the extensive research and commitment by the teachers to create a fun atmosphere where kids can enjoy friendly competition and engage in thoughtful conversations amongst peers. Additionally, they showcased photos from one of the lessons and a video featuring students' positive feedback on the program. It was mentioned that each teacher was matched with another teacher to lead an Advisory Program class. They thanked the teachers, administration and Board of Education for support of the program.

D. Future Dates

Future Dates:

March 7 District College Planning Night 7
March 9 On Tour Spring Concert
March 12 High School Social Studies Honor Society Induction
March 15 On Tour Spring Musical
March 16 On Tour Spring Musical
March 19 High School Science Honor Society Induction
March 20 St. Baldrick's @ Mepham
March 21 Middle School Musicals
March 22 Middle School Musicals
March 25 Founder's Day Dinner
March 28-29 Spring Recess I - Schools Closed
April 1 Spring Recess I - Schools Closed
April 3 Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Harrington mentioned the future dates.

5. Public Comments-Agenda Items Only

A. Guidelines to Public Comments-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.

6. Superintendent's Recommendations

A. Registration and Voting Information

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2024 Registration and Voting Information.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.G.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

B. Policy No. 4741 - Class Rank and Weighting of Grades

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a second reading: Policy No. 4741 - Class Rank and Weighting of Grades (Revised)

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.G.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

C. Special Education Report

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following special education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000010309, 000012110, 000013059, 000014905, 000015832, 000512939, 000513330, 000513925, 000515128, 081980001, 090090000, 091100011, 091340002, 100499890, 101410001, 103480000, 131261240, 131262163, 131262670, 131263679, 131264832, 181910090, 202100194, 202200061, 202200156, 202300113 and 222311282.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.G.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

7. Human Resources Report

A. Human Resources Report 3/6/24

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Human Resources Report for March 6, 2024.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.G.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

8. Business and Finance

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant dated March 6, 2024

The Board of Education reviewed the bills and corresponding warrant dated March 6, 2024.

B. Budget Summary dated February 29, 2024

The Board of Education reviewed the budget summary dated February 2, 2024.

C. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment/Property - Technology Equipment

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of 275 desktops, 37 laptops, 8 projectors, 5 printers, 225 Chromebooks and 3 cameras located throughout the district.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.G.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

D. Recycle Services - eWorks Electronic Services Inc.

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the use of eWorks Electronic Services Inc. to provide recycling of the District's computer hardware and related devices.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.G.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

E. District Reserves Plan

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the District Reserves Plan as of March, 2024 and authorizes the publication on the District's website.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.G.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

F. Budget Transfer

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfer to cover 2023-2024 school year expenses:

From: A2110.130 (Salaries-Chairpersons) \$269,339.00

To: A2250.150 (Special Ed Salaries– Chairpersons) \$269,339.00

To re-class Special Ed Chairperson salary code.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.G.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

G. Center for Forensic and Clinical Psychology Agreement

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approve an agreement with the Center for Forensic and Clinical Psychology, P.C. to provide threat assessment consulting at a rate of \$350.00 per hour.

The Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.G.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

9. Old/New Business

A. Old/New Business

No old or new business was discussed.

10. Correspondence

A. Correspondence

Ms. Goller stated that the Board of Education did not received any mailed correspondence but received one email between February 3, 2024 and March 1, 2024.

11. Public Comments

A. Guidelines to Public Comments-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.

Raina E. asked for EID-al-Adha to be added to the school calendar.

Iman U. asked for EID-al-Adha to be added to the school calendar.

Aisha U. asked for EID-al-Adha to be added to the school calendar.

Annie K. asked for EID-al-Adha to be added to the school calendar.

Mr. Harrington thanked everyone for their comments and said that the school calendar for 2024/2025 has already been set in coordination the the four component district but that they will continue to have these meaningful conversations.

12. Potential Executive Session

A. Motion to enter into Executive Session

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

13. Adjournment

A. Motion to Adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Marion Blane.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

Submitted by Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk