

Board of Education Meeting (Wednesday, May 8, 2024)

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, May 8, 2024, in the Auditorium of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside Educational Center at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

Members present:

Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

Members not present:

Janet Goller, Megan C. Ryan

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

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

1. Opening

A. Call to Order at 6:35 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Kaplan 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 Marion Blane, second by Melissa Cmar-Grote.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

D. Executive Session

Motion to Convene into Executive Session at 6:46 p.m..

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

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

E. Reconvene to Public Session

Motion to reconvene into Public Session at 7:34 p.m.

Motion by Marion Blane, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

F. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Kaplan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education Meeting Minutes 4/3/24

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 3, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Marion Blane, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

B. Board of Education Meeting Minutes 4/16/24

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 16, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Marion Blane, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

Abstain: Nina Lanci

3. Approval of Treasurer's Report

A. Treasurer's Report

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

Motion by Gina Piskin, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

Motion to change the order of the agenda and move the Human Resources Report.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

5. Human Resources

A. Human Resources Report 5/8/24

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Human Resources Report for May 8, 2024.

A. Tenure Recommendations

B. Terminations

C. Resignations

D. Appointments

E. Recommendation for Continued Employment

F. Salary Reclassification

G. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics-Cancellation

H. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics

I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics - 2024-2025 School Year

J. Assigned Services - Athletics

K. Assigned Services - Athletics - Intramurals

Motion by Gina Piskin, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Harrington welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated the nineteen educators that received tenure by the approval of the Human Resources Report. He said this is a special moment in an educators career and he knows they will continue to learn and grow. He also mentioned that this is school and nurse appreciation week and thanked everyone for their incredible work.

A. Future Dates

Mr. Harrington mentioned the future dates and urged everyone to vote in the school budget vote on May 21, 2024.

- May 9 Middle School Art Expo @ MAMS
Middle School Concert I
- May 15 All High Schools Spring Concert I
- May 16 Middle School Art Expo @ Grand
Middle School Concert II
- May 17 Calhoun On Tour Season Finale
- May 18 Calhoun On Tour Season Finale
- May 20 Middle School Honor Society Inductions
- May 21 Budget Vote
Mepham Spring Concert II
English Honor Society @ Calhoun
Calhoun Science Symposium
Kennedy ASR Research Symposium
- May 22 Bellmore-Merrick Challenge Day @ Calhoun
Calhoun & Kennedy Spring Concerts II
Mepham ASR Research Symposium
- May 27 Memorial Day - Schools Closed
- May 28 District Orchestra Showcase @ JFK
BMB Awards @ Mepham
- May 29 High School Spring Arts
Senior Awards Night
- May 30 Calhoun Blue & Grey Awards
Cougar Awards
Pirate Treasurer Awards
- May 31 On Tour Senior Show @ Calhoun
- June 1 On Tour Bambino Scholarship @ Calhoun
- June 3 Middle School 8th Grade Awards
- June 4 Kennedy Spring Letter Ceremony
Calhoun Sports Awards
Mepham Varsity Awards
- June 5 Mepham Sport Booster Senior Breakfast
Board of Education Meeting

6. 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.

7. Superintendent's Recommendations

A. Information Item

Dr. Kaplan mentioned that we will be honoring our school district's retirees at our June 5, 2024 regular meeting.

B. Policy No. 1740 Relationship with Non-Public Schools

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a second reading:
Policy No. 1740 Relationship with Non-Public Schools (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

C. Policy No. 2382 - Broadcasting and Recording of Board Meetings

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a second reading:
Policy No. 2382 - Broadcasting and Recording of Board Meetings (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

D. Policy No. 4321 - Programs for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a second reading:
Policy No. 4321 - Programs for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA & NY Ed Law Article 89 (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

E. Policy No. 4772 - Graduation Ceremonies

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a second reading:
Policy No. 4772 - Graduation Ceremonies (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

F. Policy No. 8130.2-E- Workplace Violence Incident Report (New)

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a second reading:
Policy No. 8130.2-E- Workplace Violence Incident Report (New)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

G. Policy No. 9520.6 - Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a second reading:
Policy No. Policy No. 9520.6 - Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace (New)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

H. REVISED Donation - Mephram Alumni

Resolution: WHEREAS on April 3, 2024, the Board of Education accepted a donation of \$5000.00 from the Mephram Alumni Association to be used for tree plantings and landscaping in the Mephram courtyard, with all labor donated courtesy of Mephram alum Eric Pomisel and his company, Gro Kind Organics Landscape and Design; and WHEREAS, the Mephram Alumni Association would like to donate an additional \$2500.00 to be used for tree plantings and landscaping in the Mephram courtyard;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a revised donation of \$7500.00 from the Mephram Alumni Association to be used for tree plantings and landscaping in the Mephram courtyard. All labor will be donated courtesy of Mephram alum Eric Pomisel and his company, Gro Kind Organics Landscape and Design.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

I. Special Education Vendor List 2024/2025

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended Special Education vendors for the 2024/2025 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

J. 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: 000010331, 000011352, 000012878, 000013099, 000013377, 000014452, 000014905, 000512510, 000513392, 000513884, 000513925, 131261367, 131261607, 131263683, 131264126, 202200039, 202200130, 202300003 and 999011175.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

8. Business and Finance

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant

The Board of Education review the bills and corresponding warrant.

B. Bids

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the bids as stated.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

C. Budget Summary

The Board of Education reviewed the budget summary.

D. 2024-2025 Budget Reserves and Property Tax Report Card

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve for the payment of sick leave for retirees in the 2024-2025 school year in an amount up to \$600,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Employee Retirement Reserve for payment of employer retirement expense to the New York State Employee Retirement System in the 2024-2025 school year in an amount up to \$2,321,346.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Teachers' Retirement Reserve Sub-Fund for payment of employer retirement expense to the New York State Teacher' Retirement System in the 2024-2025 school year in an amount up to \$1,000,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Workers Compensation Reserve for payment of Workers Compensation expense in the 2024-2025 school year in an amount up to \$450,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Reserve for Tax Reduction to reduce taxes and fund appropriations in the 2024-2025 school year in an amount up to \$1,000,000.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission to the State Education Department and publication of the 2024-2025 Property Tax Report Card.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

E. District-Wide Safety Team

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the District-Wide Safety Team for the 2024-2025 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

F. BOCES of Nassau County-Summer School

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for a "Regional Summer School Program" with a provision for distance learning for Bellmore-Merrick Central High School students and others commencing on or about July 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024 at costs listed therein.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

G. BOCES of Nassau County-Twilight Program

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for a "Twilight Alternative High School Program" at Brookside for Bellmore-Merrick Central High School students and others commencing on or about September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 at costs listed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorized the Board President to sign said agreement.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

H. Educational Data Services, Inc.

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Educational Data Services, Inc. for software licensing and maintenance services for the NY/Island Cooperative supply bids at a cost of \$9,850, and Skilled Trades & Ancillary services at a cost of \$2,100 for the 2024-2025 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

I. New York/Island Cooperative Bid

Resolution: WHEREAS, it would be in the joint interest of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and the following school districts (SEE ATTACHED LISTING) to participate in cooperative bids for the purchase of various supplies, services, materials and equipment, as advertised by and awarded by the Clarkstown Central School District acting as the Lead Agency, as provided by General Municipal Law Section 119-0, and, WHEREAS, each BOARD retains the legal authority to contract with the successful Vendor(s) and shall not be bound by purchase contracts or other agreements made by the other BOARD(S), THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby agrees to participate with the attached named school districts in such cooperative bids.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

J. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment/Property - Technology Equipment

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of 67 iPads, 67 desktops, 220 Chromebooks, 3 laptops and 17 printers located throughout the district.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

K. Foreign Exchange Student

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, having received a request for a foreign exchange student to attend Mepham High School for the 2024-2025 School Year, hereby approves such request.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve by consent agenda items 6.B through 8.K.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

9. Old/New Business

A. Old/New Business

No old or new business was discussed.

10. Correspondence

A. Correspondence

Dr. Kaplan said the Board of Education did not receive mailed correspondence but received seven emails between March 28, 2024 and May 3, 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.

There were no public comments.

12. Public Hearing - 2024-2025 School Budget

A. Motion to convene to Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 School Budget

Motion by Melissa Cmar-Grote, second by Edward Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

Not Present at Vote: Janet Goller, Megan C Ryan

B. Presentation 2024-2025 School Budget

Ms. Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business gave a presentation on the 2024/2025 school budget of \$197,450,603. The 2024/2025 budget will have a 4.55% budget increase from the current school year. The tax levy increase of 2.55% is keeping under the tax cap for the 13th consecutive year. She explained how the use of State and Foundation Aid is used fund our programs and services. She also explained that using appropriated fund balance and reserves offsets the burden on the tax levy. Ms. Coni discussed the component budget and some of the budget drivers, such as increasing the pathways for our students especially in STEAM, increased services in our Special Education and enrollment increases in our specialty programs. She said the district will continue to focus on student wellness and will enhance our inclusion and belonging initiatives. Ms. Coni said that we will continue to do improvement to our facilities to ensure they remain safe and healthy for our students and we continue to see a rise in costs on goods, health insurance and transportation.

Ms. Coni said said that the 2024/2025 ballot will have three propositions. The first proposition will be for the school budget, the second proposition is to expend capital reserve which will have no impact on the taxpayers. The third proposition is to establish a new capital reserve fund which will allow us to continue to fund projects since we have reached the cap on the current fund and also does not have an impact on the taxpayers. She said that all of the budget information is available on our website and said that if anyone has questions, please contact her. She urged everyone to please come out to vote on May 21, 2024 and she thanked the Board of Education for their continued support.

13. Potential Executive Session

A. Acting District Clerk

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

Motion by Marion Blane, second by Gina Piskin.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

Not Present at Vote: Janet Goller, Megan C Ryan

B. Motion to enter into Executive Session

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m.

Motion by Gina Piskin, second by Melissa Cmar-Grote.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

Not Present at Vote: Janet Goller, Megan C Ryan

C. Reconvene to Public Session

Motion to reconvene into Public Session at 8:53 p.m.

Motion by Gina Piskin, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

D. Human Resources Report 5/8/24

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Addendum to the Human Resources Report dated 5/8/24.

Motion by Gina Piskin, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

14. Adjournment

A. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.

Motion by Marion Blane, second by Melissa Cmar-Grote.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona

Submitted by Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk