

Board of Education Meeting (Wednesday, September 4, 2024)

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, September 4, 2024, in the Board Conference Room of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside Educational Center at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

Members present

Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona (arrived at 7:39 p.m.), Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

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
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 6:36 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 Janet Goller.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

Not Present at Vote: Edward Corona

D. Executive Session

Motion to convene into Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Marion Blane.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

Not Present at Vote: Edward Corona

E. Reconvene to Public Session

Motion to reconvene into Public Session at 7:28 p.m.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Megan C Ryan.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

Not Present at Vote: Edward Corona

F. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Kaplan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence to remember Ron Steiger, a Kennedy HS alumni and to remember the victims of the school shooting that took place in Georgia this

week.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education Meeting Minutes 8/7/24

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

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Janet Goller.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

Not Present at Vote: Edward Corona

3. Treasurer's Report

A. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

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

Motion by Marion Blane, second by Janet Goller.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

Not Present at Vote: Edward Corona

4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Harrington welcomed everyone and said it has been an exciting couple of days welcoming back our students and staff. He thanked the principals, directors and staff for all of their hard work to ensure our school openings went so smoothly. He discussed the accomplishments from last year and said he is very grateful to be a part of this community.

Mr. Conte said that Grand Avenue Middle School had a great opening and thanked everyone for all of their efforts and team work. He said the incoming 7th graders come in excited and wide-eyed and in a few days their feelings turn into pride. He thanked the Board of Education for their continued support and said that Grand has almost completed the re-branding to the Grizzlies. He said the advisories have already started and that it has been a huge success in connecting kids and adults.

Ms. Dunn said the last two days of welcoming kids back to Merrick Avenue Middle School have been so much fun and she is very thankful for the special moments she has seen the past few days as parents drop off their children and staff connect with kids. She thanked the community and Board of Education for their support in the beautification of the school. She discussed the upgrades done to the school this summer such as redesigning the parking lot to make it safer for our students, new tennis courts and track resurfacing.

Mr. Owenburg said that Kennedy High School had a great opening and that the incoming freshman are an outstanding group of students. He said that Kennedy had a great year last year and that there are many exciting things happening this year such as new classrooms and CHAMP starting a restaurant. He said they have hired some great new staff and he thanked the Board of Education and administration for their support as they look forward to another great year.

Mr. Arlin said that MAP had a great opening this year. He said what is nice about having a smaller group of students is that they can really tailor the program to needs of the students and will have three new AP and STEAM classes this year. He said Prep Academy has 14 new students and the Electrical Program has 46 students. He thanked the Board of Education for their support and said everyone is excited about the upcoming year.

Ms. Hollings said that Calhoun High School's first day was all about welcoming students. She said it has be a great opportunity for kids to get to know each other and that administration has been spending time talking to kids about what our community should be, what it looks like and what it sounds like for us. She thanked everyone for their support and said that they have hired new staff and mentioned the new On-Tour director, James Crichton. She said that Calhoun is looking forward to the many exciting things in store for Calhoun.

Mr. DeMartinis said Mepham High School is having a great welcome back with a vivacious energy in the building. He said the older students and staff are helping the freshman is the earmark of this community. She said Mepham is looking forward to some great events this month and thanked everyone for their continued support.

Mr. Harrington said that he was pleased with the openings of each building and said this year is already off to a great start. He announced that already have three national merit students and three all-state musicians. He congratulated Mr. Caballero for being named as the NYS Athletic Director of the Year and credited the transformation and growth in our athletic departments to Mr. Caballero's dedication.

A. Award of Honor Presentation - NYS Athletic Director of the Year

Dr. Kaplan presented Mr. Caballero with an Award of Honor Certificate and said "On behalf of the entire community, we are thrilled to congratulate Eric Caballero for being named as the 2024 New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Director of the Year. This award is given to an outstanding director who has contributed significantly to the improvement of physical education programs in servicing the youth of his/her own school district, and/or in New York State. This well-deserved recognition is a testament to Eric's unwavering dedication and leadership for our athletic programs. His contributions have not only elevated our district's achievements but have also inspired our students, coaches and community to strive for greatness. Eric 's commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive, and competitive environment has empowered our student-athletes to reach their full potential, not only as athletes but as individuals. Eric will be presented with his award at the association's annual conference in late November. This award is a well-deserved recognition of Eric's remarkable achievements and contributions. We are incredibly proud to have him as our Athletic Director, and we look forward to continuing to see the positive influence he will have on our programs and students in the years to come.

B. Curriculum, Instruction and Data Presentation 2023/2024 Academic Year In Review

Mr. Bersin gave a presentation on the 2023/2024 Academic Year in Review and said that last year was a tremendous year. He discussed the high graduation rates and the various pathways that are offered to students. He discussed the regent exam high passing rates and that over 70% of all students are currently graduating after having experienced success in at least one college level AP course. He said that Bellmore-Merrick CHSD has been named a District of the Year and showed a short video highlighting the district's achievements. Mr. Bersin said that more students are taking AP exams and that access to these courses and this exposure to challenging course helps prepare them for their future. Mr. Bersin said the summer programs all did well this year and gave data on the future planning of our 2024 graduating class. He thanked the Board of Education and the community for always supporting us and said their support is what gives us all the confidence to go for it!

Mr. Harrington discussed this year's theme of "Community: Care, Commit, Celebrate Connect and Create". He said we are going into this year knowing that there will be challenges no matter where you are in the world, adding that there is one more word to describe Bellmore-Merrick, comfort. He said the comfort that teachers, administrators, parents, kids and staff feel is what makes us special and together we well get through the difficult times. He thanked the Board of Education and said they celebrate this district more they anyone else.

Mr. Harrington said this year's book is titled "Bitsy Bat, School Star" by Kaz Windness who has been diagnosed as neurodivergent with Autism and ADHD. This book is about a bat that is different than the other animals in class, and they learn that by celebrating their differences, the bat becomes comfortable in school. He thanked the entire Bellmore-Merrick team and parents for all of their support and is looking forward to another great year.

C. Future Dates

Mr. Harrington mentioned the future dates and wished everyone a Happy Rosh Hashana.

September 14	Mepham Pirate Fest & Homecoming
September 19	Middle School Back to School Night
September 20	Calhoun Pep Rally & Homecoming Dance
September 21	Calhoun Coltfest and Homecoming
September 26	High School Back to School Night
September 27	On Tour Evening of Improv
September 30	District College Fair & Financial Aid Night @ Kennedy

October 3-4
October 9

Rosh Hashanah-Schools Closed
Board of Education Meeting

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. Policy No. 0100 - Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a 1st reading:
Policy No. 0100 - Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

B. Policy No. 0110 - Sexual Harassment

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a 1st reading:
Policy No. 0110 - Sexual Harassment (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

C. Policy No. 0110.2 - Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a 1st reading:
Policy No. 0110.2 - Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

D. Policy No. 0111 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Under Title IX

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a 1st reading:
Policy No. 0111 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Under Title IX (New)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

E. Policy No. 0111-R - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Under Title IX Regulation

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a 1st reading:

Policy No. 0111-R - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Under Title IX Regulation (New)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

F. Policy No. 0111-E - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Under Title IX Exhibit

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a 1st reading:

Policy No. 0111-E - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Under Title IX Exhibit (New)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

G. Policy No. 0115 - Harassment, Bullying & Discrimination

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a 1st reading:

Policy No. 0115 - Harassment, Bullying & Discrimination (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

H. Policy No. 0115.R - Harassment, Bullying & Discrimination Regulation

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a 1st reading:

Policy No. 0115.R - Harassment, Bullying & Discrimination Regulation (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

I. 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 1st reading:

Policy No. 9520.6 - Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

J. Special Education Vendor List 2024/2025 Revised

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

K. 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: 000013072, 102020004, 103490003, 131265463, 202100083, 202400032, 212210953 and 370001794.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

7. Human Resources

A. Human Resources Report 9/4/24

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Human Resources Report for September 4, 2024.

A. Resignations

B. Appointments

C. Salary Reclassification

D. Cancellation of Appointment

E. Assigned Services - Cafeteria Supervision - Cancellation

F. Assigned Services - Athletics - Cancellation

G. Assigned Services - Athletics

H. Assigned Services - Non-Athletics

I. Assigned Services - Cafeteria Supervision

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

8. Business and Finance

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant dated 9/4/24

The Board of Education reviewed the bills and corresponding warrant.

B. Budget Summary dated 8/31/24

The Board of Education reviewed the budget summary.

C. Construction Change Orders

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Interior and Site Reconstruction change orders at Merrick Avenue Middle School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-003-043:

Change Order No. 1 in the increased amount of \$6,230.00, for United Paving Corp., the Site Work Contract.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

D. DJ Masters Academy Agreement

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with DJ Frankie J Productions, Inc., to provide Music Therapy Services from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 at a cost of \$75.00 per student for each session.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

E. Surf for All Contract

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Surf for All Corporation, to provide Surf Therapy Services from September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 at a cost of \$500.00 for each session.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.E.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

9. Old/New Business

A. Old/New Business

Ms. Piskin asked about articulation efforts for elementary school children that are moving up to middle school.

Mr. Harrington explained that the Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and staff from both the elementary school districts and the high school districts meet regularly to discuss curriculum changes and standards to ensure that our children transition smoothly.

10. Correspondence

A. Correspondence

Dr. Kaplan stated that the Board of Education did not receive mailed correspondence but received two emails between August 3, 2024 and August 29, 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. Potential Executive Session

A. Executive Session

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

B. Public Session

The Board of Education did not need to reconvene.

13. Adjournment

A. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn at 817 p.m.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Janet Goller.

Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan, Rosemarie Corless

Submitted by Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk