

**Monthly School Board Meeting (Wednesday, November 9, 2022)**

Generated by Joanne Long, District Clerk

**Members present**

Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

ABSENT: Tracey Miller

**Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM****1. OPENING**

Information, Procedural: A. Call to Order 6:01

Mary Keene and Will Luciani arrived 6:02

Action, Information, Procedural: B. Executive Session

Matters of personnel and CSEA update

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Kathy Moran

Not Present at Vote: Mary Keene, Will Luciani

Action, Information, Procedural: C. Reconvene to Public

Reconvene to public at 7:02

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Information, Procedural: D. Call to Order 7:02

Information, Procedural: E. Pledge of allegiance led by Board President, Megan Ryan

**2. PRESENTATION**

Discussion, Information, Presentation, Procedural: A. Board Appreciation

Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the trustees of the Board of Education for the time they serve the North Merrick community. She introduced each of the school board members: Megan Ryan, President; Ed Corona, Vice President; and trustees Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Will Luciani, Tracey Miller, and Kathy Moran. She emphasized that in their roles as volunteers, they work countless hours to benefit the students and families in the district and have one of the most personally demanding forms of public service.

The PTA and SEPTA Presidents also expressed their gratitude to the Board for their service, gifting them with a plant and gift card.

Teacher Sheila Kuschner thanked the Board members for their dedication and support, and on behalf of the North Merrick Faculty Association (NMFA) and the North Merrick Paraprofessionals and Supervisory units, she joined representatives to present a poster with words of thanks and a check for each of the three schools to purchase books in the board's honor.

**3. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

Superintendent Dr. Seniuk discussed the following:

- Before and After Care Survey-using data to plan to meet the needs of our families
- Digital Resource Survey-ensuring that all families/students have electronic devices and wifi access at home
- Mental Health and Wellness Check-in Surveys going out next week to parents, students and staff
- Big shout out to faculty, staff, Amanda Hocesvar, Maria Castle, PTAs and SEPTA for amazing events...Trunk or Treat; Parent University, Spooky Bingo, Adventureland North Merrick evening, fall festivals, and Halloween parades.
- Parent/Teacher conferences held on Election Day-received positive feedback from parents and staff; report cards available on 12/7 along with NWEA scores (usually only available at end of the year) under the leadership of Ms. Guidice.
- H2O-letters going home next week to parents of students who were recommended to participate by their teachers; staff being approved tonight; and in-person sessions begin on 11/28
- Enrichment for All-Thursdays, November 10th-enriching and creative experiences for all of our students!

#### 4. ROUTINE APPROVALS

Action, Minutes, Procedural: A. Approval of Minutes - October 11, 2022 board meeting minutes  
Approval of Minutes - October 11, 2022 board meeting minutes  
Consent agenda Items 4A - 4C

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action, Information: B. Approval of Warrants, Wires, Budget Transfers  
Approval of Warrants, Wires, Budget Transfers  
Consent agenda Items 4A - 4C

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action, Information: C. Approval of Treasurer's report  
Approval of Treasurer's report  
Consent agenda Items 4A - 4C

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (agenda items only)

Information, Procedural: A. Guidelines for Public Comments - Any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall fill out a comment card. After you are called, come forward to the microphone and state your full name. All comments or questions shall be directed to the Board President or Superintendent of Schools. The Board or Administration will do their best to immediately respond to any questions. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, each person will limit his/her remarks to no more than 3 minutes, not to exceed a 30 minute session. Public discussion with respect to confidential matters is prohibited.

Information, Procedural: B. Comments  
None

#### 6. BUSINESS

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the disposal of old and obsolete grounds equipment that is no longer operational. Items include: (2) walk behind ground blowers and (1) rear-tine tiller. This equipment is to be disposed of in a manner which serves in the best interest of the district.

Thomas McDaid, Assistant Superintendent for Business, explained item 6C on the agenda, that the Omni Group, the 403b provider for the district, has requested amendments to the current wording in the agreement regarding the hardship and availability (eligibility) regulatory changes to comply with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). He said the IRS has provided guidance to clarify that once a part-time employee is eligible to participate in the plan, he/she cannot be excluded in any later year. Mr. McDaid added that the IRS has also required this "once in, always in" condition be explicitly stated in the plan document.

The Board of Education approves the disposal of old and obsolete grounds equipment that is no longer operational. Items include: (2) walk behind ground blowers and (1) rear-tine tiller. This equipment is to be disposed of in a manner which serves in the best interest of the district.

Consent agenda Items 6A - 6C

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action, Procedural: B. The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with Adelphi University STEP Program for the 6th grade students to participate in the Adelphi Robotics Competition on June 3, 2023. The cost is \$475. This fee includes training for teacher, field bundle, and registration for competition.

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and registration for competition.  
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6C

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Mary Keene.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carried  
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action, Procedural: C. The Board of Education approves the amendment to the North Merrick USFD 403(b) Retirement Plan to reflect regulation changes surrounding hardship distributions and eligibility requirements for part time employees, and update the language to ensure IRS compliance.  
The Board of Education approves the amendment to the North Merrick USFD 403(b) Retirement Plan to reflect regulation changes surrounding hardship distributions and eligibility requirements for part time employees, and update the language to ensure IRS compliance.  
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6C

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Mary Keene.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carried  
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

## 7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report, as detailed in the mailing.  
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Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carried  
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

## 8. SPECIAL SERVICES

Action: A. The Board of Education approves the contract between Fontanetta Neuropsychology, PLLC and the North Merrick School District to conduct an independent neuropsychological evaluation for a special education student for the 2022-2023 school year.  
The Board of Education approves the contract between Fontanetta Neuropsychology, PLLC and the North Merrick School District to conduct an independent neuropsychological evaluation for a special education student for the 2022-2023 school year.  
Consent agenda Item 8A - 8D

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carried  
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: B. The Board of Education approves the contract between Psychological Diagnostic Evaluations of New York and the North Merrick School District to conduct an independent neuropsychological evaluation for a special education student during the 2022-2023 school year.  
The Board of Education approves the contract between Psychological Diagnostic Evaluations of New York and the North Merrick School District to conduct an independent neuropsychological evaluation for a special education student during the 2022-2023 school year.  
Consent agenda Item 8A - 8D

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carried  
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: C. The Board of Education approves the eleven (11) Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.  
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Consent agenda Item 8A - 8D

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carried  
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: D. The Board of Education approves the four (4) Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Pre-School Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.  
 The Board of Education approves the four (4) Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Pre-School Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.  
 Consent agenda Item 8A - 8D

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

## 9. POLICY

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: WHEREAS, the North Merrick Union Free School District Policy No. 9310 – Adoption of Policies contains the Board of Education procedures for the adoption, change and repeal of District policies; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is necessary to create Board of Education Policy No. 3335 Payroll Procedures, at this time; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education waives Policy No. 9310 with respect to the requirements related to the first reading of policies and the sequence of adoption of policies in relation to Policy No. 3335 Payroll Procedures.

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Motion by Will Luciani, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

## 10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Information, Procedural: A. High School

Vice President Ed Corona said at the Central High School Board of Education meeting, the auditors gave their report, the Board Recognition took place, and it was announced that fellow high school board member Gina Piskin received the Woman of Distinction Award. He also spoke about the district's cosmetology program and thanked the local salon that participates in teaching students about the field, entrepreneurship, running a small business, and advertising. Mr. Corona said that graduates of this program earn a New York State certification in cosmetology. He also encouraged the community to attend the high school meeting to learn more about the vocational programs being offered in the high school district, such as broadcasting, culinary arts, electrical engineering, and cosmetology, which he noted are like no other programs on Long Island.

Information, Procedural: B. School Community Relations/PTA Council

Trustee Mary Keene thanked the PTAs for their generosity. She said the Fall Festivals at the three schools and the Adventureland event were all awesome with wonderful weather. Ms. Keene discussed upcoming events such as the SEPTA Paint Night and spirit wear fundraiser, the Fayette pie sale and Reflections deadline extended to November 10, Old Mill Scholastic Book Fair and Grade K-3 Dance, and Camp's Bring in Mad Science for all the grades.

Information, Procedural: C. Buildings & Grounds

Sam Carder, Director of Facilities, thanked the buildings and grounds crews for their hard work setting up all the activities that have been happening since the start of school, including the PTA events, fundraisers, and Trunk or Treat, which are very labor-intensive, on top of their routine daily work and a deep cleaning on Election Day. He gave an update on the masonry repair project, which is part of the capital projects listed last year. Mr. Carder said the district is in the final stages of wrapping up the LED lighting project as well, which is a PSEG incentive program and no cost to the district. He noted that the heating system has been turned on and is ready for winter weather. In addition, he spoke about the ceiling and light project at Old Mill scheduled for summer 2023, which is part of a grant.

## 11. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communications

Dr. Seniuk stated there was one communication regarding students' donation to the Ronald McDonald House.

## 12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Information, Procedural: A. Unfinished Business  
None

### 13. NEW BUSINESS

Information, Presentation: A. New Business  
None

### 14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Comments  
None

### 15. INFORMATIONS REPORTS (BOE only)

Action, Discussion, Information, Procedural: A. H.D Fayette Student Council - Field of Flags information

Information: B. Absences of Five Consecutive Days

Information: D. Building & Grounds Reports

Information, Procedural: E. School Health Office and Accident Reports

Information, Procedural: F. Enrollment

### 16. ADJOURNMENT

Action, Procedural: A. Adjournment  
Adjournment 7:30 PM

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani