

Monthly School Board Meeting (Tuesday, December 13, 2022)**Members present**

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

1. OPENING

Information, Procedural: A. Call to Order 6:02 by Board President, Megan Ryan

Action, Information, Procedural: B. Executive Session personnel CSEA and advice of counsel.
Executive Session personnel CSEA and advice of counsel.

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Will Luciani

Not Present at Vote: Kathy Moran

Action, Information, Procedural: C. Reconvene to Public 7:00

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. PUBLIC HEARING - PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Action: A. Call Public Hearing to order 7:01 by Board President, Megan Ryan

Information, Procedural: B. Pledge of allegiance led by Ms. Ryan.

Discussion, Information, Procedural: C. Review of Real Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities
Megan Ryan, Board President, said the Board of Education was holding a public hearing tonight, which is a formality to review the real property tax exemption for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. She noted that the agenda previously posted online did not list the resolution for senior citizens. The updated agenda was distributed at the start of the meeting with both items included.

Neil Block, District Counsel, explained there is currently a partial state tax exemption in place for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. He said the exemption is based on household income up to approximately \$37,000, and the state legislature has decided to increase the income eligibility up to \$58,400. In order to implement that change, the state requires the board to conduct a public hearing to provide for any questions or comments from the community. Mr. Block said the board will then vote on the two resolutions, one pertaining to senior citizens, and the other for persons with disabilities.

Action: D. Public comment (for Public Hearing only)
none

Action, Discussion: E. *The Board of Education approves the following: WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL") §467 provides for a partial exemption from real property taxation for qualifying senior citizens; and WHEREAS, the North Merrick School District has previously, by resolution, provided for the partial exemption from real property taxation for its senior citizens pursuant to RPTL §467; and WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature amended RPTL §467(3) to increase the maximum income eligibility for senior citizen partial exemptions; and WHEREAS, subsequently, on September 19, 2022, Nassau County enacted Local Law 7-2022 allowing for the increase of the maximum allowable annual household income requirements to qualify for this exemption; and WHEREAS, a school district may opt-in to the new income maximum by resolution after a public hearing; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has held a public hearing on the proposed amendment to increase the income maximum; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to adopt the new income maximum consistent with RPTL §467 and Local Law 7-2022, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the annual income of the owners or combined income of the owners for the calendar year set by RPTL §467(3) and Nassau County Local Law 7-2022 shall determine the percentage exemption granted to senior citizens of the North Merrick School District commencing with the 2023-2024 tax year; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners for the calendar year prior to the date that the application is filed, shall determine the percentage of assessed valuation which is exempt from taxation in accordance with the attached schedule; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the partial exemption shall be made in accordance with the chart contained in the attachment to this resolution.

*The Board of Education approves the following:

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL") §467 provides for a partial exemption from real property taxation for qualifying senior citizens; and WHEREAS, the North Merrick School District has previously, by resolution, provided for the partial

exemption from real property taxation for its senior citizens pursuant to RPTL §467; and WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature amended RPTL §467(3) to increase the maximum income eligibility for senior citizen partial exemptions; and WHEREAS, subsequently, on September 19, 2022, Nassau County enacted Local Law 7-2022 allowing for the increase of the maximum allowable annual household income requirements to qualify for this exemption; and WHEREAS, a school district may opt-in to the new income maximum by resolution after a public hearing; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has held a public hearing on the proposed amendment to increase the income maximum; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to adopt the new income maximum consistent with RPTL §467 and Local Law 7-2022, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the annual income of the owners or combined income of the owners for the calendar year set by RPTL §467(3) and Nassau County Local Law 7-2022 shall determine the percentage exemption granted to senior citizens of the North Merrick School District commencing with the 2023-2024 tax year; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners for the calendar year prior to the date that the application is filed, shall determine the percentage of assessed valuation which is exempt from taxation in accordance with the attached schedule; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the partial exemption shall be made in accordance with the chart contained in the attachment to this resolution.

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: F. The Board of Education approves the following: WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL") §459-c provides for a partial exemption from real property taxation for qualifying persons with disabilities; and WHEREAS, the North Merrick School District has, by resolution, provided for the partial exemption from real property taxation for its qualifying persons with disabilities pursuant to RPTL §459-c; and WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature amended RPTL §459-c(5) to increase the maximum income eligibility for persons with disabilities' partial exemptions; and WHEREAS, subsequently, on September 19, 2022, Nassau County enacted Local Law 8-2022 allowing for the increase of the maximum allowable annual household income requirements to qualify for this exemption; and WHEREAS, a school district may opt-in to the new income maximum by resolution after a public hearing; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has held a public hearing with regard to the proposed amendment to increase the income maximum; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to adopt the new income maximum consistent with RPTL §459-c and Local Law 8-2022, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the annual income of the owners or combined income of the owners for the calendar year set by RPTL §459-c(5) and Local Law 8-2022 shall determine the percentage exemption granted to persons with disabilities of the North Merrick School District commencing with the 2023-2024 tax year; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners for the calendar year prior to the date that the application is filed, shall determine the percentage of assessed valuation which is exempt from taxation in accordance with the attached schedule; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the partial exemption shall be made in accordance with the chart contained in the attachment to this resolution.

The Board of Education approves the following: WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL") §459-c provides for a partial exemption from real property taxation for qualifying persons with disabilities; and WHEREAS, the North Merrick School District has, by resolution, provided for the partial exemption from real property taxation for its qualifying persons with disabilities pursuant to RPTL §459-c; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature amended RPTL §459-c(5) to increase the maximum income eligibility for persons with disabilities' partial exemptions; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, on September 19, 2022, Nassau County enacted Local Law 8-2022 allowing for the increase of the maximum allowable annual household income requirements to qualify for this exemption; and

WHEREAS, a school district may opt-in to the new income maximum by resolution after a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has held a public hearing with regard to the proposed amendment to increase the income maximum; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to adopt the new income maximum consistent with RPTL §459-c and Local Law 8-2022, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the annual income of the owners or combined income of the owners for the calendar year set by RPTL §459-c(5) and Local Law 8-2022 shall determine the percentage exemption granted to persons with disabilities of the North Merrick School District commencing with the 2023-2024 tax year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners for the calendar year prior to the date that the application is filed, shall determine the percentage of assessed valuation which is exempt from taxation in accordance with the attached schedule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the partial exemption shall be made in accordance with the chart contained in the attachment to this resolution.

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: G. Adjournment 7:05

Adjournment

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Megan Ryan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

3. OPENING

Action: A. Call to Order 7:06 by Ms. Ryan.

Ms. Ryan welcomed Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) representation at the meeting. She then shared the sad news that three families in the North Merrick School District were impacted by home fires. Two were families from H.D. Fayette and Old Mill Road Schools. She praised the North Merrick community, faculty, CSEA, staff and administration for joining together to raise money in gift cards for the families. Ms. Ryan also thanked Congressman Alex Esposito and retired U.S. Marine Chuck Kilbride, Chairperson of Toys for Tots, for arranging to have Toys for Tots and Santa Claus visit one of the families, which was covered by the Merrick Herald and News 12. If anyone wants to help the families, Ms. Ryan asked them to please contact the principals or Dr. Seniuk.

Ms. Ryan stated that the Merrick Chamber of Commerce will be honoring the North Merrick and the Merrick School Districts next month for over 100 years of educating the community. She said a formal ceremony will be held in January.

Ms. Ryan also said a 100th Anniversary Celebration will take place at Camp Avenue School in May. She noted that Board Trustee Kathy Moran is behind the scenes finding historical artifacts for the celebration.

Ms. Ryan announced the board will be extending the Superintendent's contract tonight. She emphasized that Dr. Seniuk has been very effective in her role as superintendent and has really moved the district forward. She said it was not a decision that was taken lightly but it is well-deserved. Ms. Ryan noted that Dr. Seniuk led the district through a worldwide pandemic, and she was in constant communication with the board and tirelessly worked to get students back in the classroom. She said that Dr. Seniuk started the Mental Health and Wellness Coalition, and speaks regularly with the unions, attends PTA events, visits classroom and school events, and sends weekly memos to the board. Ms. Ryan said Dr. Seniuk is always responsive to parents via texts, emails and phone calls from her office. She noted that Dr. Seniuk has improved public relations with the North Merrick Minute, Curriculum Corner, Everyday Health, Library Media Voice, and Counselor's Corner e-newsletters. Ms. Ryan said she was proud to work together with Dr. Seniuk on state funding, including grants from Assemblyman Dave McDonough and Senator John Brooks for playground equipment.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

Dr. Seniuk said the Winter and Holiday Concerts were set for December 21 and December 22 at Brookside Auditorium and thanked the music teachers for all their hard work in getting our students prepared. In addition, she said online Kindergarten Registration will be held on January 24-25, and information has been sent to local preschools and is available on the district website. She also stated that an early influenza season is already impacting the district, and the principals are working to maintain coverage.

Dr. Seniuk announced the 100th Anniversary Celebration at Camp Avenue School. She said that historical documents show the district is a little over 100 years old and confirmed that Camp Avenue is celebrating its 100 year anniversary this year as the first school in the district. She said the committee has met twice to start planning a celebration in May, with a rain date in June. Dr. Seniuk said Board Trustee Kathy Moran has been a major historian on the committee, and she's coming up with so many wonderful documents and pictures. She also thanked the custodial staff for getting the artifacts from the basement, and she will report more on the celebration soon.

Dr. Seniuk wished everyone a happy holiday season full of joy and peace, spending time with loved ones and family, and embracing the moments. On behalf of central administration and the Board of Education, she thanked the faculty, staff, custodians, building and maintenance for all they do every day.

5. ROUTINE APPROVALS

Action, Minutes, Procedural: A. Approval of Minutes - November 9, 2022

Approval of Minutes - November 9, 2022

Consent agenda Items 5A - 5C

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Information, Procedural: B. Approval of warrants, wires, budget transfers

Consent agenda Items 5A - 5C

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Information, Procedural: C. Approval of Treasurer's report

Consent agenda Items 5A - 5C

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. 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.

None

Information, Procedural: B. Comments

None

7. BUSINESS

Action: A. The Board of Education approves the disposal of e-waste material which are no longer used by the North Merrick School District and have lasted beyond their useful life, such equipment is to be disposed of in a manner which serves the best interest of the District.

The Board of Education approves the disposal of e-waste material which are no longer used by the North Merrick School District and have lasted beyond their useful life, such equipment is to be disposed of in a manner which serves the best interest of the District.

Consent agenda Items 7A - 7B

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. The Board of Education approves the 2023 Participating Agency Monthly Empire Plan Premium Rates for Employers as submitted.

The Board of Education approves the 2023 Participating Agency Monthly Empire Plan Premium Rates for Employers as submitted.

Consent agenda Items 7A - 7B

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. The Board of Education approves the 2023 HIP HMO renewal rate sheet as submitted.

The Board of Education approves the 2023 HIP HMO renewal rate sheet as submitted.

Consent agenda Items 7A - 7B

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. The Board of Education authorizes the increase to the BOCES Letter of Intent for the 2022-2023 school year for BOCES to provide the North Merrick UFSD with (3) Xerox Copiers for 60 months.

The Board of Education authorizes the increase to the BOCES Letter of Intent for the 2022-2023 school year for BOCES to provide the North Merrick UFSD with (3) Xerox Copiers for 60 months.

Consent agenda Items 7A - 7B

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board President is authorized to execute an amendment dated December 13, 2022 to the June 14, 2016 Employment Agreement with Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools.

The Board of Education approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board President is authorized to execute an amendment dated December 13, 2022 to the June 14, 2016 Employment Agreement with Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools.

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

No: Mary Keene

8. PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report, as detailed in the mailing.
The Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report, as detailed in the mailing.

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. SPECIAL SERVICES

Action: A. The Board of Education approves the contract between Dr. Kimberly S. Williams 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 Dr. Kimberly S. Williams 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 Items 9A - 9E

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. The Board of Education approves the contract between Nassau Neuropsychological Services 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 Nassau Neuropsychological Services 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 Items 9A - 9E

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. The Board of Education approves the agreement between North Shore Speech-Language Associates and the North Merrick School District to provide speech and language therapy services for the 2022-2023 school year.
The Board of Education approves the agreement between North Shore Speech-Language Associates and the North Merrick School District to provide speech and language therapy services for the 2022-2023 school year.
Consent agenda Items 9A - 9E

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. The Board of Education approves the fourteen (14) Individualized Education Program (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.
The Board of Education approves the fourteen (14) Individualized Education Program (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.
Consent agenda Items 9A - 9E

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. The Board of Education approves the four (4) Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Pre-School 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 Education, as detailed in the mailing.
Consent agenda Items 9A - 9E

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Information, Procedural: A. High School

Board Trustee Tracey Miller reported that two former students from the 10th grade Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Program expressed how much the program helped them in college, such as asking good questions and writing research papers. Ms. Miller said 60 high school students created 125 baskets for families in need that were donated to the Bellmore-Merrick Community Cupboard. She announced that the Calhoun girls volleyball team won the New York State Championship as the first women's team in the central high school district to do so. She said Calhoun also won county championships in cross country and boys volleyball. Ms. Miller said the Calhoun winter concert will be held tomorrow and the middle school concerts will be held on Thursday night. In addition, she said Grand Avenue Middle School students participated in community service at the Lions Club Polar Express Children's Holiday Toy Event at Brookside, where they handed out presents to over 450 children from across Nassau County.

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

Board Trustee Mary Keene spoke about all the PTA events this month, including the Holiday Boutique and Winter Paint Breakfast at Fayette; Carnival Night, Holiday Boutique, and TP Ted at Camp Avenue; and the Sky Dome Planetarium, Grandma's Pie fundraiser, and Holiday Boutique at Old Mill Road. The three schools have their next PTA meetings on January 18, and the sixth grade class committees are doing a lot of fundraisers, which are separate from the PTA. Ms. Keene said SEPTA is hosting a Grinch movie night at Old Mill Road and their fidget fundraiser will be distributed the week before Christmas. Ms. Keene thanked the PTAs for all they do.

Information, Procedural: C. Buildings & Grounds

Sam Carder, Director of Facilities, gave a shout out to the buildings and grounds staff for being ready, willing and able in preparing for snow. He noted upcoming projects, such as roof work and playground equipment installation at Old Mill Road and cafeteria air conditioning at Old Mill Road and Camp. He said the plans for the ceiling and lighting project at Old Mill Road have been approved by the state, and the work will take place during the summer of 2023.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communications
None

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Information, Procedural: A. Unfinished Business
None

13. NEW BUSINESS

Information, Procedural: A. New Business
None

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Comments
None

15. INFORMATION REPORTS (BOE only)

Information, Procedural: A. Appropriation Status Report; Revenue Status Report; Trial Balance

Information, Procedural: B. Absences of Five Consecutive Days

Information, Procedural: C. Enrollment

Information, Procedural: D. Health office and accident reports

Information, Procedural: E. Building & Grounds Reports

16. ADJOURNMENT

Action, Procedural: A. Adjournment 7:30 PM
Adjournment 9:31 PM

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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