

School Board Meeting (Tuesday, April 12, 2022)**Members present**

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

Absent Tracey Miller and Robert Crowley

1. OPENING

Information, Procedural: A. Call to order by Vice President, Steve Enella at 6:50 PM
Absent Tracey Miller and Robert Crowley

Action, Procedural: B. Executive Session for matters of personnel and negotiations

Action, Procedural: C. Reconvene to Public 7:02

Information, Procedural: D. Call to order by Board President, Megan Ryan at 7:05 PM

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

Board President Megan Ryan, Esq., thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Ms. Ryan commented on the rising Covid cases and thanked teachers, staff, and parents for their support throughout the school year. She wished all a happy holiday. Ms. Ryan also spoke about the district's Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program (UPK). She said the district has 52 seats and she is very proud that this happened under this board's watch. She said that some of the local preschools will include TLC Brookside, TLC Merrick Avenue, Wee Friends, and Merrick Woods.

2. PRESENTATION

Information, Procedural: A. *2022-2023 Budget by Tom McDaid, Assistant Superintendent of Business
Mr. McDaid did a PowerPoint presentation for the 2022-2023 budget.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools, discussed expanded hours for the before- and after-care program. She also noted that as Covid restrictions lift, staffing will increase, and more seats for the program will be available. Dr. Seniuk announced that the district will participate in the BOCES Diversity Recruitment Fair for hiring new faculty candidates. She confirmed that the district's UPK program was originally offering 52 seats with a waitlist, has since been awarded additional seats and will be attending a webinar regarding UPK.

Dr. Seniuk announced that May 4 is the PTA-sponsored Meet the Candidates Night with the Fayette PTA hosting the event, and the opening ceremony for Field of Flags is scheduled for May 12 with Fayette Student Council hosting this year.

She added that there are many summer programs being offered, and registration information is available on the district website.

Dr. Seniuk thanked the North Merrick Mental Health and Wellness Coalition for sponsoring the Writing Yoga workshop on Saturday, where a fun time was had by all, and she said the College and Career Symposium was a huge success.

Lastly, Dr. Seniuk reported that the Theatre Arts production took place this past weekend and that State Assemblyman David McDonough remarked it was his best night out in a long time. She said the performances included scenes from Annie, Bye-Bye Birdie, and Shrek, and the students were thrilled to be on stage. Dr. Seniuk thanked Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Sokol, and their team for a wonderful show!

4. ROUTINE APPROVALS

Action, Minutes, Procedural: A. Approval of Minutes - March 8, 2022
Approval of minutes

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Information: B. Approval of Warrants, Wires, Budget Transfers

Action, Information: C. Approval of Treasurer's Report

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (agenda items only)

Action, 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.

Discussion, Information, Procedural: B. Comments
None

6. BUSINESS

Action: A. The Board of Education adopts the proposed budget for the 2022-23 school year in the amount of \$36,020,048. Trustee Mary Keene stated she would not vote to pass the proposed 2022-23 budget due to her concerns about the district being placed on the fiscally distressed list by New York State.

Ms. Ryan said it is the responsibility of the board to pass a sustainable budget, and there have been multiple budget committee meetings. She said Thomas. McDaid, Assistant Superintendent for Business, is always available to discuss the budget. Ms. Ryan said that if Ms. Keene had a problem with the budget, she should have suggested solutions and not wait until tonight to make this announcement. She noted that the district has had no cuts in program or teaching staff and never closed the schools.

A conversation ensued among the board members as to whether they are in support of the budget presented tonight. Trustee Steve Enella said North Merrick does a lot with a small budget. Trustee Ed Corona stated that Mr. McDaid has explained the issue about the fiscal distress list. Ms. Keene said there is a bloated administrative staff and that she is representing the taxpayers of the community. Ms. Ryan said she felt it was very important for the entire board to support the proposed budget and that all the trustees are here to representing the taxpayers. She questioned the ramifications of what would happen if the budget failed.

Mr. McDaid explained that should the budget fail, the board has the option to put the budget up for a revote in June or go to contingency, but that would require cutting over \$4000,000 from the budget, which would mean no summer programs, art and music, and other programs that could not be sustained. He noted that the driving force of the budget is health and retirement benefits, and those numbers are set by the state.

Board trustees reiterated that the budget process has been going on for months, and they have held multiple meetings and have had many discussions, and any issues should have been addressed before tonight.

Ms. Keene suggested eliminating administrative positions, such as the deputy superintendent and building and grounds director. She said it would more cost effective to hire per diem consultants or a head custodian. She stated that the district is top heavy with central administration, and she has been vocal about it in executive sessions.

Ms. Ryan said that Mr. McDaid has spent the entire year preparing the budget and has answered every question, and no recommendation was brought forth before that anything should be cut. She asked who would absorb the work if a position were cut.

Ms. Ryan then proposed that the board table the budget resolution, work on presenting something that all would agree on, and schedule a special meeting to vote.

The Board of Education adopts the proposed budget for the 2022-23 school year in the amount of \$36,020,048. Motion to table Item 6A

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. The Board of Education adopts the 2022-23 Property Tax Report Card for the North Merrick Union Free School District. Consent agenda Items 6B - 6N

The Board of Education adopts the 2022-23 Property Tax Report Card for the North Merrick Union Free School District.

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. The Board of Education authorizes the additional funding of the 2021-2022 reserves in accordance with General Municipal Law and Educational Law.

The Board of Education authorizes the additional funding of the 2021-2022 reserves in accordance with General Municipal Law and Educational Law. Consent agenda Items 6B - 6N

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. The Board of Education approves the agreement with Textbook Central for the 2022-23 school year to purchase textbooks for North Merrick students attending non-public schools.

The Board of Education approves the agreement with Textbook Central for the 2022-23 school year to purchase textbooks for North Merrick students attending non-public schools. Consent agenda Items 6B - 6N

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: E. The Board of Education approves a \$1,500 donation from DongGyun (DG) Kim for the North Merrick Orchestra Program for the purchase of instruments, sheet music, and/or other miscellaneous orchestral supplies.

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Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: F. The Board of Education approves the consulting agreement with H.D.H. Davidson to provide videotaping service for the North Merrick Theatre Arts Program. Cost not to exceed \$1,500 (retroactive).

The Board of Education approves the consulting agreement with H.D.H. Davidson to provide videotaping service for the North Merrick Theatre Arts Program. Cost not to exceed \$1,500 (retroactive). Consent agenda Items 6B - 6N

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Action, Procedural: G. The Board of Education approves the increase to the consulting agreement with H.D.H. Davidson for the 2022 Theatre Arts production to provide set building, lighting and sound. Cost not to exceed \$3,249.70.00 (increase of \$49.70)

The Board of Education approves the increase to the consulting agreement with H.D.H. Davidson for the 2022 Theatre Arts production to provide set building, lighting and sound. Cost not to exceed \$3,249.70.00 (increase of \$49.70) Consent agenda Items 6B - 6N

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: H. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee to request from the New York State Education Department an exemption from the requirement of implementing a breakfast program by September 2022 in all elementary school buildings.

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee to request from the New York State Education Department an exemption from the requirement of implementing a breakfast program by September 2022 in all elementary school buildings. Consent agenda Items 6B - 6N

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: I. The Board of Education authorizes the following 2021/22 budget transfers: A1620.401-01, SECURITY CAMP, \$13,300 - A9060.801.04, Health Insurance, \$13,300 to pay for additional security costs. A1620.401-02, SECURITY HDF, \$27,800- A9060.801.04, Health Insurance, \$27,800 to pay for additional security costs. A620.401-03, SECURITY OMR, \$18,500 - A9060.801.04, Health Insurance, \$18,500 to pay for additional security costs.

The Board of Education authorizes the following 2021/22 budget transfers:

A1620.401-01, SECURITY CAMP, \$13,300 - A9060.801.04, Health Insurance, \$13,300 to pay for additional security costs.

A1620.401-02, SECURITY HDF, \$27,800- A9060.801.04, Health Insurance, \$27,800 to pay for additional security costs.

A620.401-03, SECURITY OMR, \$18,500 - A9060.801.04, Health Insurance, \$18,500 to pay for additional security costs.

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: J. The Board of Education approves updating the mileage reimbursement rate to be paid to authorized personnel conducting school district business for the 2021/22 school year to 58.5 cents per mile as of January 1, 2022, payment to be made only upon

presentation of approved claims.

The Board of Education approves updating the mileage reimbursement rate to be paid to authorized personnel conducting school district business for the 2021/22 school year to 58.5 cents per mile as of January 1, 2022, payment to be made only upon presentation of approved claims. Consent agenda Items 6B - 6N

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: K. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: RESOLVED, that in accordance with the recommendation filed with the records of this meeting and the RFP proposals opened on April 1, 2022 authority be and is hereby given by the Board of Education to award the contracts for Universal Pre-K for the 2022/23 school year, with the annual option for the Board to renew the agreements up to four additional school years to Merrick Woods, Wee Friends 2, TLC – Brookside, and TLC – Merrick Avenue and that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to enter into these agreements for these appointments.

The Board of Education approves the following resolution: RESOLVED, that in accordance with the recommendation filed with the records of this meeting and the RFP proposals opened on April 1, 2022 authority be and is hereby given by the Board of Education to award the contracts for Universal Pre-K for the 2022/23 school year, with the annual option for the Board to renew the agreements up to four additional school years to Merrick Woods, Wee Friends 2, TLC – Brookside, and TLC – Merrick Avenue and that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to enter into these agreements for these appointments.

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: L. The Board of Education approves to enter into the required Memorandum of Agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections to provide election services consisting of the provision and usage of voting machines, all equipment and supplies necessary to conduct voting operations, as well as training and assistance concerning voting machine operations.

The Board of Education approves to enter into the required Memorandum of Agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections to provide election services consisting of the provision and usage of voting machines, all equipment and supplies necessary to conduct voting operations, as well as training and assistance concerning voting machine operations.

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: M. The Board of Education approves Giovanna Amarain as a Spanish interpreter (required by law) and election clerk at a rate of \$25 per hour for the following votes: North Merrick Library Vote on April 13, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM and North Merrick Budget/Trustee Vote May 17, 2022 from 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM. The District will be fully reimbursed by the North Merrick Library for the North Merrick Library Vote on April 13, 2022 and the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District will pay half of the expense for the May 17, 2022 vote.

The Board of Education approves Giovanna Amarain as a Spanish interpreter (required by law) and election clerk at a rate of \$25 per hour for the following votes: North Merrick Library Vote on April 13, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM and North Merrick Budget/Trustee Vote May 17, 2022 from 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM.

The District will be fully reimbursed by the North Merrick Library for the North Merrick Library Vote on April 13, 2022 and the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District will pay half of the expense for the May 17, 2022 vote. Consent agenda Items 6B - 6N

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: N. The Board of Education approves the agreement with SCOPE Education Services from July 5th through July 29th, 2022 at Old Mill Road School.

The Board of Education approves the agreement with SCOPE Education Services from July 5th through July 29th, 2022 at Old Mill Road School. Consent agenda Items 6B - 6N

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report.
The Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report.

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. SPECIAL EDUCATION

Action: A. The Board of Education approves the contract between Renee Krochek, Psy.D. and the North Merrick School District to conduct an independent neuropsychological evaluation for a special education student.
The Board of Education approves the contract between Renee Krochek, Psy.D. and the North Merrick School District to conduct an independent neuropsychological evaluation for a special education student.

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. The Board of Education approves the six (6) Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Pre-School Special Education.

The Board of Education approves the six (6) Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Pre-School Special Education.

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. The Board of Education approves the fifty-three (53) Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education.

The Board of Education approves the fifty-three (53) Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education.

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Procedural: A. High School

Trustee Ed Corona announced that the Calhoun Girls Winter Track Team was named All County; the high school district approved a proposed budget for 2022-23 with a 2.11% increase; Calhoun High School named Anthony DeMartinis as the new principal; and the PTA honored teachers and parents throughout the community for Founder's Day.

Procedural: B. School Community Relations/PTA Council

Trustee Mary Keene said the PTAs are doing incredible things and listed all the upcoming PTA meeting dates and times. She stated that Mr. McDaid was going with her to the PTA meetings to speak about the budget. She thanked all the PTAs for their sponsored events, including the Science Fairs, 80s Night, Auction, Plant Sales, and yearbooks.

Procedural: C. Buildings & Grounds

Since Sam Carder, Director of Facilities, was not present, Dr. Cynthia Seniuk provided the Buildings and Grounds Report: The district received the building permit for the additional cooling center and there was a walk through with the mechanical engineer; bidding has gone out for the electrical panel for the air conditioning units; the new sign is up at Old Mill Road, and NYSIR came to inspect the repair of the Camp Avenue roof. Dr. Seniuk noted that Mr. Carder is working with BOCES and Nassau County Legislator Thomas McKevitt on security control points.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communication

Mrs. Joanne Long, District Clerk, reported one email was received about before and after care availability.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion, Information, Procedural: A. Unfinished business

12. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion, Information, Procedural: A. New business

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

14. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS (BOE only)

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

Information, Procedural: B. Enrollment; Health Office Report; Student/Adult Accidents

Information: C. Absences of Five Consecutive Days

Information: D. Building & Grounds Reports

15. ADJOURNMENT

Action: A. The Board of Education approves entering into executive session matters of personnel and negotiations.
Adjournment 10:35

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Ed Corona.

Motion Carried

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

Reconvene to public 10:30 PM

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Ed Corona.

Motion Carried

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

Adjournment

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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