

2018-2019

The Board of Education Meeting of the North Merrick Board of Education was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 8:00 PM.

Present: Mrs. Jennifer Hyland, President
Ms. Tracey Miller, Vice President
Mr. Ed Corona
Mrs. Michelle Gordon
Mr. Vincent Lentini
Mrs. Megan Ryan
Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Beth Friedman, Deputy Superintendent for Personnel & Instruction
Mr. Thomas McDaid, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Dr. Edward Murphy, Assistant to the Superintendent of PPS and Special Education
Mr. Samuel Carder, Director of Facilities
Mr. Gary Steffanetta, Guercio & Guercio, LLP
Joanne Long, District Clerk

Absent: Terri McCurry, Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hyland called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

It was moved by Mrs. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Corona to waive the pledge.

Motion carried 6 - 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Ms. Miller and seconded by Ms. Gordon that the Board of Education approves to enter into executive session at 6:21 PM to discuss employment of a particular person, collective bargaining and advice of counsel.

Motion carried 6 - 0

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC

It was moved by Ms. Miller seconded by Mr. Lentini that the Board of Education reconvenes to public at 7:05 PM to begin the Budget Committee Meeting.

Motion carried 6 - 0

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hyland called the meeting to order at 8:17 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Hyland led in the pledge.

2018-2019

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE - “Never iron a four leaf clover, because you don’t want to press your luck.” – Anonymous

BULLETIN BOARD Mrs. Hyland thanked Mrs. Kling-Schreibman’s class for bulletin Board display.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Corona and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approve the following minutes: February 12, 2019 monthly Board Meeting, February 16, 2019 Special Meeting and February 26, 2019 Special Meeting.

Motion carried 6 – 0

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS, BUDGET TRANSFERS and WIRE TRANSFERS

It was moved by Mrs. Gordon and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approves the warrant, budget transfer and wire transfers as detailed in the mailing.

Motion carried 6 – 0

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Corona and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approves the Treasurer’s Report, as detailed in the mailing.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Jennifer Hyland, Board of Education President commented as a result of the resignation of Ms. Gargiulo, steps to be taken for filling the vacancy will be discussed during unfinished business. She stated the Board of Education is unified and mindful of obligation to the community and are in compliance with the law. For any individuals wishing to address the Board, please refrain from discussion; questions and comments received via email will be responded to in a timely manner.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Seniuk thanked Mrs. Friedman for her amazing presentation on curriculum. She spoke about the following topics:

- Parent University
- Science Fairs and Camp Avenue and Old Mill Road
- 6th grade girls visit to Cradle of Aviation, “Salute to Women in STEM”
- Board Docs training complete
- Adoption of Board goals tonight
- March 29 and March 30, 6th grade production of Annie
- 2019-2020 incoming kindergarten classes; three sections at Camp, three at OMR and two at HDF
- New State mandates - all budget materials need to be provided in both English and Spanish, which is another cost to the district.

Mrs. Hyland announced that Dr. Seniuk has been chosen by National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA)'s New Superintendents to Watch Award for dynamic leadership with strong technology and communication at its core.

Dr. Seniuk stated she is honored for being selected - with the support of the Board and community it gives her the opportunity to lead district.

2018-2019

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gannon Schaefer questioned the Capital Reserve Fund, work session dates for programs. She asked if the extra budget meeting scheduled for 4:00 PM can be changed to a later time to accommodate working parents.

Mr. McDaid stated in 2015 the community passed a resolution to set up Capital Reserve Run and it runs out this year, so it is same set up. We have 1.4 million in reserve. In the future if we have money left over we could put in the reserve fund. Dr. Seniuk stated the Board is planning on having a work session in the future. Those sessions would start at 7:30 on the same day as a Board Meeting. Dr. Seniuk commented she will discuss with her team the changing of the time of the additional budget committee meeting.

Mary Keene questioned what was discussed in executive session.

Mr. Gary Steffanetta stated it was the Superintendent's contract, Deputy Superintendent's contract, and the status of teacher contract/collective bargaining.

Ms. Keene questioned why is the Superintendent's contract is being discussed because it doesn't expire until 2022 and that Ms. Friedman's contract was settled last month.

Mr. Gary Steffanetta explained throughout Nassau County school employment agreements are altered by amendment for many reasons, such as benefits or terms. This is an appropriate subject for executive session. Every Superintendent's contract is a period of three to five years, it sets forth the term and salary for the first year and can be discussed every year.

Ms. Anna Higgins thanked Mr. Steffanetta for the explanation. She asked since Superintendent's contract expires in 2022, she questioned whether the Board is being fiscally responsibility to discuss it now, also we now have one less Board member.

Mr. Steffanetta commented most Superintendent's salaries are set for the first year and the Board has an obligation to have discussion about her contract.

Mrs. Hyland stated it is the Board's responsibility to look at the contract on an annual basis. Business does not stop because we are one less Board member.

Ms. Higgins wanted an explanation for items C, D, I, J, 13A.

Mr. McDaid stated Item C references our external claims auditor, which is an unfunded mandate. We do an RFP every five years, and there has been no increase. Item D: Mr. McDaid explained the additional transfers are done to cover expenses for this year. Under additional legal expenses, those are fees associated with things that are not covered under the original retainer. Item I and J we covered. Item 13A, Mr. Steffenetta explained how the vacancies will be handled - two vacancies will be filled by the two highest and take effect immediately on May 21st, the third highest will begin on July 1st.

Ms. Higgins asked why was \$2,800 was approved for Syntax Communication?

Dr. Seniuk explained the Department of Justice now requires Spanish translation. Our Memorandum of Agreement with Syntax was expired so in order engage in a conversation with Syntax, we needed to pass a resolution. However, they are not providing translation, and there was no cost to the district to have that conversation.

2018-2019

Chris Mitkish commented that Parent University was amazing. She spoke about Ms. Friedman curriculum presentation and hopes the district continues to see more art components, possibly storytelling. She explained she understands the high cost of health insurance and that all companies are dealing with this expense. She asked with all the new residential construction within the district, can it be monitored so we can get more tax dollars?

Mr. McDaid explained the district has no control over taxes. However, there has been a recent reassessment and supposedly it will be done on a more frequent basis.

Jayne Perper congratulated to Dr. Seniuk. She suggested Ms. Friedman's presentation on programs and curriculum should be presented at the beginning of the year because a lot of parents don't come to these meetings.

Mark Davis commented the library has different programs available. He suggested collaboration between the North Merrick Library and the district. The library has new 3D printer to offer, eBook, tutor.com to assist with homework.

BUSINESS:

It was moved by Mr. Lentini and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approve Items A – J as a consent agenda.

- a) The Board of Education accepts the donation of \$4,340 from the Camp Avenue 6th grade Committee to be used toward the 6th grade boat trip.
- b) The Board of Education approves the disposal of a Teacher Center printer (HP Color LaserJet3800dn) at Camp Avenue School that is no longer operable or used by the District.
- c) The Board of Education approves the contract with Cullen and Danowski, LLP to provide external account services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Total cost to the District not to exceed \$15,300.
- d) The Board of Education approves the budget transfers as follows:
ACCOUNT TO: A 2630.490-04-5320 **DESCRIPTION:** BOCES LEARNING TECH PROJ
AMOUNT: \$24,000 **ACCOUNT FROM:** A2250.490-04-2374 **DESCRIPTION:** BOCES TUITION
AMOUNT: \$24,000 **REASON:** Cover Cost for various additional BOCES support and programs
ACCOUNT TO: A 2630.490-04-5320 **DESCRIPTION:** BOCES LEARNING TECH PROJ
AMOUNT: \$9,000 **ACCOUNT FROM:** A22010.400.04 **DESCRIPTION:** CONTRACTED SERVICES
AMOUNT: \$9,000 **REASON:** Cover Cost for various additional BOCES support and programs
ACCOUNT TO: A 1420.402-04 **DESCRIPTION:** ADDL LEGAL SERVICES **AMOUNT:** \$15,000
ACCOUNT FROM: A1910.400.04 **DESCRIPTION:** INSURANCE **AMOUNT:** \$15,000 **REASON:** Cover Cost for additional legal expenses.
- e) Board approval is requested to appoint the clerks as listed below for the following:
 North Merrick Library Vote on April 16, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM; Library evening voter's registration on April 10th from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM; North Merrick Budget/Trustee Vote May 21, 2019 from 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM; Evening voter's registration on May 15th from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM and BOLD Training and Board of Elections training for the 2018-2019 school year.
 Chief Election Inspector: Joanne Long
 Election Inspector: Michelle Hagan
 Spanish translator: Alexandra Maturana
 Clerks: Cathy Barry, Pam Katz, Judy Horvath, Cathy Onolfo, Patricia Greco, Alice Reiner, Bernice Holzmacher, Annette Starala, Marie Adamo, Maureen Schmitz, Maria Acquvito, Nancy McCune, Debbie O'Sullivan, Jennifer Shah, Naomi Maimon (on an as needed basis).

2018-2019

The clerks will be paid \$12.00 per hour. Election Inspector, Michele Hagan, will be paid at her hourly wage of \$13.03. Spanish translator, Alexandra Maturana, will be paid at her hourly wage of \$14.22.

- f) The Board of Education approves the revised contract with H.D.H. Davidson for providing additional lighting support, at a cost of \$800, for the 2019 Theatre Arts Production. Total cost of updated contract \$3,200.
- g) The Board of Education may or may not nominate the following individuals for the Nassau BOCES Board: There are three seats on the Nassau BOCES Board that will expire on June 30, 2019. Those seats are held by Ronald Ellerbe, Fran N. Langsner and Robert “B.A.” Schoen. Each seat carries a term of three years.
- h) The Board of Education approves the updated North Merrick District-Wide School Safety plan for the 2018-2019 school year, as detailed in the mailing.
- i) The Board of Education approves the voter proposition for use of the 2015 Capital Reserve, as detailed in the attached legal notice.
- j) The Board of Education approves the voter proposition to establish a 2019 Capital Reserve Fund (Reserve Fund) for funding future capital projects, as detailed in the attached legal notice.

Motion carried 6 – 0

POLICIES

Second and Final Reading:

- a) It was moved by Ms. Ryan and seconded by Mrs. Gordon that the Board of Education approves the adoption of Policy #4152 FMLA which has been revised and #4152 Regulation which has been created for the Board of Education.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- b) It was moved by Ms. Ryan and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approves the adoption of Policy #4300 Academic Intervention Services which has been revised for the Board of Education.

Motion carried 6 – 0

BOARD GOALS

It was moved by Ms. Gordon and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approves the adoption of Board Goals beginning September 1, 2019, as detailed in the mailing.

Mrs. Hyland thanked the central administration for participant in the four-hour workshop on their own time. Mr. Lentini commented he is very proud of the goals the Board came up with. They are outstanding.

Motion carried 6 – 0

BUDGET/TRUSTEE VOTE LEGAL NOTICE AND PROPOSITIONS

It was moved by Mr. Corona and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approves the legal notice, as detailed in the agenda attachment.

Motion carried 6 – 0

2018-2019

PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

It was moved by Mr. Lentini and seconded by Ms. Gordon that the Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report as detailed in the mailing.

Motion carried 6 - 0

SPECIAL SERVICES

It was moved by Mrs. Ryan and seconded by Mr. Lentini that the Board of Education approve Items A – D as a consent agenda.

- a) The Board of Education approves the contract between Consulting That Makes a Difference, Inc. and the North Merrick School District to provide professional development for the 2018-2019 school year.
- b) The Board of Education approved the contract between Maria Rinklin and the North Merrick School District to provide orientation and mobility services for one student as per IEP recommendations for the 2018-2019 school year.
- c) The Board of Education approves the eight (8) Individualized Education Plans which were developed by the Committee on Preschool Education, as detailed in the mailing.
- d) The Board of Education approves the fourteen (14) Individualized Education Plans which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education.

Motion carried 6 – 0

HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Miller congratulated the Bellmore-Merrick bowling team for winning County Champions. The kick line team was awarded Long Island Champions. The annual One Voice, One Message is a 5K run – all proceeds from the run will be donated to St. Jude Children’s Hospital. The hockey and swim team will be in State playoffs. The Wellness Center has exceeded the districts expectations.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS/PTA COUNCIL

Mrs. Gordon spoke about the upcoming events throughout the district. She listed the activities such as Book of the Month, PARP, Hip Pickles, Jump Bunch, International Happiness Day and Spring Fling.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Mr. Carder stated that he has been working with both Dr. Seniuk and Ms. Friedman on summer program; working with Mr. McDaid with budget and summer projects. There are a lot of activities going on with theatre arts. We purchased bucket truck for \$3,500 from BMCHSD.

COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Hyland stated she received communications about Open Meetings Law and Board vacancy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Hyland stated that she would like to discuss the Board vacancy. The Board discussed the four options. The Board agreed to leave the vacancy open until election.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Hyland stated it is one of the Board’s responsibility to evaluate the Superintendent. She stated she attended Superintendent Evaluation Training. It was enlightening, and the longevity of the Superintendent ties into students’ performance in the district.

PUBLIC (same procedure applies)

Mary Keene commented that both OMR family fun night and the wax museum were incredible. Ms. Keene spoke about the public comment made during last month's meeting by Ms. Winkel. She stated she was not being negative, but as a tax payer she has a right to ask questions of the Board of Education about contracts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Ms. Ryan and seconded by Ms. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 PM.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Long
District Clerk