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The Board of Education Meeting of the North Merrick Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 8:00 PM.

Present: Mrs. Jennifer Hyland, President (arrived 6:46 PM)
 Ms. Tracey Miller, Vice President
 Mr. Ed Corona
 Mrs. Michelle Gordon
 Mr. Vincent Lentini
 Mrs. Megan Ryan (arrived 6:45 PM)
 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
 Mrs. Lisa Hutchinson, Guercio & Guercio, LLP
 Joanne Long, District Clerk

Absent: Terri McCurry, Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

It was moved by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Corona to waive the pledge.

Motion carried 4 - 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Corona to adjourn into executive session at 6:21 PM to discuss the appointment of particular persons.

Motion carried 4 - 0

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC

It was moved by Ms. Miller seconded by Mr. Lentini that the Board of Education reconvenes to public at 7:55 PM.

Motion carried 6 - 0

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hyland called the meeting to order at 8:07 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Hyland led in the pledge.

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE - "SPRING: A lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be." – Anonymous

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SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Seniuk introduced Nassau County Legislator Tom McKevitt. She expressed her sincere appreciation to Mr. McKevitt with helping to secure a \$150,000 grant to be used toward security enhancements in the district. Ms. Hyland thanked Dr. Seniuk for working diligently to get this funding for our district.

BULLETIN BOARD Mrs. Hyland thanked Ms. Jurik's class for bulletin Board display.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Gordon and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approve the following minutes: April 9, 2019 Board Meeting and April 16, 2019 BOCES Special Meeting.

Motion carried 6 – 0

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS, BUDGET TRANSFERS and WIRE TRANSFERS

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

Motion carried 6 – 0

ADJOURN TO BUDGET HEARING

It was moved by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mr. Corona to adjourn meeting to being the Budget Hearing at 8:10 PM.

Motion carried 6 – 0

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC

It was moved by Ms. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Gordon to reconvene to public meeting at 8:13 PM.

Motion carried 6 - 0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Seniuk spoke about the following topics:

- 6th grade trip
- Fun Day
- Open House – great time to celebrate our children's work
- Plant sale
- Kindergarten orientation – presenter Bobby Doo Wah – kids had a great time as they Rocked 'n Rolled.
- Meet the Candidates – not a district-run event but hosted by PTA (in rotation). Next year the PTAs will have a specific plan in place as to the process they will use.
- Budget vote is May 21, 2019 from 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM at the North Merrick Library – reminded all to vote.

PRESENTATION – TENURE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Seniuk introduced Tom McDaid. She said he has accomplished so much for the district during the past four years. Mr. McDaid strategically works within the small North Merrick budget while balancing fund balance issues, health care increases, special education out-of-district placements, and contract negotiations. She said he is a pleasure to work with every day, and he is truly an asset to the district.

Ms. Laura Deluca, OMR Principal, introduced Christina Moser. She described Mrs. Moser as a dynamic educator. She incorporates technology and works with teachers to enhance technology in classroom. She said Mrs. Moser inspires all to do more. Dr. Murphy added that Mrs. Moser works closely with teachers and ENL students. She has a strong commitment to the district.

Mrs. Hillary Bromberg, Camp Avenue Principal, introduced Lorrain Kramps. She said Ms. Kramps is a valued member of the Camp Avenue staff, and her primary goal is to have students reach their potential.

The Board of Education acknowledged Mr. McDaid, Mrs. Moser and Ms. Kramps for their commitment to the district.

BUSINESS:

It was moved by Mr. Lentini and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of education change the order of the agenda, moving the Personnel Actions Report for Board approval

Motion carried 6 – 0

PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

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

Motion carried 6 - 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Scaduto made a statement about FOIL requests that he submitted and hopes the information will help. He feels the school district is very transparent in providing information to the community. He went on to talk about the building unity, having the best interest of children, and long-term goals, adding that social media can provide positive change.

BUSINESS:

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

- a) The Board of Education approves the agreement with Merrick Woods Country Day School, Inc. for use of the ball fields at H. D. Fayette School during the 2019 summer.
- b) The Board of Education approves the agreement with Merrick Woods Country Day School, Inc. for use of 25 designated parking spaces during the 2019 summer.
- c) The Board of Education approves the agreement with Nassau BOCES to run their 2019 Regional Summer School Program.
- d) The Board of Education approves the agreement with SCOPE Education Services, regarding a half day, four-week 2019 student enrichment summer program.
- e) The Board of Education approves the agreement with National Inventors Hall of Fame, regarding two consecutive, two-week half days, student innovative summer programs.
- f) The Board of Education authorizes the District to enter into a 12-month agreement for Dental Insurance with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, effective July 1, 2019.
- g) The Board of Education authorizes the District to request the New York State Education Department for an exemption from the requirement of implementing a breakfast program for the 2019-20 school year.
- h) The Board of Education approves the budget transfers:

ACCOUNT TO	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT FROM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	REASON
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A2630.490.04.5320	BOCES	\$28,650	A9060.801.04	Health Insurance	\$28,650	Additional costs for Chromebooks, Smart Boards and professional developments
A2250.401.04	Contracted Services	\$27,000	A2250.475.04	Tuition Other	\$27,000	To cover Additional Student Therapy Services
A1310.160.04	Payroll	\$15,000	A1310.407.04	Consultant	\$15,000	Cover Additional Costs for Payroll CO

- i) The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit the online Letter of Intent for 2019-20 school year for services provided by BOCES in an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000.
- j) The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with Hofstra University for their students to obtain participation-observation and student-teaching experience with North Merrick teachers and students.
- k) The Board of Education awards the bid to Woods Mens and Boys Clothing to provide custodial uniforms on an as needed basis for the 2019-2020 school year.
- l) The Board of Education approves to appoint Kerrey Handibode as a clerk for the North Merrick Budget/Trustee Vote on May 21, 2019 from 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM and to attend mandatory BOLD Training and Board of Elections training for the 2018-2019 school year. Clerks are paid \$12.00 per hour.

Motion carried 6 – 0

POLICIES

Second and Final Policy Reading:

- a) It was moved by Mr. Lentini and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approves the adoption of Policy #4323, Availability of Alternative Format Instructional Materials for Students with Disabilities

Motion carried 6 - 0

- b) It was moved by Ms. Gordon and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approves the adoption of Policy #4324, Impartial Hearing Officer Appointment and Compensation

Motion carried 6 – 0

- c) It was moved by Mr. Lentini and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approves the adoption of Policy #9400, Disclosure of Wrongful Conduct (Whistleblower Policy)

Motion carried 6 - 0

SPECIAL SERVICES

It was moved by Mrs. Gordon and seconded by Mrs. Ryan that the Board of Education approves the twenty-two (22) Individualized Education Plans which were developed by the Committee on Special Education, as detailed in mailing.

Motion carried 6 – 0

HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Corona stated the high school acknowledges teacher tenures and that the Community CupBoard is helping to feed 64 families. Ms. Miller spoke about an art project called the Memory Project, which connects disadvantaged children and high school artists. Each student created a child's portrait to be given

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back to them as a keepsake. Mr. Corona reported on the passing of Lorraine Poppe, longtime principal of John F. Kennedy High School. He said that, a representative from the MAPS program gave a presentation to the high school Board. Last month, the Calhoun band competed in a trip to Disney, and students were delayed at airport. He noted that the budget vote is May 21 and explained the high school propositions.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS/PTA COUNCIL

Mrs. Gordon listed the many activities that will take place throughout the district, such as the Variety Show, PTA Installation Dinners, Bingo, Mad Scientist, Senior to Senior Social. Mrs. Gordon stated she will be hosting Field Day. The OMR Book of the Month is *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts. Author Amy McCoy will discuss her book at each of the schools in a presentation sponsored by SEPTA. She also mentioned that teacher appreciation will have a superhero theme, and there will be free professional development for teachers on Math and Movement.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Mr. Carder reported on the following:

- Weather conditions
- Belts and air filters for the rooftop ventilation were checked, adjusted or replaced
- Preparation for the summer program, including SCOPE Recreation and Camp Invention
- Summer cleaning
- Custodial bid award
- Finishing up doors at Camp
- Preparation for Field of Fags
- Conversation about solar panels
- Working with Nation Grid and LIPA/PSEG to get award for efficiency

COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Hyland stated she received one email communication.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Miller commented on Proposition 4 because she said many people have misunderstood what means, and that reducing Board seats would result in losing community voice. Ms. Hutchison suggested not to use this platform for discussion.

Mrs. Hyland asked for clarification on the MOA process. Ms. Hutchison explained the negotiations process, in which there is discussion, a proposal is submitted, there are meetings, and then a document is put together, and that document, the Memorandum of Agreement, changes the contract. An MOA is a shortened version of what is amended in the actual contract.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Corona stated that last week there was conversation about a contract being removed from the website. Dr. Seniuk stated she followed up with Joanne Long, District Clerk, and asked BlackBoard for a printout report, which verified that nothing was removed. She said contracts are public documents, and as such, they are posted on the website. She noted that the contracts are also available on SeeThroughNY. Mr. Corona spoke about the negotiations and said the information out in the public is not accurate. He stated that the district is in good financial standing and overseen by an outside auditor, RS Abrams, and an internal auditor, Cullen and Danowski. Mr. Corona stated he wants to get the message out to the public that if a resident or community member knows something that needs to be brought to the attention of the

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Board, please relay that information directly to us. Ms. Ryan said they took oaths as Board members, and it's their fiduciary responsibility. The Board continued to talk about taxes, past budget approval, and per pupil spending in the district. Mr. McDaid noted that in the 2018/19 school year, the district ranked 17th lowest out of 56 districts in Nassau County for per pupil spending at \$27,000 per student. The average was approximately \$30,000 per student.

Mr. Corona reiterated they can do more as a Board to get the correct information out to the community, and a Board website was suggested. Ms. Hutchinson stated the district has a website available.

Conversation ensued among the Board about the following: budgetary items - and how the district includes the cost breakdown of administrative costs and program costs; BOCES reimbursement; professional development; debt management based on 2015 voter approval for capital improvements; and the importance of maintaining facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Spilabotte commented on executive session and had a question regarding comment cards. She spoke about social media and the practice in the Northport School District regarding teacher negotiations. She stated Ms. Miller should not speak about Proposition 4, as that is electioneering.

Ms. Hyland stated executive session is part of the due diligence of the Board.

Ms. Hutchinson explained certain topics are for executive session.

Mr. Lentini reminded everyone that Board member are volunteers and take time away from their families to support the district.

Mr. Corona stated he went for training and makes it a point to ensure the Board abides by the law with respect to executive session items.

Ken D'Auria spoke about the back and forth comments and about the district being fiscally responsible. He commented on negotiations and wants North Merrick to attract the best staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Corona and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education approves to enter into executive session at 10:00 PM to discuss the appointment of particular persons.

Motion carried 6 - 0

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC

It was moved by Mrs. Gordon and seconded by Mr. Lentini that the Board of Education reconvenes to public at 10:50 PM.

Motion carried 6 - 0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Ms. Gordon and seconded by Ms. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 PM.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Long
District Clerk