

April 20, 2010

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD, NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK, HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE WINTHROP AVENUE SCHOOL ON TUESDAY, April 20, 2010 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**Those present:**

**Janet Goller, President**

**Jay L. T. Breakstone, Vice President**

**Marion Blane**

**Brian Desmond**

**Steven Traum**

**Joseph S. Famularo, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools**

**Deborah DeLuca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services**

**Deirdre Gambino, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Technology**

**Laura Ferrugiari, Counsel**

**Randy Yee, District Clerk**

Ms. Goller, President, called the work session meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at which time the Board reviewed:

- The agenda for the regular meeting
- The proposed Nassau BOCES 2010-2011 budget and the candidates for three seats on the Board
- The draft of the budget newsletter
- Contingency budget implications
- The Board calendar for 2010-2011

At 7:30 p.m. the Board met with the three principals.

Ms. Goller called the public meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Ms. Blane, to accept the minutes of the Board meetings of March 16 and April 13, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Correspondence**

Ms. Goller noted the Board received an invitation from the Bellmore Little League to participate in the opening day ceremonies.

**Purchasing**

Ms. Blane proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Desmond and unanimously approved 5-0.

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**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of its Internal Auditor to approve the warrants of Fund A Numbers 26-32; Fund C Number 7 and 8; Fund F Number 10; and Fund T Numbers 20 and 21, which are on file in the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Business.

**The resolution was carried 5 - 0.**

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Famularo began his report by noting that several outstanding teachers would be receiving tenure, and read the following quote from Will Foster, “Quality is never an accident...It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution. It represents the wise choice of many alternatives.” He stated that each of these teachers is a valued member of the *Community of Learners*.

**Phinola Baeza - Tenure**

Dr. Famularo stated that Phinola Baeza has met the standards, completed her probationary period with the District and is now recommended for tenure, noting the following:

“Ms. Baeza began in the District as a leave replacement teacher six years ago and has taught fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

She has a love of teaching and learning that is contagious. She creates an exciting classroom environment in which students are actively engaged in meaningful learning which inspires them to work to their fullest potential. Her ability to differentiate instruction and her emphasis on strategy instruction ensures student success across all content areas and settings.

Mrs. Baeza’s classroom environment promotes self-esteem and acceptance. She develops strong relationships with parents, creating partnerships that enhance student learning. She has created positive and collaborative relationships with the faculty and staff. Mrs. Baeza is an on-going contributor to the Bellmore Schools Community of Learners through her sharing of ideas and materials with her colleagues and serving as a member of many district-wide committees.”

Dr. Famularo concluded by saying that it was without hesitation that he recommends Phinola Baeza for tenure in the K- 6 General Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond, that Phinola Baeza be granted tenure in the K- 6 General Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Lauren Bencivenga - Tenure**

Dr. Famularo stated that Lauren Bencivenga has met the standards, completed her probationary period with the District and is now recommended for tenure:

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“Ms. Bencivenga began in the District as a permanent building substitute at Reinhard six years ago, and assumed several short-term leave replacement positions before accepting an assignment to teach second grade and, most recently, first grade in a co-teaching integrated model.

Ms. Bencivenga creates an accepting classroom environment in which students are challenged to reach their full potential. She successfully differentiates instruction to challenge those exceeding grade level expectations and to support those struggling in any area of the curriculum. She works closely with a special education teacher and a teaching assistant to ensure that the special needs students in her classroom make maximum progress.

She is well respected by her colleagues. She has accepted a leadership role teaching an introductory course in the use of SMARTboards in the classroom and facilitating a SMARTboard collegial circle. She is also an active member of the Reinhard Character Education Committee, and helped to create a schedule of events to support the district’s core values, in addition to her being a member of the district-wide Staff Development Committee and the Curriculum Advisory Committee.”

Dr. Famularo concluded by saying that it was without hesitation that he recommends Lauren Bencivenga for tenure in the K- 6 General Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane, that Lauren Bencivenga be granted tenure in the K- 6 General Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**John Dolan - Tenure**

Dr. Famularo stated that John Dolan has met the standards, completed his probationary period with the District and is now recommended for tenure:

“Mr. Dolan has taught fourth grade in the District for six years. He has consistently demonstrated the use of sound instructional practices and setting high standards for his students while focusing on addressing the individual needs of his students.

He works cooperatively within the Bellmore Schools Community of Learners to insure his students are provided with all the tools necessary for them to succeed. This year, as he accepted the assignment of working in a fourth grade inclusion setting, Mr. Dolan developed an excellent relationship with both the special education teacher and the teaching assistant who make up his inclusion team.

Mr. Dolan creates a positive classroom climate by encouraging students to take risks, work together, and appreciate one another’s similarities and differences. There is a high level of mutual respect, care and concern within his classroom. He is always eager and willing to open his classroom to students who benefit from mainstreaming experiences. Whether it’s for a read aloud, snack or special project, every child is made to feel “at home”.

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Mr. Dolan's commitment to our Community of Learners is evident. He is a member of the Winthrop Ave. Site Based Team, runs the Winthrop Ave. Student Council, serves on district-wide committees, and attends extracurricular after-school events."

Dr. Famularo concluded by saying that it was without hesitation that he recommends John Dolan for tenure in the K- 6 General Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Breakstone, that John Dolan be granted tenure in the K- 6 General Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Katy O'Bier - Tenure**

Dr. Famularo stated that Katy O'Bier has met the standards, completed her probationary period with the District and is now recommended for tenure:

"Mrs. O'Bier is an outstanding and passionate special educator. She has worked in the District as a special education teacher in the 8:1:1 self-contained classrooms for students with autism and multiple disabilities.

She is extremely knowledgeable about each of her students' abilities and disabilities, and the strategies which best support these students' learning. Through her efforts, each student's educational program is individualized to ensure that they make maximum progress socially, academically and behaviorally. She provides staff development for the paraprofessionals in her classroom in order to train them to use the strategies necessary for student success. She also works cooperatively with the other members of the special education team to ensure that therapies are integrated into the students' classroom activities.

Mrs. O'Bier's commitment to professional growth is evidenced by the many in-service courses and conferences she has attended. Additionally, she has served on the District's Staff Development Committee and Curriculum Advisory Committee."

Dr. Famularo concluded by saying that it was without hesitation that he recommends Katy O'Bier for tenure in the Special Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Desmond that Katy O'Bier be granted tenure in the Special Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Jeanette Reilly - Tenure**

Dr. Famularo stated that Jeanette Reilly has met the standards, completed her probationary period with the District and is now recommended for tenure:

"Ms. Reilly is a special education teacher who works with small groups of students who require support or special education services in both reading and mathematics. In addition to

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consistently differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners, she has developed positive relationships with her students and created an environment in which students thrive.

In addition to teaching, Ms. Reilly's responsibilities include administering standardized tests to individual students, writing assessment reports, and participating in Instructional Support Team meetings and Committee on Special Education meetings. She demonstrates professionalism and care in all aspects of her duties.

Ms. Reilly also consistently demonstrates her commitment to the Bellmore Schools Community of Learners. She has established positive relationships with parents, strengthening the home/school connection that is so important to student learning, and has become a valuable resource to her fellow teachers. She has also made significant contributions to the District's Curriculum Advisory and English Language Arts Committees."

Dr. Famularo concluded by saying that it was without hesitation that he recommends Jeanette Reilly for tenure in the Special Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Ms. Blane that Jeanette Reilly be granted tenure in the Special Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Theresa Wallace- Tenure**

Dr. Famularo stated that Theresa Wallace has met the standards, completed her probationary period with the District and is now recommended for tenure:

"Mrs. Wallace has worked in the District for the six years and has taught fourth grade for the past five years. She creates a classroom environment in which student respect, teamwork, and collaboration is promoted. Hands-on learning activities provides her students with engaging and meaningful learning experiences. Mrs. Wallace sets high standards, and her students are often found asking high-level questions, assessing their own work, and initiating enhancements to their assignments. She demonstrates a thorough knowledge of her students and uses this knowledge to plan and differentiate her lessons.

Mrs. Wallace is an active and positive contributor to the Bellmore Schools Community of Learners. She has established productive relationships with parents and support staff to ensure that her students are receiving all the support they need to reach their potential. She is also a cooperative member of her grade level team, always eager to share materials and ideas.

In addition to her commitment to professional development demonstrated by the many in-service courses she takes, Mrs. Wallace is a valued member of the Winthrop Ave. Site Based Team. Her insight and perspective are always welcomed in the shared decision making process."

Dr. Famularo concluded that it is without hesitation that he recommends Theresa Wallace for tenure in the K- 6 General Education area effective September 1, 2010.

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**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Desmond that Theresa Wallace be granted tenure in the K-6 General Education area effective September 1, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Kerri Ann SanPietro**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Breakstone, that Kerri Ann SanPietro be appointed to a leave replacement position on MA Step 1 of the teacher's salary schedule effective April 12 through June 25, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Lori Garabedian**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Breakstone that Lori Garabedian be appointed to a leave replacement position on MA Step 1 of the teacher's salary schedule effective May 3 through June 25, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Stephanie Siano**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Breakstone, and seconded by Mr. Traum, that Stephanie Siano be appointed a building substitute effective April 12 through June 25, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Joshua Isola**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Breakstone, that Joshua Isola be appointed to a teaching assistant position on Step 1 of the teaching assistant salary schedule effective April 21, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**CSE/CPSE**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Breakstone, to approve the recommendations of the CSE/CPSE on file in the District Office.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Nassau BOCES Election and Budget Vote**

Mr. Breakstone proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Ms. Blane and approved 5-0.

***WHEREAS, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (hereinafter "Nassau BOCES") has proposed and presented its Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2010-11 school year (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011), now therefore be it***

***RESOLVED, that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2010-11 school year in the amount of eighteen million four hundred twenty-eight thousand three hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$18,428,387) be, and hereby is, APPROVED by this Board.***

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**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Breakstone and seconded by Mr. Traum that the Bellmore Board of Education cast one vote each for the following candidates: Ronald Ellerbe, Gale Ross-Srulevich and Robert “B.A.” Schoen.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

Mr. Breakstone noted that the individuals for which the Board cast their vote have worked with the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association and are outstanding individuals.

**Records Retention Resolution**

Mr. Breakstone proposed the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Traum and unanimously approved 5- 0.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore Union Free School District that *Records Retention and Disposition Schedule ED-1*, issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

(a) only those records will be disposed of that are described in Records Retention and Disposition Schedule ED-1 after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein:

(b) only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

**Second Reading of Policies**

It was noted that the Board was having the second reading of the following policies:

Policy # 5151 – Bellmore Public Schools Policy on the Education of Homeless Children

Policy #6640 – Title I – Inventory, Accounting of Fixed Assets, and Tracking Policy

Policy #7316 – Internet Safety Policy

**Election Personnel**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Breakstone to approve the election personnel for the Bellmore UFSD Annual Budget and Trustee Vote on May 18, 2010, as detailed in an attachment on file in the District Office.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Visitors**

The six tenure recipients were congratulated by Gloria Panella, BFO President; Clifford Molinelli, BAA President; and Barbara Haimson, PTA Co-President. Mr. Breakstone noted that granting tenure is an important decision the Board makes, and shows the Board’s faith in those recipients.

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**Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services**

Dr. Deborah DeLuca reported the following:

During the week of April 26<sup>th</sup>, students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be taking the New York State English Language Arts Assessment. Scoring for all grade levels will be completed by May 7<sup>th</sup>. All students are prepared for the ELA test through classroom instruction which focused on learned and applied testing strategies, and some students received additional support in sessions held before, during, and after school.

Many third and fifth grade students were busy working on their projects for this year's Science Fairs which were held on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Students met with consultant, Brian Wallrapp to fine tune their procedures, required materials and hypotheses, as they employed the scientific method to explore an area of interest to them.

Mrs. Lebowitz's class has been working on a Tomie de Paolo author study. As part of this study, they participated in a video-conference activity with another school in Burrows, NY, which is a suburb of Buffalo, related to the book Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato. Mrs. Lebowitz's students brought potatoes to school for this activity. They followed directions provided by the students in Burrows to create specific potato heads. Our students then got a chance to describe potato heads from their imaginations for the students in Burrows to recreate. The students were able to evaluate how well they described their potato heads based on the other class's products. The classes also shared class stories they had written, which were innovations of Tomie de Paolo's Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato. This was a wonderful interactive experience for these two second grade classes who live hundreds of miles away from each other to work on their listening and speaking skills.

The entire Early Childhood Center enjoyed performances by the Winthrop Avenue chorus, under the direction of Erica Davis. This tribute to Music in our School's Month was a wonderful way for the students at Reinhard to learn about the musical experiences awaiting them at Winthrop.

Thanks to our PTA Health and Safety committee, the students at Reinhard attended assemblies conducted by representatives from the American Automobile Association. This timely presentation reminded students of what they need to do to remain safe when riding their bicycles or skate boards. With the nicer weather upon us, students will have more opportunities to play outside and helping them to understand how to exercise safe choices can not be minimized.

The core value of trust was introduced to the students at the Early Childhood Center at the beginning of March with classroom teacher read-alouds. Each day during the morning announcements, students are reminded of this core value and the motto we have been using to teach this value, "You can count on me". Mr. Molinelli read the book Chubbo's Pool by Betsy Lewin to each grade level. Through this story about a cantankerous hippo, who refused to share his watering hole with the other animals, and a group of elephants, who came to his rescue to refill his watering hole after it dried up, despite his ill natured attitude – the students talked about how one can be true, honest, and reliable despite the behaviors of others. All of our Reinhard Rising Stars are continuing to work at developing this core value in their everyday behavior.

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Our students were treated to a PTA Cultural Arts Presentation called “The Magic of Chemistry.” This interactive program was both educational and entertaining.

As part of P.A.R.P., our students participated in author Jason Edward’s “Monster Hunt” in our library. Not only did they get to meet the author, they spent an hour with him going on a “Monster Hunt.”

Third and fourth grade students were treated to a gymnastics demonstration. Many students demonstrated their abilities in gymnastics to the rest of their grade level. The audience was amazed at what their schoolmates could do. The purpose of the demonstration was to have students experience a “gymnastics show” and to promote the sport of gymnastics.

Mike Harrold met with our sixth grade students to enhance their learning about Egypt as well as to expose them to cultures other than our own. Mr. Harrold’s focus is to give students a hands-on experience with artifacts from different regions around the world.

Student-athletes from Kennedy High School met with all of our sixth grade classes to begin developing a rapport with them. Over the course of the next few weeks, the high school athletes will return to work with our sixth graders on games and activities, as well as in discussion groups, that will guide them in choosing a healthy life style, perhaps involving sports, as they progress from the elementary level to the CHSD.

Students in Mrs. Acevedo’s and Mrs. Segerdahl’s classes had the opportunity to participate in Conference for Kids hosted at the New York Institute of Technology at Old Westbury. The students are given a variety of workshops to choose from that range among interest areas including math, science, and history. Each workshop is designed to allow the students to investigate areas in specific fields of study. For instance, one workshop entitled “Underwater Forensic Science” allowed students to determine historical events that occurred in 1918 by using items from a shipwreck off the coast of Long Island. The students enjoyed the day, and especially liked being given the freedom to select workshops of interest and share what they learned with their teachers and peers.

Former graduates of Shore Road School, now eighth graders at the middle school, visited with our sixth grade students to begin their orientation and transition process to the CHSD. Students from Grand Avenue spoke about life in middle school and addressed many of the questions that our students had about next year. Next week, sixth graders will visit Grand Avenue Middle School to take a tour of the building, meet administrators and guidance counselors as well as attend a presentation in the auditorium.

Professionals from the Dolan DNA Learning Center in Cold Spring Harbor facilitated a lab with sixth grade students, where they discussed genetics as well as building models of a cell. This science lab is the first of two interactions that our sixth graders have with the researchers/teachers from the DNA Center. Next month, students will visit the museum in Cold Spring Harbor and participate in another interesting science lab.

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**Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Technology**

**Nassau County Directors of School Facilities Purchasing Consortium Cooperative Bid**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Breakstone that the Board of Education approve the District's participation in the Nassau County Directors of School Facilities Purchasing Consortium Cooperative Bids as per documentation on file in the District Office.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Inter-Municipal Cooperation Transportation Bid**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Ms. Blane that the Board of Education of the Bellmore Union Free School District approve the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Bid with Nassau BOCES as per documentation on file in the District Office.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Obsolete Items**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Ms. Blane that the Board of Education declare obsolete the four damaged items at the C.A. Reinhard School as per correspondence from Mr. Molinelli which is on file in the District Office.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Desmond that the Board of Education declare obsolete the four outdated pieces of gymnastic equipment at the Winthrop Ave. School as requested by Mrs. Curto in correspondence on file in the District Office.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Budget Transfer**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Desmond that the Board of Education approve budget transfers in the amounts over \$5,000 as per a Request for Budgetary Transfers document on file in the Office of the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Technology.

**The motion was carried 5 – 0.**

**Budget Update**

Mrs. Gambino reported that the Board of Education has adopted a proposed 2010-2011 budget. The approved budget is in the amount of \$30,802,649 which is a 2.97% budget to budget increase and a 3.96% levy to levy increase.

On Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education will conduct a public budget hearing at the Shore Road School. The budget vote and trustee elections will take place at the Shore Road School on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 7 am to 10 p.m.

**Interest Income**

Mrs. Gambino reported that the total interest received from all funds for the period July 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 is \$ \$59,415.53.

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*Community Relations*

Ms. Blane said that Wednesday night's Founder's Day was a memorable night. So many children participated in entertaining, and each of the recipients was deserving of their honors. She also noted the Belltones performed to the delight of all, especially the children.

*Central High School District*

Ms. Blane stated that the Central High School Board met last week, at which time, Mr. Tanenbaum reported on Scholarship Day, and many students received recognition for various achievements. Ms. Goller added that the Project Lead the Way students presented their outstanding work. She shared that Project Lead the Way is a pre-engineering program designed for students who are interested in a career in engineering. Lastly, a Calhoun H.S. social studies teacher was recognized as the recipient of a teacher of the year award.

*Legislation*

Mr. Breakstone stated that he had just spent a two days in Albany, noting that things are still not getting done due to a lack of leadership. He said he shared with legislators that "school must go on"; school districts must be ready in September to educate students regardless of whether or not the State has a budget. He made clear to the legislators that it is difficult for school districts to propose a budget to residents without knowing what they can expect from the State in terms of aid.

*By-laws*

Mr. Traum reviewed the three policies:

- Policy # 5151 – Bellmore Public Schools Policy on the Education of Homeless Children
- Policy #6640 – Title I – Inventory, Accounting of Fixed Assets, and Tracking Policy
- Policy #7316 – Internet Safety Policy

*Old/New Business*

None.

*Visitors*

None.

Ms. Goller announced that the next meeting would be the Public Hearing/ Work Session on May 4, 2010 and the next regular meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2010 at 9:00 p.m.

There being no further business, A **MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Desmond that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Yee, District Clerk

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