

March 16, 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 BOARD ROOM OF THE WINTHROP AVENUE SCHOOL ON TUESDAY, March 16, 2010 AT 8:00 P.M.

Those present:

Janet Goller, President

Jay L. T. Breakstone, Vice President

Marion Blane

Brian Desmond

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

Jack S. Feldman, Esq.

Randy Yee, District Clerk

Steven Traum was absent and excused.

Ms. Goller, President, called the work session to order at 7:00 p.m. at which time the Board reviewed the agenda. At 8:00 p.m. Ms. Goller, President, called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Breakstone seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the minutes of the Board meetings of February 9, March 2, and March 9, 2010.

The motion was carried 4-0.

Treasurer's Report

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Breakstone seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the treasurer's reports for the months ending January 31, and February 28, 2010.

The motion was carried 4-0.

Correspondence

None

Purchasing

Ms. Blane proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Desmond and unanimously approved 4-0.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of its Claims Auditor to approve the warrants of Fund A – 22-25; Fund C – 6; Fund F – 9; Fund HB – 4; Fund HC – 4; Fund HS – 6; and Fund T – 18 and 19, which are on file in the District Office.

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Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Famularo began his report by thanking the PTA for organizing a very successful event, the Bellmore Buzzers vs. The Harlem Wizards. He noted that the Buzzers team is made up of teachers, administrators, and parents. It is a great family event enjoyed by the entire district.

**E. Braverman, M. B. Cammarata, E. Haines, S. Karolkowski
D. McCardell, L. Rubino, M. Scheinblum**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Desmond that an extended unpaid childcare leave of absence be approved for the following teachers for the 2010-2011 school year.

E. Braverman D. McCardell
M.B. Cammarata L. Rubino
E. Haines M. Scheinblum
S. Karolkowski

Julie Nelsen, Darlene Hiller

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Desmond and seconded by Ms. Blane that Julie Nelsen be appointed to a leave replacement position on Step 1 of the MA teacher's salary schedule effective March 5 through June 25, 2010.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Desmond and seconded by Ms. Blane that Darlene Hiller be appointed to a leave replacement position on Step 1 of the MA teacher's salary schedule, effective March 25 through June 25, 2010.

The motion was carried 4-0.

Jessica McDaniel

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Breakstone and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve a child care leave of absence for speech pathologist Jessica McDaniel effective May 11 through June 30, 2010.

The motion was carried 4-0.

Linda Loucas

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Desmond and seconded by Ms. Blane to accept the resignation of school monitor Linda Loucas effective March 26, 2010, and to place Ms. Loucas on the substitute monitor list effective March 29, 2010.

The motion was carried 4-0.

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Rosemary Segerdahl

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Breakstone and seconded by Ms. Blane to approve an unpaid medical leave of absence for classroom teacher Rosemary Segerdahl effective February 22 through March 24, 2010.

The motion was carried 4-0.

CSE/CPSE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Desmond and seconded by Ms. Blane that the recommendations of the CSE/CPSE be approved, for the students as per an attachment on file in the District office.

The motion was carried 4-0.

Dr. Famularo concluded his report by noting that the following teachers would be recommended to receive tenure at the next regular meeting: Phinola Baeza, Lauren Bencivenga, John Dolan, Katy O'Bier, Jeanette Reilly and Theresa Wallace.

Visitors

None

Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services

Dr. DeLuca reported that students in grades 3-6 are in the process of taking the math practice assessments. Scoring of the practice assessments is scheduled to be completed for all grades by the end of the month.

Staff Development Day was held on Friday, March 5, 2010. Feedback from this day was positive. Mr. Gary McGuey, co-author of The Inspirational Teacher, was the keynote speaker, and facilitated breakout sessions with the instructional staff members. In addition to attending the breakout sessions with Mr. McGuey, the staff had an opportunity to meet with their team or grade level colleagues. Feedback was also very positive from the non-instructional staff members who received training in the areas of Getting Organized, Violence Safety, and School Safety.

The third and fifth grade students were invited to participate in this year's Science Fair. Students in each of these grades received packets providing information on how to enter the fair and how to conduct a science project. Mr. Wallrapp, the science consultant, met with each third and fifth grade class to discuss the dynamics of a science fair, and will then meet individually with students who have chosen to participate.

Through the Reinhard Early Childhood Center Student Advisory Council, students are remembering the armed forces that are fighting overseas. Students are bringing in a variety of items such as batteries, hard candy, instant coffee bags, trail mix, magazines, sunscreen, lip balm, playing cards, hand lotion, hand sanitizer, travel toothbrushes, etc. These items will be

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packed up at the end of the month and sent to the armed forces. What a wonderful way for the students to be involved in helping others.

Since the first day of school, kindergarten and first grade students have been counting the total days of school each day during their calendar time. Students reinforce math concepts such as counting by ones and tens, recognizing place value and writing numerals through this daily activity. Two snow days changed the date of the 100th day, but the celebration was not dampened by this change. The entire school community gathered in the auditorium, where they counted 100 Reinhard Rising Stars by ones and fives, sang 100th day songs, shared in 100 seconds of silence, and were challenged to figure out how many years needed to be added to Mr. Molinelli's age to reach 100 years. These were just the start of the many 100 activities which filled the students' day. Teachers immersed students in 100 day activities, carrying over this math concept to all areas of the curriculum.

Students from Kennedy High School HOPE (Helping The Planet Earth) Club visited each second grade classroom to introduce them to a special project they conceived this year, "Reinhard Recyclers to the Rescue". They conducted a lesson about how recycling helps the planet, including reading the picture book, Why Should I Recycle?. They left recycling bins in each of the classrooms and encouraged students to recycle their water bottles. They will visit the classes weekly for the next ten weeks to collect the bottles and return them for deposit. The money collected through this project will go toward the symbolic adoption of an endangered species through the World Wildlife Fund. Each class will choose a species from a list provided by the HOPE club, and a stuffed animal and certificate will be presented to each class in April to commemorate this "adoption". We are all encouraged by this partnership with Kennedy High School and how it will help the students to better understand the importance of preserving the environment.

Reinhard's Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) program is well under way. The theme this year is "Don't bug me I'm reading!" Students created a variety of different bugs which line the halls and are adding their minutes read each week by bringing in lady bugs which are crawling up the "Reinhard vine" in the main lobby.

Mrs. Wallace's 4th grade class was collaborating on running a fundraiser just before the New Year. They were discussing various charities they could donate to and creating a plan as a class. When the earthquake struck Haiti, the students knew then that helping the victims of this horrific natural disaster was of the utmost importance. They created "Hearts for Haiti" and set a goal of \$1,000. They not only met this goal, but exceeded it by asking for friends and family members to donate. Each person or family received a heart with their name on it, which is displayed outside of Mrs. Wallace's classroom.

Just before the winter vacation, Winthrop Avenue's learning community was treated to a wonderful "Friendship Concert." The students did an amazing job. Without any dress rehearsals, due to the snow days, they rose to the occasion and put on a delightful show. Congratulations to the boys, girls, and Mrs. Davis for a job well done!

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Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) at the Winthrop Ave. School began just after the February Break. The theme this year is, "It's No Mystery, Reading Clues You In!" Mrs. Curto has been offering clues to the students about what her principal's challenge will be if the students do their part and participate in P.A.R.P. "Mystery Readers" have joined the teachers in the classrooms to surprise students with a read aloud. We also ran a Book Swap in the library with the help of Mrs. Falabella. Students brought in books they had already read and traded them for other used books. Each child left with at least one new book in hand and smiles on their faces! As part of P.A.R.P., the "Bodacious Book Show" came to Winthrop and put on a very entertaining show for the children. The children were inspired to explore different types of books and read, read, read!

Family Fun Night was just that- fun! With the help of teacher "team captains" and parent coaches, the event was very successful. The boys, girls, parents, and teachers participated in many relays and a cage ball game. Each team seemed to have a great time. It was great fun to bring the learning community together for this kind of event! The team effort ensured that the evening was simply "funtastic."

Fifth graders assembled in the lobby recently to listen to a read-aloud entitled, Henry's Freedom Box, a story about a young man who escaped to freedom during the 1800s here in the United States. In order to accomplish this feat, Henry had to trust a number of people in Virginia where he was a slave, as well as people in Philadelphia. Students discussed the examples of trust in the story in addition to citing examples of this core value in their daily lives. Sixth graders met in their classrooms to discuss this month's core value and participate in some activities related to trust.

Representatives from CAPS visited all of the sixth grade classes for a presentation about safety on the internet. Students were engaged in thoughtful discussion about this topic, which is one that we have emphasized during the course of the school year. Students viewed two videos on cyber safety related to predators on the internet.

To celebrate "Music In The Schools" month, the Shore Road Orchestra had the wonderful opportunity of participating in a "Music Fest" morning, along with the Kennedy High School Orchestra. The students played their new orchestra music while being mentored by the high school students. Fifth and sixth graders got a glimpse of what they can look forward to during their future high school experience.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Technology

Cooperative Transportation Agreement

Mr. Breakstone proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Desmond and approved 4-0.

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provision of Education Law, 1907 and 3635, and General Municipal Law, 119-0 relating to municipal cooperative activities, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is hereby authorized and directed to continue its participation in a regional transportation consortium with its component

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elementary districts to provide for the regional transportation of elementary and secondary students to the District and its components to the schools which such students attend in accordance with the parameters defined in a document entitled "Cooperative Student Transportation Feasibility Study" dated March 1989; the forgoing resolution shall be operative to commit the Bellmore School District to participation in such regional transportation system only for the 2010-11 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized and directed to take such other and further actions as shall be necessary or appropriate to give effect to the within resolution.

Mr. Breakstone stated that there has been so much in the news about these types of cooperative agreements and how they can save districts money. It should be noted that the CHSD and the components have been involved in this cooperative for a very long time.

Acceptance of Gift

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Desmond and seconded by Mr. Breakstone to accept a donation of five (5) Dell computers from Mr. Walden.

The motion was carried 4-0.

The Board thanked Mr. Walden for his interest and generosity to the students and the school community.

Interest Income

Mrs. Gambino reported that total interest received from all funds for the time period July 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 is \$54,838.63.

Community Relations

Ms. Blane reported that the Harlem Wizards vs. the Bellmore Buzzers was a great evening filled with so much energy. Ms. Goller added that everyone involved in putting together such a great family night should be commended for their efforts.

Ms. Goller added that the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD Scholarship Drive is back under the direction of former Bellmore board member Ted Tanenbaum. She urged everyone to support the drive.

Central High School District

Ms. Blane reported that the Central High School District Board of Education recognized a number of individuals and teams at their last meeting, including Bellmore resident Joan Kleiman, the air rifle team, wrestling team, and boys winter track team. At the CHSD Founder's Day, Rhonda Breakstone received a distinguished service award. It was also noted that the drama presentations of Little Shop of Horrors at Kennedy and Hello Dolly at Calhoun will feature a number of Bellmore Schools graduates.

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Legislative

Mr. Breakstone noted that the State government appears in total disarray, with questionable leadership. He continued by stating that the State budget remains uncertain, which leaves school districts in a difficult position when it comes to preparing their budgets. Mr. Breakstone also spoke about a sobering message from Tom Rogers delivered at the annual PTA legislative brunch. Mr. Rogers spoke about how Long Island is not a manufacturing economy, and it is important that we get educational levels up to meet the job levels on Long Island. Mr. Breakstone concluded by stating that regardless of the unknowns and questions from Albany, we must still educate our students.

Bylaws

No report

Old /NewBusiness

Ms. Goller noted it has been a very tough season with regard to weather, and thanked Mr. Hendrickson and his staff for their hard work. She also commended them for their work in the buildings and noted that the District is pleased to be saving money by doing projects in-house.

Visitors

None.

Ms. Goller announced the next regular Board meeting will be held on April 20, 2010 and the next work session on April 13, 2010.

There being no further business, **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Breakstone and seconded by Ms. Blane to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The motion was carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Yee, District Clerk