

October 20, 2009

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, October 20, 2009 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 A. Ferrugiari, Esq.

Randy Yee, District Clerk

Ms. Goller, President, called the work session to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Board reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting.

The Board discussed the implications of Governor Patterson's proposal for mid-year reductions in state aid.

Voluntary school absenteeism was discussed in light of a possible outbreak of H1N1. The District has taken many steps to reduce the impact to students and staff. The Nassau County Board of Health has made recommendations regarding immunizations for both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane to enter executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

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

The Board re-entered public session at 8:05 p.m. at which time Ms. Goller, President, called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Famularo told those in attendance that it was School Board Appreciation Week, and we thank the Board members who are unpaid, elected officials for their tireless efforts on behalf of the children. He noted there are many things the Board does behind the scenes that go unnoticed but make our schools great places for children and staff alike.

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Mr. Clifford Molinelli, President of the Bellmore Administrators Association; Ms. Gloria Panella, President of the Bellmore Faculty Association; Mrs. Jeanne Quinn, President of the Civil Service Employee Association; and Mrs. Barbara Haimson, Co-President of the PTA all thanked the Board for their time and dedication working on behalf of the entire Bellmore Schools community.

A video presentation was shown on the SMART Board of students thanking the Board for the many wonderful programs and materials they have in their schools. Students then presented each Board member with a DVD copy of the presentation.

Ms. Goller thanked the students and staff for the DVD and noted that serving on the Board can be challenging, yet it is very rewarding to work on behalf of children and watch them learn and grow. She said the Board appreciated all of the kind words and it is an honor to serve on the Board.

Minutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Breakstone seconded by Mr. Traum to accept the minutes of the Board meetings of September 15 and October 6, 2009.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum seconded by Ms. Blane to accept the treasurer's reports for the months ending August 31 and September 30, 2009.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Correspondence

None

Purchasing

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of its Claims Auditor to approve the warrants of Fund A – 6 and 7; Fund HS – 3; Fund F – 4; Fund HB – 1; Fund C – 1; and Fund T – 7 – 9, which are on file in the District Office.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Timothy Beale

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the resignation of building substitute teacher Timothy Beale effective October 21, 2009.

The motion was carried 5-0.

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Robin Kassorla

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the resignation of teacher aide Robin Kassorla effective September 25, 2009.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Julianne Hill

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the resignation of school monitor, Julianne Hill effective October 20, 2009; to appoint Julianne Hill to a teacher aide position on Step 3 of the teacher aide salary schedule effective October 21, 2009.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Theresa Caridi

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to appoint Theresa Caridi to a teacher aide position on Step 1 of the teacher aide salary schedule effective October 21, 2009.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Dawn Balnis

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to appoint Dawn Balnis to a school monitor position on Step 1 of the school monitor salary schedule effective October 21, 2009.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Juan Claire

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to appoint Juan Claire to a cleaner position on Step 1 of the cleaner salary schedule effective November 2, 2009.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Theresa Padula

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve a family medical leave of absence for special education teacher Theresa Padula effective November 16, 2009 for a period of 12 weeks, followed by an unpaid childcare leave of absence through April 6, 2010.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Kristin O'Connor

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve a family medical leave of absence for classroom teacher Kristin O'Connor effective December 14, 2009 for a period of 12 weeks.

The motion was carried 5-0.

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Katy O'Bier

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve a family medical leave of absence for special education teacher Katy O'Bier effective January 4, 2010 for a period of 12 weeks.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Rachel Gutlaizer

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to appoint Rachel Gutlaizer to a leave replacement teaching position on MA Step 1 of the teacher salary schedule effective October 5, 2009 for a period of 12 weeks.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Darlene Hiller

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to appoint Darlene Hiller to a leave replacement teaching position on MA Step 1 of the teacher salary schedule effective December 14, 2009 for a period of 12 weeks.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Risch

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to appoint Jacqueline Risch to a leave replacement teaching position on MA Step 1 of the teacher salary schedule effective January 4, 2010 for a period of 12 weeks.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Substitutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve the lists of substitute teachers, monitors, aides, teaching assistants, and cleaners on file in the District Office for the 2009-2010 school year.

The motion was carried 5-0.

CSE/CPSE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond 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 5-0.

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Visitors

None

Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services

Dr. DeLuca reported that articulation meetings are being planned for the upcoming school year with the component districts and middle school personnel. Topics will include:

- Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Possible “Transition Team” made up of teachers from elementary schools and middle schools
- Conversations around alignment in the areas of English Language Arts, Math and Science

A well attended SEPTA meeting was held on the evening of Wednesday, October 14th at the Winthrop Avenue School. Dr. DeLuca, Mrs. Plotkin, Mr. Molinelli, Mrs. Dacek, Dr. Lange, and Ms. Beneville met with the parents of SEPTA to review the differences between home services, school-based services, and mandated services. A review of school personnel who support children each day and who work to meet their Individualized Education Program (IEP) behavioral and educational goals was presented. In addition, parents were walked through the process of what to do when they have issues or concerns about their child’s progress in school.

Professional development is continuing with course offerings including *How to Create an Interactive SMART Board Lesson* and *How to Build Curriculum Related Board Games*.

A SMART Board collegial circle at Reinhard will focus on teachers sharing lessons they have developed thus far using this technology, and support each other in their efforts to fully use this classroom tool to enhance instruction and student learning.

Seventeen new SMART Boards were installed in classrooms and the library at the Early Childhood Center over the summer. Teachers received training on the use of this instructional tool and have begun to use it in their classrooms. Additional staff development was provided, now that teachers have had a chance to begin to explore the many uses of this tool.

Reinhard Open House was held on Thursday, September 17th. This night provided an opportunity for teachers to meet with parents and discuss all they have planned for this school year. In addition to visiting their children’s classroom teachers, parents had the opportunity to visit special area teachers and supportive service providers.

As part of the new Physical Education Compliance Plan, all classes are engaging in deskercise everyday. Using their SMART Boards, teachers download streaming videos of Slim Goodbody, who leads the students in this exercise program right at their desks. The videos are also linked to holidays and calendar events. All are enjoying this physical activity as they get their bodies and brains ready to engage in the new learning experiences their teachers have prepared for them each day.

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The Epilepsy Foundation visited the Early Childhood Center and presented a puppet show to all second grade classes. Through this presentation our students learned what epilepsy is and isn't. They also learned first aid for a seizure. The school psychologists have been visiting classrooms to read picture books about autism, epilepsy, and dwarfism. There are students attending Reinhard with all of these disabilities. Through these presentations students are learning to be accepting and understanding of all within our learning community.

Reinhard's character education program was kicked off with the Reinhard Rising Star Pep Rally. All within the learning community gathered in the auditorium, with classes representing each of the core values sitting in the same sections. Students shared the songs, chants, or raps they had learned with Mrs. Andersen, the Early Childhood Center music teacher; recited the Character Education Pledge; and held up the stars they had made in art class with Mrs. Hertzberg and Mr. Gorey as everyone "reached for the stars". This was the official kick off of the character education program, which will last all year. Students will be introduced to each character trait through read-alouds, will be prompted to demonstrate each core value through integration of these positive character traits into classroom instruction; and will be recognized for specific behaviors which exemplify each of the core values as they become the stars in the "Constellation of Reinhard Rising Stars".

Winthrop Avenue's Back-to-School Night was very successful. The teachers provided parents with information about their child's daily school routine as well as the curriculum and grade level expectations. The parents had the opportunity to ask any questions and became acquainted with their child's teacher. The teachers used Smart Board technology for their presentations, which gave parents the chance to experience this interactive tool first hand.

The Winthrop Ave. students thoroughly enjoyed "Reading Rampage," an interactive assembly program presented by Steve Petra of Petra Puppets. This assembly was lively and engaging, but best of all, reminded students of the importance of reading. Thank you to the PTA Cultural Arts Committee for a very entertaining morning.

Mrs. Curto has been visiting each classroom to read a book entitled One, by Kathryn Otoshi. The theme of this picture book is, "treating others the way you would like to be treated." Children participated in class discussions about the District's core value of respect, making valuable connections to their own lives in and out of school.

Mrs. Curto sent an activity home for the children to complete about respect. The children were asked to discuss with their parents ways they show respect at home and in school. Their responses were written on leaves that will adorn our newly painted tree on the first floor. Throughout the year, Mrs. Curto will ask students to complete a new assignment for each core value we study. Eventually, the assignments will create a mural that celebrates all of the District's core values. Mr. Gorey was thanked for painting the scene for the Winning Star mural.

New York State Senator Fuschillo visited Mrs. Marks' and Mrs. Padula's fourth grade class. The children used the Smart Board during a Spanish lesson with Mrs. Frankel, a mathematics activity

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with Mrs. Padula, and a geography lesson with Mrs. Marks. The children were excited to demonstrate the ways in which they use the Smart Board as a tool for learning in the classroom. Dr. Famularo presented Senator Fuschillo with a certificate of appreciation for the important role he played in helping the district acquire Smart Boards.

Band and orchestra lessons are in full swing at Winthrop Avenue. The children receive small group lessons once a week. Both programs are very popular. Eventually, the children will meet in the mornings as both third and fourth grade orchestra and the band prepare for annual concerts.

Fifth and sixth graders assembled together in the Shore Road gym at morning arrival to sing “The Star Spangled Banner” in celebration of National Anthem Day. The inspiration for Frances Scott Key’s poem was discussed.

Fifth graders assembled in the lobby to listen to a read-aloud of the book, The Golden Rule by Ilene Cooper. Its connection to the core value of respect was discussed.

The sixth grade classes attended Project Adventure, a BOCES outdoor environmental program which challenges students to work together as a team to accomplish a series of tasks.

Fifth grade teachers attended a morning staff development workshop focusing on the topic of Energy. Mr. Wallrapp presented information and suggested ideas for incorporating this concept into all of our science units. Hands-on activities were modeled as well.

Members of the building’s Safety Team met to review current emergency plans and to open discussion on any possible changes that might benefit the school community.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Technology

Budget Transfers

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Breakstone to approve budget transfers for amounts over \$5,000 as per a Request for Budgetary Transfers on file in the District Office.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Audit Report

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Traum, seconded by Ms. Blane and unanimously approved 5-0.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Bellmore Union Free School District hereby accepts for filing the annual audit for the 2008-2009 fiscal year conducted by the independent auditing firm of Coughlin Foundotos Cullen & Danowski, and directs that a copy of the audit and resolution accepting it be filed in the Office of the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Commissioner’s Regulations 170.2.

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Obsolete Items

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Breakstone and seconded by Ms. Blane to declare two teacher desks at Winthrop Ave. obsolete and ready for discard as per a memorandum on file in the District Office.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Target Donation

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane to accept a donation totaling \$151.61 (Winthrop Ave. - \$91.67; Reinhard - \$59.94) on behalf of Target and the Take Charge of Education Program, and that the funds be applied to A2110-450 in each building code.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Annuity Providers

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Breakstone, seconded by Mr. Desmond, and unanimously approved 5-0.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Bellmore Union Free School District approve the list of 403(b) providers on file in the District Office.

Mr. Traum asked who put together the list of providers. Mrs. Gambino responded that the base list came from the OMNI403(b).com website with a new provider, Mass Mutual.

Change Order

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Bellmore Union Free School District approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$30,710 for Sun Power Solar Systems as per correspondence on file in the District Office, and that the President execute the change order documents.

Interest Income

Mrs. Gambino reported that total interest received from all funds for the time period July 1, 2009 through September 2009 is \$32,722.03

Report of the Director of Facilities

Mr. Hendrickson, Director of Facilities and Transportation reported that Phase I of the Solar Project which included preparation and installation of electrical components has been completed. Phase II, the installation of the solar panels will begin in approximately two weeks, and the project completion is scheduled for mid-November.

Community Relations

No Report

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Central High School District

Ms. Blane reported that the discussion of converting the fields in the high school district to turf is continuing and the committee looking into this will meet at the end of the month. She stated that at the last Board meeting National Merit Scholarship recipients and NYSSMA award recipients were recognized. Ms. Goller added that Mrs. Regal gave a presentation on reserves.

Legislative

Mr. Breakstone began his report by noting that the Governor's proposed mid-year budget cut must be passed by the legislature, and if it is, Bellmore Schools stand to lose approximately \$270,000 in state aid. He noted there are other districts that stand to lose millions based on their allocation of state aid. He said this was a significant topic of discussion at the recent NYSSBA Convention.

Mr. Desmond noted that he found the convention very interesting especially due to the varied concerns of the many school districts represented.

Mr. Breakstone also provided an update on certiorari law suits. He explained the two lawsuits were brought about to try to shift the burden of tax assessment errors to school districts rather than the county. He noted one of the suits had been settled requiring no change to the current system whereby the County is responsible for tax assessment errors, and the second suit was pending a decision.

Bylaws

No report

Old /NewBusiness

None

Visitors

None

Ms. Goller noted the next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2009, and there will be a work session on November 2, 2009.

There being no further business, **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Breakstone and seconded by Mr. Desmond that the meeting be adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

The motion was carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Yee, District Clerk