

September 15, 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, September 15, 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**

**Florence Frazer, Esq.**

**Randy Yee, District Clerk**

Ms. Goller, President, called the work session to order at 7:00 p.m. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Ms. Blane, and seconded by Mr. Breakstone to enter executive session at 7:01 p.m.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Ms. Blane, and seconded by Mr. Breakstone to re-enter public session at 7:45 p.m. The Board reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting.

Ms. Goller, President, called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. and announced that the meeting had been duly advertised in accordance with the Open Meetings Law (Public Officers Law § 102, 104). She welcomed everyone back for the new school year, and thanked the custodial and clerical staff for their efforts in preparing for the opening of school.

**Minutes**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Breakstone seconded by Mr. Traum to accept the minutes of the Board meetings of August 11 and August 31, 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 report for the month ending July 31, 2009.

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

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**Correspondence**

Ms. Yee read a letter from Mr. Narby stating that he had moved and was therefore resigning his position as a trustee of the Board of Education effective August 26, 2009. Ms. Goller said the Board is sorry to see him leave. She noted he always worked for the children and the community. The Board is looking at the options to replace him, and will formally recognize him for his many years of service at an upcoming meeting.

**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 – 4 and 5; Fund HS – 2; Fund F – 3; and Fund T – 4-6, which are on file in the District Office.

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Famularo began his report by thanking Legislator David Denenberg for securing grant funding to provide SMART Board technology in the Board/Community Room at the Winthrop Ave. School. Legislator Denenberg spoke about his commitment to the schools and how pleased he is to be able to help. He complimented the Superintendent and Board for their efforts and noted he is looking forward to continuing to work with the District. Mr. Breakstone asked Legislator Denenberg to thank his staff who worked hard to make this contribution to the District happen. He also noted that Legislator Denenberg has always asked the District what was needed and how could he help.

Dr. Famularo continued his report by thanking the entire Community of Learners for their hard work in preparing the District and the schools for this year's opening. He continued by reviewing the District's goals for the 2009-2010 school year, and highlighting the goals achieved last year using the new SMART Board. He said that a school district is built on 4 essential building blocks (like pillars) that are critical to its success. They are:

- 1- Vision Statement
- 2- Mission statement
- 3- Core Values
- 4- Goals

**Vision** -He noted that last year the District adopted a logo, vision statement, mission statement and core values which have become the foundation for the District. These items are posted in every classroom and throughout the district. All decisions are aligned to it.

The District Vision is "Community of Learners." Dr. Famularo noted that the Community of Learners not only consists of students but also teachers, parents, administrators, non-instructional staff, and board members. Most importantly, everyone in the community is continuously learning and improving with the goal of helping children learn. The vision statement is a journey that does not end. It gives a sense of direction, it's inspiring and it's shared among all of us.

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**Mission** -The Mission Statement is about the now. It describes what we do, how we do it and who we do it for.

**Mission Statement:**

**The Bellmore Community of Learners is committed to perpetuating a safe and secure learning environment in which children can reach their academic, social and human potential in a manner that acknowledges and respects their differences.**

**The Bellmore Community of Learners firmly believes all children can succeed. We provide our students with instructional initiatives that enable them to become independent life-long learners within a nurturing atmosphere that engenders respect for and dignity of the individual and celebrates diversity . The Bellmore Schools provide a learning environment where children are encouraged to explore, question, problem solve, and process information using higher level thinking skills.**

**The Bellmore Community of Learners will create an environment that advocates the involvement of its members, facilitating positive relationships among the home, the school, and the community to enhance the education of all Bellmore children.**

**Core Values** - The Bellmore Star Core Values guides our behavior. How we behave in order to make our Vision and Mission a reality.



**Goals** -The Goals are our roadmap. The district plans that are specific.

**District Goals  
2009-2010**

- 1. District's Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Core Values**  
Balancing inquiry with advocacy.

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**2. School Health & Safety**

Continually review and update school and District plans, educational programs and operational procedures for dealing with students, staff, schools and community safety issues.

**3. Financial Accountability**

Continually analyze District spending and seek all possible avenues to contain and/or reduce costs of all school endeavors in order to best represent the financial interests of our taxpayers while still providing quality experiences for our students.

**4. Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning**

Continue to develop, implement and monitor a quality educational program including curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development which considers the specific needs of each Bellmore student and the community, supports high academic standards, and addresses New York State requirements.

**5. Information Technology Systems**

Provide training and support that promote the initiatives that reinforce the use of technology in the classroom as a tool for instructional improvement and student achievement gains.

**6. Facilities**

Continue to provide a facilities infrastructure that appropriately and effectively houses program needs of our students and staff.

Highlights of last year's accomplished goals include:

- Creation of the Bellmore Stars Art Gallery
- Provided all classrooms with a quick reference guide for emergency situations
- Continued participation in cooperative bidding for services and supplies
- Implemented new Health curriculum
- Updated foreign language program to include a writing component and assessments
- Developed new state required physical education plan
- Implemented new cursive handwriting curriculum
- Installation of 65 SMART Boards
- SMART Board training
- Technology infrastructure upgrade
- C.A. Reinhard Auditorium Renovation
- Installation of window screens throughout the District
- Parking area renovation at Shore Road
- Planning for Solar Energy System at Winthrop Ave.

Dr. Famularo stated that District goals often span several years, such as projects like the SMART technology and the Solar Energy System, and participation in cooperative bidding groups. Another example is the state required physical education plan which was developed last year and will be implemented this year.

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Dr. Famularo also noted that in conjunction with the Solar Energy System implementation funded by a grant secured by Senator Fuschillo, the District is planning to create a Reusable Energy Learning Center. This will enable students throughout the District to view, study and understanding the workings of reusable energy.

**Danielle Riesenfeld**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane to accept the resignation of Danielle Riesenfeld, teaching assistant, effective August 30, 2009.

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

**Tara Reilly**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the resignation of Tara Reilly, building substitute, effective August 27, 2009.

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

**Irina Sorin**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Breakstone and seconded by Mr. Traum to accept the resignation of school monitor, Irina Sorin effective August 31, 2009.

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

**Gloria Bruce**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Breakstone to accept the resignation of cleaner Gloria Bruce for retirement purposes effective September 4, 2009.

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

**Rachel Pollack and Kelly Wehle**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Desmond and seconded by Mr. Traum to appoint Rachel Pollack and Kelly Wehle to teaching assistant positions on Step 1 of the teaching assistant salary schedule effective September 3, 2009.

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

**Timothy Beale**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane to appoint Timothy Beale to a building substitute position effective September 3, 2009.

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

**Violetti Eddi**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Desmond and seconded by Mr. Traum to appoint Violetta Eddi to a school monitor position on Step 1 of the school monitor salary schedule effective September 3, 2009.

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

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Annette Iadevaia

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve an unpaid medical leave of absence for teaching assistant Annette Iadevaia effective September 14, 2009 through January 1, 2010.

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

Maryann Zozzaro

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve an unpaid medical leave of absence for teaching assistant Maryann Zozzaro effective October 9, 2009 for a period of 12 weeks.

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

Angela Coogan

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve a family medical leave of absence for classroom teacher Angela Coogan effective October 15, 2009 for a period of 12 weeks.

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

Carolyn Acevedo

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane that classroom teacher, Carolyn Acevedo be approved to return from a child care leave of absence effective November 2, 2009, rather than November 18, 2009.

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

John Dolan

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Desmond and seconded by Mr. Traum to appoint John Dolan to a 1.0 FTE classroom teacher position in the general education tenure area on Step 6 of the MA +15 salary schedule effective September 3, 2009.

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

**Inter-municipal Agreement for Internal Auditor Services**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane to enter into an Inter-municipal Services Agreement along with the North Merrick School District, North Bellmore School District, and the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District to retain the services of Sanford Schulsohn as Internal Auditor for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. The agreement is on file in the District Office.

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

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Goller 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.**

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

Dr. DeLuca began her report by noting that many of the teachers participated in a number of professional development and summer curriculum area projects. These included:

- The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team worked to create lesson plans and resource guides to assist teachers in their ability to differentiate instruction and meet the needs of our students in the area of writing.
- A team of teachers examined the units taught in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science program and then researched different labs and activities to further enhance each unit of study. The team also looked at interactive websites that can be used for whole-class instruction with the SMART Board.
- The Reinhard staff developed school-wide assemblies to support the Bellmore Rising Stars' Character Education Program. The assemblies will be implemented during this school year and will clarify the core values of *respect, dedication, integrity, trust, and teamwork* through skits, songs, and cheers.
- Teachers participated in non-violent crisis prevention/intervention training. The priority of this behavior management system is to maintain the care, welfare, safety, and security of everyone involved in a crisis.
- Teachers learned how to integrate the internet and software with the SMART Board. Participants completed the course with numerous lessons to be used in their classroom. All grade levels and all subject areas were addressed.
- Teachers attended a workshop about the principles of multi-sensory structured language education using an adaptation of the Orton-Gillingham approach. This hands-on program was designed to demonstrate successful strategies for implementing a multi-sensory reading and language program into an existing curriculum. This approach is language based, multi-sensory, structured, sequential, cumulative, cognitive, and flexible. It is appropriate for teaching individuals, small groups, and whole class settings.
- Many teachers took a course in CPR/AED which was designed to train lay responders to overcome any reluctance to act in emergency situations and to recognize and care for life-threatening respiratory or cardiac emergencies in adults and children. It provided the lay responder with the knowledge and skills necessary in an emergency to help sustain life

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and to minimize pain and the consequences of injury or sudden illness until professional medical help arrives.

The District had a twenty day intensive summer program which focused on math and reading remediation for students entering third and fourth grades. The session took place from July 6<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Students worked on many ELA and math activities.

The beginning of the school year went very well at all three schools. Students from Kindergarten through grade 6 are adjusting quickly to their new classes and routines. Administrators and staff are all looking forward to the many wonderful things planned for this school year.

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

#### **Technology Update**

Mrs. Gambino reported that the summer was very busy with the implementation of new technology in the schools.

- The computer lab at the Early Childhood Center had 25 new Dell Optiplex workstations readied for the start of school.
- All grade level classrooms throughout the District have SMART Boards.
- Each library has a SMART Board as does the Board Room/Community Room at Winthrop Ave.
- All implementations included a laptop for use with the SMART Board
- Professional development was offered during the summer for SMART technology training and additional opportunities will be offered during the school year.

Mrs. Gambino also thanked Senator Fuschillo for his support in the District's endeavors for SMART Board technology which enabled the District to access \$50,000 in grant funds from the NYS Department of Education and \$25,000 in Special Legislative Project funds. She reiterated that the SMART Board and laptop in the Winthrop Ave. Board/Community Room were provided with funds secured by Legislator Denenberg through the Nassau County CRP Grant.

#### **Obsolete Items**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education declare obsolete 10 upholstered arm chairs housed in the Winthrop Ave. Tech Room as per a memo on file in the District Office.

#### **Interest Income**

Mrs. Gambino reported that total interest received from all funds for the time period July 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009 is \$6,469.30.

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### Visitors

Mr. Molinelli, President of the Bellmore Administrators Association, Ms. Panella, President of the Bellmore Faculty Organization, Ms. Quinn, President of the CSEA, and Mrs. Haimson, Co-president of the PTA all congratulated Mr. Dolan on his appointment to a tenure track position.

### Report of the Director of Facilities

Mr. Hendrickson, Director of Facilities and Transportation reported the following:

- At Reinhard the following jobs have been completed:
  - Asphalt repairs to parking lot drains and parking areas
  - Safety surface repairs on west playground
  - Chain link fencing replaced along School Street
  - Eight (8) classrooms and the second grade hallway painted
  
- At Shore Road the following jobs have been completed:
  - Asphalt repairs to the rear and side roadways, and the parking lots in the front of the school
  - Tube replacement on boiler #2
  - Front stage curtains replaced in auditorium
  - Seven (7) classrooms and the cafeteria hallway were painted
  
- At Winthrop Ave. the following jobs have been completed:
  - Asphalt repairs to front parking lot drain and rear playground areas
  - Classroom lighting upgrades in several rooms, older fixtures were replaced with new energy efficient fixtures; resulting in an energy savings of approximately 70% in addition to LIPA rebates
    - Note: Upgrades in other areas will be addressed
  - Four (4) classrooms and selected hallways were painted
  
- District-wide, extensive cleaning of the schools, preventive maintenance on plumbing and mechanical systems is continuing; all gym floors were screened and re-coated, and extensive tree and bush pruning was done.
  
- Solar Project – Winthrop Ave.  
A meeting was held with the architect and Sun Power, the contractor for the project, regarding the scope of the work, equipment, etc. The contractor prepared submittals and required paperwork for the contracts. The contracts have been submitted and are being signed. Work is expected to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Community Relations

Ms. Blane reported that she had received a call prior to school opening to say that a family was planting flowers at Winthrop. It was Winthrop Principal Mrs. Curto and her family. Ms. Blane thanked Ms. Curto and her family for their planting. Ms. Blane said that a number of Board members were at Reinhard the first day of school to greet the children as they came off the buses. She said the students seemed ready and excited to get back to school.

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**Central High School District**

Ms. Blane reported that at the last meeting of the CHSD Board there was a large turnout of parents and concerned residents interested in the installation of turf material on the fields at the high schools. The CHSD Board has formed a committee to address the concerns regarding the condition of the high school fields. Ms. Goller added that the committee will be addressing all of the fields in the CHSD and options for improving them. She said this is an enormous task for the committee and may take some time.

**Legislative**

Mr. Breakstone stated that the greatest fear for school districts is mid-year tax cuts. He also said that items such as the MTA surcharge may be used to close the budget gap, and it is difficult to get real answers from Albany. The concern is that the budget deficit will be patched at the expense of school districts. Lastly, Mr. Breakstone noted that on September 23<sup>rd</sup> the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association will be holding a special meeting to provide an update on two pending cases relating to certiorari court proceedings that could have significant implications for school funding due to the costs associated with errors in property tax assessments.

**Bylaws**

No report

**Old /NewBusiness**

Dr. Famularo shared that classroom teacher, Rosemary Segerdahl has been chosen as this year's recipient of the 2009 Alexinia Baldwin Educator of the Year Award from AGATE (Advocacy for Gifted and Talented Education in NY State) for her efforts and service on behalf of gifted children. A special awards luncheon will be held on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at C.W. Post. He noted the award is very well deserved, and the District is very proud of Mrs. Segerdahl.

**Visitors**

None

Ms. Goller noted the next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2009, and there will be a work session on October 6, 2009.

There being no further business, **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Yee, District Clerk