

Monthly School Board Meeting (Tuesday, October 10, 2023)

Members present

Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani
Tracey Miller (Absent)

Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM

1. OPENING

Action, Information, Procedural: A. Board President, Megan Ryan, called to order at 6:15 PM

Action, Information, Procedural: B. Executive Session for matters of personnel and CSEA negotiations update.
Executive Session for matters of personnel and CSEA negotiations update.

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action, Information, Procedural: C. Reconvene to the Public to begin the Audit Committee Meeting at 6:42 PM

Information, Procedural: D. Call to Order by Board President, Megan Ryan at 7:12 PM

Information, Procedural: E. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board President.

Board President Megan Ryan announced that she and Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools, have been in contact with legislators to secure funding for the Camp Avenue playground as well as door alarms at all three schools.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

Dr. Seniuk welcomed everyone to the October Board of Education meeting and thanked the PTAs for all the back-to-school events - the picnics at Old Mill and Camp Avenue, movie night at Fayette, and the SEPTA Ice Cream Social - which, she said, were great ways to welcome parents and students back. Dr. Seniuk noted that the annual Meet the Teacher at Night went very well and the September PTA meetings had a nice turnout at all three buildings. She said that students did a fantastic job during the evacuation and early dismissal drill to the delight of their principals, Mr. Merims, Ms. DeLuca, and Dr. Bromberg. Dr. Seniuk also said the International Walk to School Day was a huge success, and she thanked the PTAs for providing chalk, stickers, scavenger hunts for great activities students participated in.

Dr. Seniuk explained that door alarms at an elementary school are a critical safety feature, and the district reassessed what was in place, identified doors that still needed alarms, and already placed the order. She said that all doors will be alarmed on the main floor in each building at a cost of about \$7,000. Dr. Seniuk said she expects legislative funding will come through. Additionally, she noted that the principals have solid procedures in place when children leave their classrooms, based on age and class, whether as a buddy system or with adult supervision.

Dr. Seniuk announced that tomorrow night is Family Engagement Night (previously called Parent University) from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and that Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Friday, October 20 at 4:00 p.m. She said students will enter from different locations based on school. Dr. Seniuk then mentioned the North Merrick PTAs Adventureland trip on October 28 as well as the SEPTA Pumpkin Paint Party on October 13 and Spooky Bingo on October 26.

Dr. Seniuk stated that the new Night to Connect event is designed to help families "disconnect" from homework and spend more time together. She asked parents to send pictures to Ms. Cadiz to let us see what families are involved in. Dr. Seniuk also announced that Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled on Election Day, November 7.

Dr. Seniuk then described the transition of the district website, supported by Blackboard, which has been acquired by Final Site. The website will continue to be contracted through Nassau BOCES and at no additional cost. The website, which will have a fresh new look, is scheduled to go live around November 1, and a message will go out to keep you informed.

3. PRESENTATION

Discussion, Information, Presentation, Procedural: A. Auditor's Report/R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP

Ms. Van Duyne from R.S. Abrams said North Merrick received an unmodified opinion, which is the best opinion for a school district. She said the books were in order and the numbers were all in good shape with minimal audit adjustments. She said that Assistant Superintendent for Business, Thomas McDaid, and the entire business office, did a great job providing all the information needed to complete the audit in a timely manner. In addition to the opinion, she said the firm provides a management letter, which includes suggestions on internal controls, but there are no findings this year, which deserves congratulations. Ms. Van Duyne said her firm services about 45 school districts and only about five have no findings. She noted that the business office has excellent financial operations.

Ms. Van Duyne then gave an overview of the General Fund and compared last year's numbers to the current year. She explained

that a district's reserves are restricted for long-term savings and earmarked for specific expenses. She differentiated between the unassigned and assigned fund balances and noted that reserves are set at a 4% limit, and that North Merrick is at that level. Ms. Van Duyne said the district used funds for short-term expenses and replenished them to prepare for the future, which she lauded as a good financial strategy.

4. ROUTINE APPROVALS

Action, Minutes, Procedural: A. Approval of Minutes- September 12, 2023 monthly school board meeting
Approval of Minutes - September 12, 2023 monthly school board meeting

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action, Information: B. Approval of Warrants, Wires, Budget Transfers
Approval of Warrants, Wires, Budget Transfers

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action, Information: C. Approval of Treasurer's report
Approval of Treasurer's report

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (agenda items only)

Information, Procedural: A. Guidelines for Public Comments - Any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall fill out a comment card. After you are called, come forward to the microphone and state your full name. All comments or questions shall be directed to the Board President or Superintendent of Schools. The Board or Administration will do their best to immediately respond to any questions. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, each person will limit his/her remarks to no more than 3 minutes, not to exceed a 30 minute session. Public discussion with respect to confidential matters is prohibited.
None

Information, Procedural: B. Public Comments
None

6. BUSINESS

Action: A. The Board of Education accepts the audited financial statements for the 2022-23 school year supplied by R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.
The Board of Education accepts the audited financial statements for the 2022-23 school year supplied by R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6F

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action, Procedural: B. The Board of Education approves the disposal of e-waste material which are no longer used by the North Merrick School District and have lasted beyond their useful life, such equipment is to be disposed of in a manner which serves the best interest of the District.
The Board of Education approves the disposal of e-waste material which are no longer used by the North Merrick School District and have lasted beyond their useful life, such equipment is to be disposed of in a manner which serves the best interest of the District.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6F

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: C. The Board of Education approves the revised non-aligned staff salary and rate schedule for the 2023-24 school year.

The Board of Education approves the revised non-aligned staff salary and rate schedule for the 2023-24 school year.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6F

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: D. The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with CBIZ Valuation Services to provide property valuation services for the school year ending June 30, 2024, not to exceed \$4,920.
Ms. Ryan asked for a discussion on Item 6D to clarify what is the property valuation for CBIZ.
Mr. McDaid explained that CBIZ is part of the audit just presented. He said the auditors reviewed all district property values and inventory. Ms. Ryan said she was concerned that it could be misconstrued that the district was selling land, and Mr. McDaid said this was strictly for financial auditing and insurance purposes only. This is an annual appointment.

The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with CBIZ Valuation Services to provide property valuation services for the school year ending June 30, 2024, not to exceed \$4,920.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6F

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Will Luciani.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: E. The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with Carr Business Systems to provide North Merrick UFSD with Managed Print Program Services for the 2023-24 school year.
The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with Carr Business Systems to provide North Merrick UFSD with Managed Print Program Services for the 2023-24 school year.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6F

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: F. The Board of Education approves entering into a contract with HMB Consultants, LLC, to consult on the food service program for the 2023-24 school year, cost not to exceed \$6,000.
The Board of Education approves entering into a contract with HMB Consultants, LLC, to consult on the food service program for the 2023-24 school year, cost not to exceed \$6,000.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6F

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

Action,Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report, as detailed in the mailing.
The Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report, as detailed in the mailing.

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

8. SPECIAL SERVICES

Action: A. The Board of Education approves the one (1) Individualized Education Programs (IEPS) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Pre-School Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.
The Board of Education approves the one (1) Individualized Education Programs (IEPS) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Pre-School Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.
Consent agenda Items 8A - 8B

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Will Luciani.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: B. The Board of Education approves the nine (9) Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.
 The Board of Education approves the nine (9) Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.
 Consent agenda Items 8A - 8B

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Will Luciani.
 Final Resolution: Motion Carried
 Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Information, Procedural: A. High School
 Board Vice President Ed Corona said the high school district held Award of Honor presentations for their National Merit Scholarship winners as well as for the Build Up Club. He said there was also a presentation for a custodian at Mephram High School who noticed and reported a fire in the kitchen during the summer. Mr. Corona said the Niche Ratings, which is an organization that rates school districts across the entire nation, has publicized their list, and Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District was ranked 28 in the nation out of 11,000 school districts and 8th in New York State out of 700, which is quite impressive.

Information, Procedural: B. School Community Relations/PTA Council
 Mary Keene, Board Trustee, gave an overview of the events sponsored by the PTAs and SEPTA, which she says continue to be excellent. She noted that Red Ribbon Week is October 23-27, and the Halloween Parades and Fall Festivals will be held at the schools on October 31. Ms. Keene said there is so much going on in the schools and went through each school's schedule for the month.

She noted that the North Merrick PTAs are sponsoring the Adventureland trip on October 28, and tickets are on sale until the 19th. She said tickets may be purchased at the door, but at additional cost. SEPTA events include two sessions of a Partner Paint a Pumpkin Night on Friday, and Spooky Bingo on October 26. Ms. Keene said they will see additional Boo Bags for last-minute booing, and the Spirit Wear sale is open throughout the week.

Information, Procedural: C. Buildings & Grounds
 Dr. Seniuk stated that Mr. Carder is away at a conference and will report next month.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communications
 None

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Information, Procedural: A. Unfinished Business
 None

12. NEW BUSINESS

Information, Presentation: A. New Business
 None

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Comments
 None

14. INFORMATION REPORTS (BOE only)

Information: B. Absence of Five Consecutive Days
 Information, Procedural: C. School Health Office and Accident Reports
 Information, Procedural: D. Enrollment

Information: E. Building & Grounds Reports

15. ADJOURNMENT

Action, Procedural: A. Adjournment at 7:40 PM
 Adjournment 7:40

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani