

Monthly School Board Meeting (Tuesday, November 14, 2023)

Members present

Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

ABSENT: Megan Ryan and Will Luciani

The meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

1. OPENING

Information, Procedural: A. Call to Order by Ed Corona, Vice President, at 6:05 PM

ABSENT: Megan Ryan, Board President, and William Luciani, Trustee

Sophia R. Terrassi, present from Ingerman Smith, LLP.

Action, Information, Procedural: B. Executive Session

The Board of Education approves entering into executive session for advice of counsel, collective bargaining negotiations, and the employment history of a particular person.

(not specified)

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action, Information, Procedural: C. Reconvene to Public 6:35 PM

(not specified)

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Kathy Moran.

Information, Procedural: D. Call to Order 7:01 PM

Information, Procedural: E. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Corona

Mr. Corona gave a shout-out to a couple of events he attended last month. He said Parent Engagement Night was great and there were so many tables set up within the common theme. Mr. Corona also attended Trunk or Treat and said it is always a big hit. He added that even with the event being brought inside due to the weather, the room looked terrific. He commended the North Merrick faculty for all their effort at both events.

2. PRESENTATION

Information, Procedural: A. Board Appreciation

Dr. Seniuk thanked the trustees for the time they give to the North Merrick community's children, families, and staff. She referenced Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to the Superintendent and the Seven Difference Makers. She then attributed notable things about each board member:

Board President Megan Ryan, Esq., "Magnificent Megan," for her steady leadership during some challenging times.

Vice President Ed Corona, "Exceptional Ed," for his continuous efforts to ensure North Merrick provides enough seats to match the UPK funding, a never-ending job.

Trustee Tracey Miller, "Terrific Tracey," who speaks quite often of the solid foundational roots of the community while highlighting the positive role the schools play in the community;

Trustee Steve Enella, "Spectacular Steve," who stays focused on our facilities and takes pride in the upkeep of our schools, both inside the buildings and the property outside;

Trustee Mary Keene, "Marvelous Mary," who truly enjoys sharing the PTA report each month and who can never give enough thanks to the PTAs and SEPTA;

Trustee Will Luciani, "Wonderful Will" who focuses on the many programs in the district and how to make our schools the best they can be; and

Trustee Kathy Moran, "Knowledgeable Kathy," who provides various perspectives as a board member, grandmother, former employee, and former parent.

On behalf of the Supervisory Unit, the North Merrick Faculty Association (NMFA), CSEA and Paraprofessionals, Kim Golterman thanked the Board members for their dedication and support and presented a check for each of the three schools to purchase books in the board's honor.

CSEA President Babette Nicosia on behalf of all the CSEA members also thanked the Board, Dr. Seniuk and central administration.

H.D. Fayette President Erin Lentini, Camp Avenue Co-President Dana Hodermarski, and Old Mill Road Co-President Kathleen Lawler thanked the Board for all they do for the students in the North Merrick School District. SEPTA President Laura Squallice also thanked the board with a collection of books for the school libraries. A group of students then presented gifts and cards to the trustees.

Board Vice President Ed Corona thanked the children, and returned the thanks to the PTAs and SEPTA for being amazing volunteers who give so much to the students.

Dr. Seniuk thanked all in attendance, especially the students for coming and presenting their beautiful artwork.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

Dr. Seniuk spoke about several upcoming events:

The monthly PTA meetings;

The Growth and Development program on 11/27;

Report cards available electronically on 12/7. (If a hard copy is preferred, please contact the main office of your child's school to arrange pick up); and

The Holiday Concert on December 11 at 6:00 p.m. at Brookside.

Dr. Seniuk also announced that the new district website went live on November 1 and is still evolving as staff receive training. She asked residents to take a look at the new site when they had a moment.

Dr. Seniuk then wished everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday.

4. ROUTINE APPROVALS

Action, Minutes: A. Approval of Minutes - October 10, 2023 board meeting minutes

Approval of Minutes - October 10, 2023, board meeting minutes

Consent agenda 4A-4C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action, Information, Procedural: B. Approval of warrants, wires, budget transfers

Consent agenda 4A-4C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

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

Consent agenda 4A-4C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

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. Comments

6. BUSINESS

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with Breathe N Flow Yoga to facilitate yoga sessions during the Mindfulness Retreats on January 11, 2024, and February 8, 2024. The cost is \$150 per session, not to exceed \$300.

Board Vice President Ed Corona noted that items F and G are the labor agreements between the district and North Merrick CSEA and the paraprofessional unit. He said that although Board President Megan Ryan was absent tonight, she supports both agreements wholeheartedly. He added that the Board has been pleased with the process and final agreements.

The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with Breathe N Flow Yoga to facilitate yoga sessions during the Mindfulness Retreats on January 11, 2024, and February 8, 2024. The cost is \$150 per session, not to exceed \$300.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6G

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action, Procedural: B. The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with Body & Brain to provide guided meditation and breathing work during the Mindful Retreats on January 11, 2024 and February 8, 2024. Cost for two sessions will be \$150 each for a total of \$300.
The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with Body & Brain to provide guided meditation and breathing work during the Mindful Retreats on January 11, 2024 and February 8, 2024. Cost for two sessions will be \$150 each for a total of \$300.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6G

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action, Procedural: C. The Board of Education approves the amendment to the July 1, 2023 agreement between BMCHSD, North Merrick UFSD, North Bellmore UFSD, Bellmore UFSD and Merrick UFSD, and Guardian Bus Company, as detailed in the mailing.

Action, Procedural: D. The Board of Education approves the 2024-25 Budget Development Calendar.
The Board of Education approves the 2024-25 Budget Development Calendar.

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action, Procedural: E. The Board of Education approves the following 23/24 school year transfer: ACCOUNT FROM: A2815.160-03 - School Nurses- \$40,000 - ACCOUNT TO: A2815.409.04 HEALTH OTHER -\$40,000
The Board of Education approves the following 23/24 school year transfer: ACCOUNT FROM: A2815.160-03 - School Nurses- \$40,000 - ACCOUNT TO: A2815.409.04 HEALTH OTHER -\$40,000
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6G

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action, Procedural: F. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: WHEREAS, the July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2021 labor agreement between the North Merrick Union Free School District and the North Merrick CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCME AFL-CIO expired on June 30, 2021; and WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties have engaged in negotiations to the expired labor agreement and WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties executed a Memorandum of Agreement dated October 11, 2023, for a successor collective bargaining agreement, which Memorandum of Agreement has been ratified by the North Merrick CSEA and reviewed by the Board of Education. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves said Memorandum of Agreement, the terms of which shall be incorporated into a new labor agreement for the period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2027.
The Board of Education approves the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2021 labor agreement between the North Merrick Union Free School District and the North Merrick CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCME AFL-CIO expired on June 30, 2021; and
WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties have engaged in negotiations to the expired labor agreement and
WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties executed a Memorandum of Agreement dated October 11, 2023, for a successor collective bargaining agreement, which Memorandum of Agreement has been ratified by the North Merrick CSEA and reviewed by the Board of Education.
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves said Memorandum of Agreement, the terms of which shall be incorporated into a new labor agreement for the period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2027.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6G

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action,Procedural: G. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: WHEREAS, the July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2024, labor agreement between the North Merrick Union Free School District and the North Merrick Faculty Association Paraprofessional Unit expires on June 30, 2024; and WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties have engaged in reopener negotiations to the existing labor agreement; and WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties executed a Memorandum of Agreement dated October 16, 2023, that modified the labor agreement effective July 1, 2023, including extending its term through June 30, 2027, which Memorandum of Agreement has been ratified by the Paraprofessional Unit and reviewed by the Board of Education. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves said Memorandum of Agreement, the terms of which shall be incorporated into a new labor agreement for the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The Board of Education approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2024, labor agreement between the North Merrick Union Free School District and the North Merrick Faculty Association Paraprofessional Unit expires on June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties have engaged in reopener negotiations to the existing labor agreement; and WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties executed a Memorandum of Agreement dated October 16, 2023, that modified the labor agreement effective July 1, 2023, including extending its term through June 30, 2027, which Memorandum of Agreement has been ratified by the Paraprofessional Unit and reviewed by the Board of Education.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves said Memorandum of Agreement, the terms of which shall be incorporated into a new labor agreement for the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

Consent agenda Items 6A - 6G

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

Action: 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 Tracey Miller, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

8. SPECIAL SERVICES

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the updated North Merrick Special Education District Plan.

The Board of Education approves the updated North Merrick Special Education District Plan.

Consent agenda Items 8A - 8C

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action, Procedural: B. The Board of Education approves the thirteen (13) Individualized Education Plan's (IEP's), which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.

The Board of Education approves the thirteen (13) Individualized Education Plan's (IEP's), which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.

Consent agenda Items 8A - 8C

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action,Procedural: C. The Board of Education approves the two (2) 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 two (2) 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 - 8C

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Information, Procedural: A. High School

Vice President Ed Corona said the Central High School District celebrated Board Recognition as well. As a tradition, he said they displayed artwork reflecting this year's theme, "Is It Magical Yet," which speaks to the beauty of things to come.

Mr. Corona said the auditors gave their report during the Central High School Board of Education meeting. He said it was also the first meeting with the high school representatives from each of the four high schools, who have the opportunity to talk about what is happening within their schools.

Mr. Corona stated that the Community Cupboard can use donations this time of year. He said any groups that want to donate should contact the high school.

Information, Procedural: B. School Community Relations/PTA Council

Trustee Mary Keene thanked the PTAs for their generosity. She said the Fall Festivals at the schools and the district-wide Adventureland trip were all awesome PTA-sponsored events, despite the weather. Ms. Keene discussed the many upcoming PTA and SEPTA events.

Information, Procedural: C. Buildings & Grounds

Sam Carder, Director of School Facilities, thanked the Board for their collaborative efforts and the PTAs for all the fantastic events they sponsor.

Mr. Carder announced that all the basketball courts have been paved as well as the long walkway from Fayette to Little Whale Neck Road. He said his staff is busy preparing the snow plows, snow equipment, and the boilers for the winter season. He said the district has added steam heat, at no cost to the district, through a National Grid rebate program. In addition, Mr. Carder said security door alarms have been installed in every building.

Trustee Steve Enella commented that the Board did a walkthrough before the Board meeting tonight and thanked Mr. Carder and his staff for a job well done.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communications

Joanne Long, District Clerk, reported one communication was received.

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: C. Building & Grounds Reports

Information,Procedural: D. School Health Office and Accident Reports

Information,Procedural: E. Enrollment

15. ADJOURNMENT

Action, Procedural: A. Adjournment 7:32 PM

Adjournment 7:32 PM

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran