

Monthly School Board Meeting (Tuesday, December 12, 2023)**Members present**

Tracey Miller, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani
Megan Ryan, Arrived 6:50 PM

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM**1. OPENING**

Information, Procedural: A. Call to Order

Called to order by Vice President Ed Corona at 6:00 PM

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

The Board of Education approves entering into executive session for matters of personnel and negotiations.

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Megan Ryan

Action, Information, Procedural: C. Reconvene to Public
Reconvene to Public at 7:00 PM

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. PUBLIC HEARING - PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Action: A. Call public hearing to order

Call public hearing to order 7:10 PM by Megan Ryan

Information, Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Ryan explained that Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman signed a law on March 28, 2023, that reduced the years required for a volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker to receive a partial exemption on their property taxes from five to two years.

Board President Megan Ryan requested that the District Clerk, Joanne Long, read the exemption resolution into the record. Ms. Long then read the resolution.

Discussion, Information, Procedural: C. Review of Volunteer Firefighter /Volunteer Ambulance worker partial property tax exemption

Action, Procedural: D. Public comment (for Public Hearing only)

None

Action, Information, Procedural: E. WHEREAS, New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a was enacted to provide eligible volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers with a real property tax exemption from school taxes on real property owned by the eligible volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker so long as the school district in which the real property is located, after public hearing, adopts a resolution authorizing the exemption subject to the requirements of New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a; and WHEREAS, New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a provides for the additional benefits conferred by the statute applicable to the exemption from school taxes so long as the School District which has authorized the exemption under Section 466-a adopts a resolution authorizing such additional benefits; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Merrick Union Free School District hereby authorizes the application of the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Real Property Tax Exemption as contained in New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a in the amount of ten percent of assessed value; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a(2)(d), the Board of Education establishes a minimum service requirement for each applicant to be two years; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a(2)(d), the Board of Education requires that application be made to local agency responsible for assessment to certify the individual as an enrolled member of a volunteer fire company, fire department or volunteer ambulance service; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a(6), the Board of Education designates that application for exemption must be made to the local agency responsible for assessment of real property in the School District; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the North Merrick Union Free School District, does hereby continues an exemption granting an otherwise eligible volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker the exemption provided for in this resolution for the remainder of his or her life if the eligible volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker accrues more than twenty years of active service and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or volunteer ambulance service; and; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Merrick Union Free School District does hereby continues an exemption claimed pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law 466-a to a deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse if such member is killed in the line of duty, subject to the requirements set forth in New York Real Property Tax Law 466-a(4); and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Merrick Union Free School District, does hereby continues an exemption claimed pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law 466-a to a deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse, subject to the requirements set forth in New York Real Property Tax Law 466-a(5).

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: F. Adjournment of public hearing
Adjournment of public hearing 7:19 PM

3. OPENING

Action: A. Call to Order

Ms. Ryan wished everyone a wonderful holiday recess and thanked the PTA and custodial staff for setting up the Holiday Boutiques and Santa Breakfasts.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools, announced that report cards went out last week, and this year, parents are asked to sign off on the report card and return it to their child's teacher. Dr. Seniuk said this makes for a smoother transition for the next report card and ensures that parents see their child's progress.

Dr. Seniuk praised the students who performed in the Winter Concert the night before, saying that all the musical groups from the orchestra to the band to the chorus were very entertaining.

She said the music program is truly thriving in North Merrick, and she thanked the music teachers and principals for leading the charge and the parents for taking students to the rehearsals.

Dr. Seniuk stated that the return to school date is January 2, and the next Board of Education meeting is January 9. She said the Wellness Retreat for Grades 4-6 will take place on January 11 and the Wellness Retreat for Grades K-3 is scheduled in February. She also noted that Kindergarten Registration is set for January 16-18 and to please share those dates with friends and neighbors with young children.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Central Administration, faculty and staff, Dr. Seniuk wished everyone a happy holiday season and peaceful new year.

5. ROUTINE APPROVALS

Action, Minutes, Procedural: A. Approval of Minutes - November 14, 2023

Approval of Minutes - November 14, 2023

Consent agenda Items 5A-5C

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, 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

Consent agenda Items 5A-5C

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

Consent agenda Items 5A-5C

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. 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.

Information, Procedural: B. Comments

none

7. BUSINESS

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the donation of \$300 from the Supervisory Unit, the North Merrick Faculty Association (NMFA), CSEA, and Paraprofessionals. This money is to be used to purchase books for all three libraries. The Board of Education approves the donation of \$300 from the Supervisory Unit, the North Merrick Faculty Association (NMFA), CSEA, and Paraprofessionals. This money is to be used to purchase books for all three libraries.
Consent agenda Items 7A-7F

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: B. The Board of Education approves the donation of books from SEPTA. These books are to be used in all three libraries.

The Board of Education approves the donation of books from SEPTA. These books are to be used in all three libraries.

Consent agenda Items 7A-7F

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. The Board of Education approves the following 23/24 school year transfers: Accounts From: A 2250.490.04.2374 - Tuition BOCES - \$50,000; A 2250.160-01 Spec Ed Teach Aides CAMP - \$16,000; A 2250.160-02- Spec Ed Teach Aides HDF - \$16,000; A 2250.160-03 Spec Ed Teach Aides OMR - Accounts To: A2250.400.04 Contract Services - \$96,000. The Board of Education approves the following 23/24 school year transfers: Accounts From: A 2250.490.04.2374 - Tuition BOCES - \$50,000; A 2250.160-01 Spec Ed Teach Aides CAMP - \$16,000; A 2250.160-02- Spec Ed Teach Aides HDF - \$16,000; A 2250.160-03 Spec Ed Teach Aides OMR - Accounts To: A2250.400.04 Contract Services - \$96,000.
Consent agenda Items 7A-7F

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. The Board of Education approves the 2024 HIP HMO renewal rate sheet as submitted.

The Board of Education approves the 2024 HIP HMO renewal rate sheet as submitted.

Consent agenda Items 7A-7F

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. The Board of Education approves the 2024 participating agency monthly Empire Plan premium rates for employers as submitted.

The Board of Education approves the 2024 participating agency monthly Empire Plan premium rates for employers as submitted.

Consent agenda Items 7A-7F

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: F. The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with SCOPE Education Services for a Saturday enrichment program, from January 6, 2024 through March 2, 2024, at no cost to the district.

employee discusses is directed to perform 913 to perform his or her duties,
motiong mk. tm

The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with SCOPE Education Services for a Saturday enrichment program, from January 6, 2024 through March 2, 2024, at no cost to the district.

Consent agenda Items 7A-7F

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: G. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the employee, whose identity is known to the Board of Education, is directed to report for a medical examination, pursuant to Education Law Section 913, in order to determine the capacity of such person to perform his/her duties; the date and time of such examination shall be subsequently determined and communicated to the employee. (*Addendum)

Ms. Ryan stated there will be one additional walk-on motion that was discussed in executive session. It will be Item 7G.

The Board of Education approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the employee, whose identity is known to the Board of Education, is directed to report for a medical examination, pursuant to Education Law Section 913, in order to determine the capacity of such person to perform his/her duties; the date and time of such examination shall be subsequently determined and communicated to the employee.
(Addendum)

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. 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 Ed Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. POLICIES

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: WHEREAS, the North Merrick Union Free School District Policy No. 9310 – Adoption of Policies contains the Board of Education procedures for the adoption, change, and repeal of District policies; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is necessary to update Board of Education Sexual Harassment Policy No. 9010.2, 9010.2-Regulation and Exhibit, at this time; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education waives Policy No. 9310 with respect to the requirements related to the first reading of policies and the sequence of adoption of policies in relation to Sexual Harassment Policy No. 9010.2, 9010.2-Regulation and Exhibit.

The Board of Education approves the following resolution: WHEREAS, the North Merrick Union Free School District Policy No. 9310 – Adoption of Policies contains the Board of Education procedures for the adoption, change, and repeal of District policies; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is necessary to update Board of Education Sexual Harassment Policy No. 9010.2, 9010.2-Regulation and Exhibit, at this time; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education waives Policy No. 9310 with respect to the requirements related to the first reading of policies and the sequence of adoption of policies in relation to Sexual Harassment Policy No. 9010.2, 9010.2-Regulation and Exhibit.

Consent agenda Items 9A-9B

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Ed Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: B. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: WHEREAS, the North Merrick Union Free School District Policy No. 9310 – Adoption of Policies contains the Board of Education procedures for the adoption, change, and repeal of District policies; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is necessary to create Board of Education, Workplace Violence Prevention Policy 4130, at this time; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education waives Policy No. 9310 with respect to the requirements related to the first reading of policies and the sequence of adoption of policies in relation to Workplace Violence Prevention Policy 4130.

The Board of Education approves the following resolution: WHEREAS, the North Merrick Union Free School District Policy No. 9310 – Adoption of Policies contains the Board of Education procedures for the adoption, change, and repeal of District policies; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is necessary to create Board of Education, Workplace Violence Prevention Policy 4130, at this time; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education waives Policy No. 9310 with respect to the requirements related to the first reading of policies and the sequence of adoption of policies in relation to Workplace Violence Prevention Policy 4130.

Consent agenda Items 9A-9B

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Ed Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. SPECIAL SERVICES

Action: A. The Board of Education approves the contract between Sepideh Homayoonfar, Psy. D. and the North Merrick School District to conduct independent neuropsychological evaluations for (2) special education students for the 2023-2024 school year. The Board of Education approves the contract between Sepideh Homayoonfar, Psy. D. and the North Merrick School District to conduct independent neuropsychological evaluations for (2) special education students for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. The Board of Education approves the thirty-five (35) Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.

The Board of Education approves the thirty-five (35) Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. The Board of Education approves the six (6) 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 six (6) Individualized Education Programs (IEPS) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Pre-School Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

11. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Information, Procedural: A. High School

Ed Corona, Board Vice President, reported that of the 12,000 schools in the United States and Canada, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District was named the College Board Medium-Sized District of the Year. Mr. Corona said this is a tremendous honor, which came with a \$10,000 prize, based on outstanding scores on Advanced Placement (AP) exams and expanded access to these exams to all students. He said there was much celebration and recognition from local legislators and the media.

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

Board trustee Mary Keene listed the upcoming PTA meetings and events and thanked the PTAs for all their hard work during the holiday season. She noted that the Old Mill Road PTA won two New York State PTA Trailblazer Awards for 75% enrollment and faculty participation.

Information, Procedural: C. Buildings & Grounds

Sam Carder, Director of School Facilities, said the district has completed the fire inspections, which were submitted to the New York State Education Department. Mr. Carder added that the fall clean up resulted in a 30-yard dumpster filled with leaves, and

the district's boilers and burners are now being serviced to prepare for winter. He said the maintenance and custodial staff were ready for possible snowfall.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communications
None

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Information, Procedural: A. Unfinished Business
None

14. NEW BUSINESS

Information, Procedural: A. New Business
None

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Comments
None

16. INFORMATIONS REPORTS (BOE only)

Information, Procedural: A. Appropriation Status Report; Revenue Status Report; Trial Balance

Information: B. Absence of Five Consecutive Days

Information, Procedural: C. Enrollment

Information, Procedural: D. Health office and accident reports

Information: E. Building & Grounds Reports

17. ADJOURNMENT

Action, Procedural: A. Adjournment
Adjournment 7:30 PM

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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