

**Monthly School Board Meeting (Tuesday, October 15, 2024)****BOE Members present**

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

Dr. Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools  
Kate Caporusso, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Marie Donnelly, Assistant Superinde for Business  
Ed Murphy, PPS  
Sam Carder, Director of Facilities  
Steve Goodstat, Inerman Smith

**Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM****1. OPENING**

Information, Procedural: A. Called to order  
Called to order by Megan Ryan 6:03 PM

Action, Information, Procedural: B. Executive Session  
Executive session for matters of legal advice, personnel, and audit committee.

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, Procedural: C. Reconvene to the Public to begin the Audit Committee Meeting

Information, Procedural: D. Call to Order 7:10 PM

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

**2. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments  
None

**3. PRESENTATION**

Discussion, Information, Presentation, Procedural: A. Auditor's Report/R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP  
Ms. Van Duyne welcomed Ms. Donnelly to the North Merrick district.

Ms. VanDuyne explained that RS Abrams gives an opinion on the audit, issues a management letter on internal controls, and provides recommendations if anything needs to be improved. We did not have any findings or recommendations for the internal controls this year and the prior year. The district has a strong business office, and the controls are excellent. Ms. Donnelly did a great job, and her team was very helpful in completing the audit.

Ms. Van Duyne summarized the district's financials from last year to this year. Explaining that the district's general fund improved this year. This year's increase was 6.84% compared to the prior year, which was only 0.12%. The financials are moving in a very strong position. Ms. Van Duyne spoke about the assigned and unassigned fund balance. The district lowered the assigned fund balance that you appropriated for next year's taxes because your budget is more balanced, and you are not relying on fund balance to fund your budget. The unassigned is restricted. Last year you were at 4%, and this year you were at 4%. This is important in case you have any unforeseen expenses.

The school food service program did make a profit this year. The food costs decreased this year due to hiring of a new food service contractor.

She commented it was an excellent audit and thanked all involved.

Ms. Ryan, thanked Dr. Seniuk and Ms. Donnelly for a great job in strengthening our finances.

**4. ROUTINE APPROVALS**

Action, Minutes, Procedural: A. Approval of Minutes- September 10, 2024 monthly school board meeting  
Approval of Minutes - September 10, 2024 monthly school board meeting  
Consent agenda Items 4A-4C

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

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

Consent agenda Items 4A-4C

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

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

Consent agenda Items 4A-4C

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

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 2023-24 school year prepared by R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.

The Board of Education accepts the audited financial statements for the 2023-24 school year prepared by R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.

Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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: B. The Board of Education approves the North Merrick UFSD June 30, 2024 Reserve Plan for use of Reserves and Fund Balance for the 2023-24 school year.

The Board of Education approves the North Merrick UFSD June 30, 2024 Reserve Plan for use of Reserves and Fund Balance for the 2023-24 school year.

Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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 authorizes the following transfers from reserves to the General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024: • a transfer of \$512,000 from the Retirement Contribution Reserve • a transfer of \$200,000 from the North Merrick UFSD Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund within the Reserve for Accrued Employee Benefits Accrued Liability • a transfer of \$2,000 from the Reserve for Unemployment

The Board of Education authorizes the following transfers from reserves to the General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024:

- a transfer of \$512,000 from the Retirement Contribution Reserve
- a transfer of \$200,000 from the North Merrick UFSD Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund within the Reserve for Accrued Employee Benefits Accrued Liability
- a transfer of \$2,000 from the Reserve for Unemployment

Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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: D. The Board of Education authorizes the following transfers from General Fund Balance to reserves as of June 30, 2024: • a transfer of \$400,000 to the Retirement Contribution Reserve • a transfer of \$175,000 to the Reserve for Employee Benefit Accrued Liability • a transfer of \$200,000 to the North Merrick UFSD Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund within the Reserve for Accrued Employee Benefits Accrued Liability • a transfer of \$434,510 to the Capital Reserve Fund-2019

The Board of Education authorizes the following transfers from General Fund Balance to reserves as of June 30, 2024:

- a transfer of \$400,000 to the Retirement Contribution Reserve
- a transfer of \$175,000 to the Reserve for Employee Benefit Accrued Liability
- a transfer of \$200,000 to the North Merrick UFSD Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund within the Reserve for Accrued Employee Benefits Accrued Liability
- a transfer of \$434,510 to the Capital Reserve Fund-2019

Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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: E. The Board of Education approves final transfers necessary to balance all accounts and close out the books as of June 30, 2024, as detailed in the mailing.

The Board of Education approves final transfers necessary to balance all accounts and close out the books as of June 30, 2024, as detailed in the mailing.

Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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 the donation of \$480.00 from the Old Mill Road Student Council to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation (money collected from 2024 Field of Flags).

Megan Ryan, Board President, thanked the OMR student council for their generous donation.

The Board of Education approves the donation of \$480.00 from the Old Mill Road Student Council to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation (money collected from 2024 Field of Flags).

Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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: G. The Board of Education approves the transportation contract to We Transport Inc. to provide transportation to Maria Regina School via van with the Bellmore-Merrick Consortium, not to exceed \$89,000.00.

The Board of Education approves the transportation contract to We Transport Inc. to provide transportation to Maria Regina School via van with the Bellmore-Merrick Consortium, not to exceed \$89,000.00.

Consent agenda items 6A-6K

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Action: H. The Board of Education approves the contract with HMB Consultants, LLC, to provide North Merrick UFSD with consulting services relating to the food service program for the 2024-2025 school year, cost not to exceed \$6,234. The Board of Education approves the contract with HMB Consultants, LLC, to provide North Merrick UFSD with consulting services relating to the food service program for the 2024-2025 school year, cost not to exceed \$6,234.  
Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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: I. The Board of Education approves entering into a consulting agreement with Wilson Language Training for the professional development for teachers. The cost shall not exceed \$3,300. (To be paid for by Teacher Center and in part by the district.)

The Board of Education approves entering into a consulting agreement with Wilson Language Training for the professional development for teachers. The cost shall not exceed \$3,300. (To be paid for by Teacher Center and in part by the district.)

Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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: J. The Board of Education approves entering into a consulting agreement with Zaner-Bloser to implement Patterns of Power professional development for teachers during the 2024-25 school year. The cost of this training shall not exceed \$1,015. The Board of Education approves entering into a consulting agreement with Zaner-Bloser to implement Patterns of Power professional development for teachers during the 2024-25 school year. The cost of this training shall not exceed \$1,015.  
Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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: K. The Board of Education approves the disposal of e-waste materials that 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 that serves the best interest of the District, as detailed in the mailing.

The Board of Education approves the disposal of e-waste materials that 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 that serves the best interest of the District, as detailed in the mailing.

Consent agenda items 6A-6K

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: 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 Kathy Moran.

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 updated contract between Olivia Rogers and the North Merrick School District to include psychological counseling services during the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board of Education approves the updated contract between Olivia Rogers and the North Merrick School District to include psychological counseling services during the 2024-2025 school year.

Consent agenda items 8A-8D

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 contract agreement between Hempstead UFSD and the North Merrick School District for tuition for non-resident special education students attending North Merrick special education programs during the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board of Education approves the contract agreement between Hempstead UFSD and the North Merrick School District for tuition for non-resident special education students attending North Merrick special education programs during the 2024-2025 school year.

Consent agenda items 8A-8D

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: C. The Board of Education approves the fifteen (15) 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 fifteen (15) Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.

Consent agenda items 8A-8D

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: D. The Board of Education approves the five (5) 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 five (5) 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-8D

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**

### A. High School

Ed Corona: Three students have been selected to participate in the NYSSMA All-State Music Festival; two students from

Kennedy: Sam Klein and Zara Selvin, and from Mephem, Alana Muniz.

Two students were named National Merit Semifinalists in the 2025 competition, Kyle Park of Calhoun High School and Mark Prainito of Kennedy High School.

Mr. Corona commented the four high school student representatives were present at this meeting. These students report on school news and student achievements.

The valedictorians and salutatorians for the classes of 2025 are as follows: Calhoun HS, valedictorian: Ian Klimov; salutatorian: Isabela Rohr

Kennedy HS: valedictorian: Mark Prainito; salutatorian: Jayden Simon

Mepham High School: valedictorian: Makayla Daube; salutatorian: Helen Strite

### B. School Community Relations/PTA Council

Ms. Keene thanked the PTA for a successful International Walk to School Day on October 2. Students were greeted by PTA members with stickers. Ms. Keene outlined the many events and fundraisers throughout the district, such as Reflections and Fall festivals, Picture Day, book fairs, and pie sales, which will begin soon.

Ms. Keene reminded everyone that the next PTA meetings will be held on 10/24.

### C. Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Carder commented that October is full of festivities and parades. Friday is Trunk or Treat, and we have a large turnout. Equipment is being serviced to prepare for the winter season. Annual fire inspections will take place at the end of this month. The fire inspector will walk the buildings and review everything we need to get our certificates of occupancy. So that's at the end of this month.

Tree work behind Old Mill Road will be done. The company will be thinning the trees and removing some dead growth to make for healthier trees, which are less likely to blow over in storms.

## **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. INFORMATIONS REPORTS (BOE only).**

Information: B. Absences 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 7:33 PM