Tuesday, December 17, 2024
Special School Board Meeting

North Merrick UFSD
Harold D. Fayette
1057 Merrick Avenue
5:30 PM

1. OPENING

A. Call to Order

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Executive Session

D. Reconvene to Public

E. The Board of Education approves the following: WHEREAS, on September 9, 2024, the New York State Board of Regents approved, by emergency adoption, the addition of Part 124 and Subpart 124-2 to Subchapter E of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to regionalization plans ("Regionalization Regulations"); and WHEREAS, at its December 9, 2024 meeting, the New York State Board of Regents approved the Regionalization Regulations for final adoption, as amended (the "Amended Regionalization Regulations"); and WHEREAS, the Amended Regionalization Regulations added a new Section 124-2.8 titled, "Non-participation", which provides a mechanism for a school district to elect not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan by notifying the New York State Education Department's Office of Education Policy of such election, in writing, by no later than January 15, 2025, and every ten years thereafter; and WHEREAS, at the December 9th Board of Regents meeting, New York State Education Department representatives further asserted that notification electing not to participate under the Amended Regionalization Regulations constitutes an opt-out of the entirety of the regionalization process, including the development and implementation of a regionalization plan; and WHEREAS, the North Merrick Union Free School District strongly opposes any initiative that jeopardizes local control of our schools, or redistributes taxpayer dollars and resources to other jurisdictions; and WHEREAS, the preservation, protection and maintenance of complete and total local control of all School District operations is of paramount importance to the Board of Education and Administration, and in the best interests of the North Merrick School community, our students and our schools; and WHEREAS, after review and consideration of the Amended Regionalization Regulations, the North Merrick Union Free School District has determined that it will not participate in the development of a regionalization plan or any aspect of a regionalization plan. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in accordance with the foregoing, the North Merrick Union Free School District hereby exercises its election not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan or in any aspect of the regionalization plan [unless otherwise subsequently authorized by the Board of Education]; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools shall provide written notification of said election to not participate in a regionalization plan to the New York State Department's Office of Education Policy prior to January 15, 2025; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said notification to the New York State Department's Office of Education Policy shall include an express reservation of the School District's rights and remedies respecting its decision not to participate in the regionalization plan and/or any other action that negatively impacts local control of the District's operations.

F. Adjournment