

Monthly School Board Meeting (Tuesday, February 11, 2025)**Board members present**

Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani
Kathy Moran arrived at 5:45 PM.

Administration present:

Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Kate Caporusso, Superintendent for Personnel & Instruction
Mrs. Marie Donnelly, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Dr. Edward Murphy, Assistant to the Superintendent of PPS and Special Education
Mr. Samuel Carder, Director of Facilities
 , Ingerman Smith,
Joanne Long, District Clerk

ABSENT: Board President Megan Ryan and Vice President Tracey Miller.

1. OPENING

Information, Procedural: A. Call to Order, by district clerk, Joanne Long at 5:45 PM

Action: B. The Board of Education approves appointing Ed Corona as acting president. (addendum)

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Information, Procedural: C. The Board of Education approves entering into executive session for personnel matters.

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Information, Procedural: D. The Board of Education approves to reconvene to public at 7:10 PM.

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Information, Procedural: E. Call to Order by acting president Ed Corona, 7:12 PM

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

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

We had our first budget meeting on January 27th and our second meeting tonight. Thank you to Mrs. Donnelly for doing a great job.

The SEPTA art event took place last week on Old Mill Road. The children had a wonderful time, as well as the parents. Our World Read Aloud Day was fun for our students to hear about a writer's creativity and process. Thank you to Dr. Talbot for putting that together.

Last night, Wing hosted Shark Tank for our fifth-grade inventors. Our students were very excited to show

off how they will become millionaires.

UPK registration opened, and we have 132 families registered for the lottery. The lottery closes on February 28th. Families will be chosen on March 14th. We will livestream at 9 am from our Fayette boardroom with our bingo wheel.

Next week, schools are closed for February break.

Our next board of education meeting is on March 11th, and that will be our third budget presentation beginning at 6:15 PM.

We will start to advertise the summer programs. The information will be added to our school website when finalized.

3. ROUTINE APPROVALS

Action, Information, Minutes: A. Approval of Minutes - January 14, 2025
Consent agenda 3A-3C

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Information: B. Approval of warrants, wires, budget transfers
Consent agenda 3A-3C

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Information: C. Approval of Treasurer's report
Consent agenda 3A-3C

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

4. 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

None

5. BUSINESS

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the donation of \$5,166 from the Old Mill Road PTA to be used for site-based clubs for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mr. Corona thanked the Old Mill Road PTA for the donation of \$5,166. This money will be used to fund the site-based clubs.

Consent agenda Items 5A-5F

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: B. The Board of Education approves the revised North Merrick Teacher Center Policy Board members for the 2024-2025 school year.

Consent agenda Items 5A-5F

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. The Board of Education approves entering into a consulting agreement with Lisa Sokol for Administrator Support for the North Merrick Teacher Center Director for the 2024-2025 School Year. The cost shall not exceed \$500.00. (To be paid for by Teacher Center Purchase Services Code.)

Consent agenda Items 5A-5F

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: D. The Board of Education approves the following: WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC"); "WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the North Merrick UFSD, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC to enter into Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits (DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, "Ed Law 2d") related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain Teacher and Principal APPR data;" WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and The Education Cooperative (TEC), to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant DPAs; WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted; and BE IT RESOLVED, Board of Education of the North Merrick UFSD authorizes the attorneys designated by the ROC to negotiate and approve of DPAs for software and/or technology resources; and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Merrick UFSD Board of Education grants the ROC and its designated attorneys the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of DPAs and take such actions so as to effectuate the purposes and intent of this resolution.

The Board of Education approves the following: WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC");

Consent agenda Items 5A-5F

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Information, Procedural: E. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: RESOLVED that the Board President is authorized to execute a repayment agreement with an employee whose identity is known to the Board of Education, which agreement has been reviewed by the Board of Education, as detailed in the mailing.

Consent agenda Items 5A-5F

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Information, Procedural: F. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Merrick Union Free School District hereby authorizes the following proposition to be placed on the ballot of the May 20, 2025 annual vote: SHALL the Board of Education, pursuant to Education Law section 3651, be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund known as the "CAPITAL RESERVE FUND 2025" for the purpose of performing the following capital improvements: instructional and non-instructional space improvements/renovations/upgrades, (including but not limited to classroom improvements/renovations/upgrades and/or additions to existing facilities), gymnasium renovations, cafeteria renovations, library/multi media center renovations, exterior renovations/reconstruction, computer/technology upgrades, security system upgrades, plumbing renovations/upgrades, electrical renovations/upgrades, HVAC renovations/upgrades, energy efficiency renovation/upgrades, renovations required for compliance with ADA requirements, roof/gutter/leader replacement, window replacement, masonry/concrete replacement, interior and exterior door/entry ways replacement, toilet room renovations, lighting upgrades, floor replacement, wall replacement, boiler replacements, elevators, carpentry renovations, site renovations/reconstruction, athletic field renovations/reconstruction, playground renovations, public address/clock system replacement, sound system upgrades, telephone system upgrades, hazardous material remediation, storage space renovations, furnishings and equipment, including the purchase of vehicles, all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental cost related thereto. The maximum amount of the aforesaid Capital Reserve Fund shall be \$10,000,000 plus investment income. The probable term is to be ten (10) years; the funds are to be transferred from (a) the remaining balance of Capital Reserve Fund 2015; and (b) an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 from surplus monies and/or permissible transfers from other reserves, if any, remaining in the 2024-2025 general fund and thereafter in an annual amount of not more than \$1,000,000 for each remaining year of the probable term. Upon the establishment and funding of said reserve, the Superintendent of Schools or designee shall be directed to deposit monies of this reserve fund in a separate bank account to be known as the "CAPITAL RESERVE FUND 2025."

Mr. Corona commented that Item 5F was the creation of the new Capital Reserve Fund 2025, which Marie Donnelly mentioned earlier in her presentation about the budget.

Consent agenda Items 5A-5F

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

Action: A. 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: Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

7. 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 revise and update Policy #5132 Meal Charging and Prohibition Against Meal Shaming; Policy #2564 School District Records Regulation 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 Policy #5132 Meal Charging and Prohibition Against Meal Shaming; Policy #2564 School District Records Regulation

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. SPECIAL SERVICES

Action, Procedural: A. The Board of Education approves the contract between Nassau Neuropsychological Services and the North Merrick School District to conduct independent neuropsychological evaluations for (2) special education students for the 2024-2025 school year.

Consent agenda Items 8A-8D

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. 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.

Consent agenda Items 8A-8D

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. The Board of Education approves the forty one (41) 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 Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Procedural: D. The Board of Education approves the contract between Donna Geffner, Ph. D., CCC-SLP/A and the North Merrick School District to conduct independent educational evaluation for one special education student for the 2024-2025 school year.

Consent agenda Items 8A-8D

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Information, Procedural: A. **High School**

Mr. Corona reported on the following:

The district honored all the members of the Calhoun Connections Club. That's an inclusive group of athletes and students. They won a Team Up for Community award and received a \$3,000 grant. We also honored Zara Selvin, who was named All-Eastern Trouble Chorus. And we also had five Central High School District students named Regeneron Scholars. Five winners from one school district are the highest for any school district on Long Island. The winners were Gabrielle Elliott, Mark Prinito, Joleen Shau, Jayden Simon,

and Mason Tso, all from JFK.

Student representatives reported that Calhoun's wrestling team and the girls' track team won the conference for the ninth year for the girls' track team. Kickline and cheer are going to nationals. Mephram High School held a Holocaust Remembrance Week, and Leo Orman, a Holocaust survivor, told his story. At MAP Meadowbrook Alternative Program, they had bowling day, Spirit Week, and MLK Day of Service. JFK had its annual Alumni Day. Also, a graduate from 2010 presented the PE classes with a magic and mentalist skills performance.

A presentation on AI by our technology director, Joe Innaco. He discussed the risks of cheating and explained the Central High School District has a proactive approach to AI. There is training for teachers and also education for the students. It should be noted that only one AI platform approved by New York State is currently being used in education.

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

Mr. Keene, Board Trustee, reported on the ongoing events throughout the district.

Camp Avenue held an author visit. School fundraisers took place, and student activities included dress-up days, such as, comfy sweaters, toasty toes, and pajama day.

Fayette celebrated Black History Month. Students in grades three through six have begun their science fair project.

Old Mill Road students completed PARP last week. OMR will celebrate its hundredth day this Friday.

The SEPTA art night with Mrs. Block was terrific. We will have our event at Dave and Buster's, the big SEPTA event on March 18th.

Upcoming events include sports nights, a science fair, a book fair, the plant presale, an international night, and an Islander game.

After-school events include chess club, drama club, pickleball game club, podcast club, and Amazing Athletes,

Additionally, we will have the book fair open on March 19th during Parent-Teacher conferences so that parents can shop for their child or children.

Information, Procedural: C. **Buildings & Grounds**

Mr. Carder, Director of Facilities, stated that the custodians and maintenance crew have been doing a lot of busy work around the district for the last few weeks, just minor repairs. We have a work order system and quickly get things done. The staff have done a fantastic job keeping up with that snow removal for the last few weeks. Additionally, the day after snow removal, they hose down the truck and equipment because the salt can cause corrosion.

Mr. Carder thanked the Camp Avenue maintenance crew for their help renovating Camp's main office.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communications

The district clerk, Mrs. Long, reported receiving and responding to four communications.

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. Absences 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
Adjournment 7:20 PM

Motion by Will Luciani, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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