

**Monthly School Board Meeting (Tuesday, April 8, 2025)****Board Members present:****Board President, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran****ABSENT: Vice President, Tracey Miller and Will Luciani****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****Steve Goodstat, Ingerman Smith****Joanne Long, District Clerk**

Procedural: B. The Board of Education approves entering into Executive Session matters of personnel and advice of counsel at 6:03 PM.

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Procedural: C. The Board of Education approves to reconvene to public session at 7:03 PM.

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Ed Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Procedural: D. Call to Order by Board President, Megan Ryan at 7:05 PM.

Procedural: E. Pledge of Allegiance, led by Ms. Ryan.

Board President, Ms. Ryan, thanked our county Legislator, Michael Giangregorio, for a grant of \$104,000. This money will be used for the repairs at the Camp Avenue School.

**2. PRESENTATION**

2025-2026 Budget Presentation by Marie Donnelly, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

**3. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

Reported on the following:

We had our parent-teacher conferences on March 19th. Happiness Day is celebrated on March 20. Theater arts, Shrek Jr. The Musical was held on March 28th and 29th. Thank you was extended to the entire staff who participated, and to Joyce Kelly, Lisa Sokol, and Christine Vanella for their continued support of the program. This is the district's fourth year of the UPK program. One hundred fourteen placements for our UPK will go out this Friday. Families must provide proof of residency before their placement can be accepted. Thank you, Board of Education, for your support.

Upcoming events: Our second annual Community Read Aloud kickoff is at the North Merrick Library this Thursday.

Spring recess is scheduled for April 14th, and we will return on Tuesday, April 22.

Our summer programs are up on our website. We have SCOPE at Old Mill for July, and we will be starting a JCC recreation program after SCOPE for parents who need full-day activities for their children.

Here at Fayette, we offer our music program, theater arts, Spanish, an extended school year, and an ENL program.

Also, our board president, Ms. Megan Ryan, was awarded the title of premier businesswoman of Long Island. The

Herald published a big article about her, so a big round of applause for her.

#### **4. ROUTINE APPROVALS**

A. Approval of Minutes - March 11, 2025

Consent agenda Items 4A-4C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Ed Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

B. Approval of Warrants, Wires, Budget Transfers

Consent agenda Items 4A-4C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Ed Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

C. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Consent agenda Items 4A-4C

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Ed Corona.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, 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

None

#### **6. BUSINESS**

A. The Board of Education adopts the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$42,638,849.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

B. The Board of Education adopts the 2025-2026 Property Tax Report Card for the North Merrick Union Free School District.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

C. The Board of Education approves the updated appointment of chief election inspectors and clerks for the North Merrick Library Vote on April 9, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM and the Library evening voter's registration on April 2, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Chief Election Inspector Michele Hagan will be paid \$21 per hour. Spanish translator/election inspector Giovanna Amarain will be paid \$26 per hour. Clerks, as needed, Judy Horvath, Cathy Onolfo, Annette Desimone-Starala, Bernice Holzmacher, and Lauren Iantosca will be paid \$16.50 per hour. The District will be fully reimbursed for all costs associated with the North Merrick Library vote.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

D. The Board of Education approves the following budget transfers: \$190,000 from account code A9060.801-04 Health Insurance to account codes A2250.400-04 Contracted Services (\$17,000), A2250.401-04 Cont Services Therapy (\$160,000) and A2250.475-04 Tuition Other Schools (\$13,000); and \$32,000 from A2630.490-01 BOCES Camp Computers/Smartboards to A2250.490-04-0400 BOCES Contractual. Reason: For agency aides/RBTs, IEEs, tuition for private placements and BOCES Services.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

E. The Board of Education approves the donation of \$1,792 from SEPTA to be used for transportation to/from and admission to "Pete the Cat" performance at the Tilles Center for HDF and OMR students.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

F. The Board of Education awards the contract for Claims Auditor Services for the 2025-26 school year, with the option for the Board to renew the agreement for up to four additional school years to Cerini & Associates, LLP and that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to enter into the agreement for these services.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

G. The Board of Education approves the award for Printing Services to Printing Emporium, based on their proposal submitted in response to RFP #24/25-002 Printing Services.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

H. The Board of Education awards a contract for the Universal Pre-kindergarten Program for the 2025-2026 school year to Wee Friends Too, TLC Brookside and Friedberg JCC and that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to enter into the agreement for these services; and that the proposal received from SCOPE is rejected due to pricing.

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

Action: I. The Board of Education approves the agreement with Textbook Central for the 2025-26 school year to purchase textbooks for North Merrick students attending non-public schools.

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

## 7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

A. The Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report, as detailed in the mailing.

Dr. Seniuk stated the North Merrick School District has some retirees this year, and posted these classroom positions - we received over 500 resumes. We had screenings, we had a committee, we had demos, we had final interviews, and we had writing samples. The new hires completed a rigorous process. North Merrick is an extremely special place. Congratulations were extended to Antonio Baglivo. Michaela Gallo and Caroline Innelli.

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

## 8. SPECIAL SERVICES

A. The Board of Education approves addenda A and B to the contract between Homecare Therapies, LLC and the North Merrick School District for the provision of aide services for students based on IEP mandates for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

Consent agenda Items 8A-8E

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

B. The Board of Education approves the contract between Nassau Neuropsychological Services and the North Merrick School District to conduct an independent neuropsychological evaluation for a special education student for the 2024-2025 school year.

Consent agenda Items 8A-8E

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

C. The Board of Education approves the contract between New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc. and the North Merrick School District for the provision of special education services and evaluations for the 2024-2025 school year.

Consent agenda Items 8A-8E

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

D. 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.

Consent agenda Items 8A-8E

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

E. The Board of Education approves the thirteen (13) 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-8E

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

## 9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

### A. High School

Mr. Corona reported at the Central High School district board meeting that we honored track athletes from Kennedy and Mepham High School who were county champions. We also had two girls from the district girls' wrestling team and the Mepham cheerleading team. All of them were also county champions. Also, the middle school boys' locker room will be reconstructed in the summer, as will the Kennedy School auditorium, sound and lighting upgrades, and track resurfacing. As reported last month, the high school proposed a 3.32 percent budget increase, which is only a 2.82 percent tax levy increase within the tax cap.

Mr. Corona questioned the numbering of the high school propositions. Joanne Long, District Clerk, explained that the elementary proposition goes first, followed by the CHSD propositions, Propositions 4 and 5.

### B. School Community Relations/PTA Council

Ms. Keene commented that the PTAs continue to be incredible. She highlighted the ongoing events throughout the district. Camp Avenue students celebrated the International Day of Happiness, and the PTA arranged for a great assembly with Holly Rock Entertainment. Students participated in a fun, engaging game show. Mad Science came to the school for the K2 grades. Kids were engaged and came home raving about it. Upcoming events include Spring Fling and the talent show.

The New York Islanders are scheduled to visit H.D. Fayette this week. Ready, Set, Go is scheduled for April 24th and May 13th. We are excited to welcome our newest HDF kids to the school. Staff Appreciation Week is May 5th through 9th. Pickleball, game club, podcast club, and amazing athletes run smoothly. School supply sale is running right now through April 23rd

At Old Mill Road, the Sweetheart Shamrock Dance for grades K through 3 was a huge success. They had a Beautiful Flower fundraiser courtesy of Olive, which was fantastic. The spiritwear fundraiser with Lux and Hazel has just ended. Happiness Day was celebrated with a fantastic assembly. On April 2nd, we had the Islanders assembly with two representatives and Sparky the mascot in attendance. The kids were slightly disappointed that there were no players,

but Sparky helped. Fun Day Plans are currently being discussed. SEPTA On April 24, we are having a speaker scheduled at Fayette to discuss encouraging kids to be independent and help them cope with anxiety. It's going to be great. It's going to be a great talk. Kelly, the president of SEPTA, saw it, and she said it's excellent. So SEPTA is finalizing plans for a Circus event on May 7th. And very exciting. SEPTA will cover field trips for our self-contained classes—all great things.

C. Buildings & Grounds  
none

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communications  
Joanne Long, District Clerk, reported wwo communications were received and responded to.

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

Information: F. BOCES Nomination Information

15. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment 7:30 PM

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