

Budget Hearing and Monthly School Board Meeting (Tuesday, May 13, 2025)

Board members present:

Board President, Megan Ryan (arrived 6:40 PM); Vice President, Tracey Miller; Steve Enella, Mary Keene

ABSENT: Ed Corona; Kathy Moran (present for executive session only); Will Luciani (present for executive session via telephone).

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

1. OPENING

A. Call to Order by Vice President, Tracey Miller at 6:04 PM

B. Executive Session for matters of personnel, and advice of counsel

Motion by Steve Enella, second by Kathy Moran.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran

C. Reconvene to the Public to begin Budget Hearing 7:02 PM by Board President, Megan Ryan.

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

2. BUDGET HEARING

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent called the meeting to order 7:05 PM

Information, Procedural: B. Superintendent leads in the pledge.

Information, Procedural: C. Superintendent introduces the Board of Education.

Information, Procedural: D. Superintendent turns meeting over to the President of the Board of Education, Ms. Ryan, who will act as Chairman of the meeting.

Information, Procedural: E. The Chairman, Ms. Ryan, will direct the District Clerk to read the Call of the Meeting.

Information, Procedural: F. The Chairman, Ms. Ryan, will direct the District Clerk to report on candidate petitions received.

The district clerk reported the following individuals submitted petitions to run for the North Merrick Board of Education:

Steve Enella, Will Luciani, and Megan Ryan

Information, Procedural: G. The Chairman, Ms. Ryan, will direct the District Clerk to read the qualifications of a voter.

- A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

- EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

- A RESIDENT WITHIN THIS DISTRICT FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE VOTING DATE.

- QUALIFIED VOTERS MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE NORTH MERRICK SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR WITH THE NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS FROM THEIR NORTH MERRICK ADDRESS.

Information, Procedural: H. The Chairman, Ms. Ryan, reads the Proposed Budget - Categories of Budget: Administrative, Program and Capital

CATEGORIES OF THE BUDGET

Administrative: \$5,120,295

Program: \$31,783,879

Capital: \$5,734,675

Total \$42,638,849

Information, Procedural: I. The Chairman, Ms. Ryan, adjourns the budget hearing at 7:08 PM.

Ms. Ryan, adjourns the meeting at 7:08 PM

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

Superintendent's comments defer to begin tenure celebrations.

B. Tenure celebration and recognition - Christine Talbot - Supervisor of Instructional Technology, Library Media & Data Reporting; Kristen Naletilic - Special Education; Joanne Constantino; Library; Jacqueline Sekunda, School Counselor; Jessica Price; Psychologist; Debra Iannaci, Teacher; Christine Vanella, ENL Teacher; Louise Casella, TA and Olivia Taylor, TA

Congratulations were extended to the tenure recipients. Each individual was introduced and praised for their dedication, passion, and commitment to education. Receiving tenure marks a milestone and recognizes the significant impact each of you makes in the lives of many.

4. ROUTINE APPROVALS

A. Approval of minutes - April 8, 2025 and BOCES Special Meeting April 23, 2025

Consent agenda Item 4A - 4C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

B. Approval of Warrants, Wires, Budget Transfers

Consent agenda Item 4A - 4C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

C. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Consent agenda Item 4A - 4C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

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

Discussion, Information, Procedural: B. Comments

None

6. BUSINESS

A. The Board of Education approves the issuance of tax anticipation notes for the 2025-2026 school year, not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

B. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: 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 2025-2026 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.

Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

C. The Board of Education approves the agreement with Quantas Advisors to provide Affordable Care Act administration and consulting services through June 30, 2026.

Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

D. The Board of Education authorizes the additional funding of the 2024-25 reserves in accordance with General Municipal Law and Educational Law, as detailed in the mailing.

Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

E. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit the online Letter of Intent for the 2025-2026 school year for services provided by BOCES in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

F. The Board of Education authorizes the renewal of the cyber insurance policy with Spinnaker Insurance Company (Cowbell) for the 2025-2026 school year. The total premium cost not to exceed \$5,738.00.

Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

G. The Board of Education approves the renewal of the bid award to G.C. Environmental, Inc. to provide petroleum tank repair testing, alarm, compliance, and inspections on an as-needed basis for the 2025-2026 school year

Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

H. The Board of Education approves the bid award to Woods Mens & Boys Clothing to provide custodial uniforms on an as needed basis for the 2025-2026 school year.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

I. The Board of Education approves the donation from the Camp Avenue faculty for the planting of a tree in memory of Arthur Solnick, former Camp Avenue principal, who passed away.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

J. The Board of Education approves the purchase of (325) Dell CTO 3120 N100 Chromebooks, (325) Google Management Console for Chromebook – software licensing & maintenance, (325) Chromebook Cases 11”, (50) Hardware Maintenance/HP Care Pack Hardware Support, (50) HP Workstation BTO HP 400, and associated licensee, hardware, maintenance, and fees, to be processed only after voter approval of the 2025-2026 budget.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

K. The Board of Education approves to enter into an agreement with the Merrick Woods Country Day School, Inc. for use of 25 designated parking spaces and 4 bus parking spaces during Summer 2025. The President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute the agreement.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

L. The Board of Education approves to enter into an agreement with the Merrick Woods Country Day School, Inc. for use of the ball fields at Harold D. Fayette School during Summer 2025. The President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute the agreement.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

M. The Board of Education approves entering into an agreement with Aaron Langenauer to provide professional development to district staff during the 2024-25 school year. Cost for this service shall not exceed \$250.00
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

N. The Board of Education approves the engagement letter with RS Abrams & Co., LLP for external auditing services for the 2025-2026 school year.
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

O. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: Be it resolved that effective July 7, 2025, the position currently set forth in the School District as Supervisor of Instructional Technology, Library Media, and Data Reporting will be converted to a Principal position. (*revised)
Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
 Final Resolution: Motion Carried
 Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

P. The Board of Education approves the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Board of Education hereby accepts the donation of a synthetic turf field and related items at Camp Avenue School from the Merrick Bellmore Little League pending attorney approval of a memorandum of understanding with the School District and Merrick Bellmore Little League; and Be it further resolved that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to sign the agreement with the Merrick Bellmore Little League on the Board's behalf upon approval from the District's Attorney.
 Consent agenda Items 6A - 6P

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
 Final Resolution: Motion Carried
 Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

A. The Board of Education approves the Personnel Actions Report, as detailed in the mailing.
 Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried
 Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

8. SPECIAL SERVICES

Action: A. The Board of Education approves the agreement between Dr. Caryl Oris and the North Merrick School District to provide psychiatric evaluations as needed for the 2024-2025 school year.
 Consent agenda 8A-8C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.
 Final Resolution: Motion Carried
 Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

B. The Board of Education approves the nineteen (19) Individualized Education Programs (IEPS) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Pre-School Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.
 Consent agenda 8A-8C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.
 Final Resolution: Motion Carried
 Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

C. The Board of Education approves the thirty 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 8A-8C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.
 Final Resolution: Motion Carried
 Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene

9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Information, Procedural: A. High School
 None

Procedural: B. School Community Relations/PTA Council
 Board trustee, Mary Keene, reported on the following PTA activities:
 The Camp Avenue book fair was buy one, get one free. The Hawaiian Spring Fling was held on May 2nd, featuring DJ Maz. 85 to 90 students attended. The talent show theme was inspired by America's Got Talent, with over 50 children participating. May 12th was the final PTA meeting of the year.

The New York Islanders visited HDF on April 11th for a pep rally. Ready, set, goal is April 24th, and part two is May 13th. Staff Appreciation Week took place from May 5th to 9th. The Fun Day plan is in full swing. Students will receive their school supply boxes in June in preparation for the upcoming school year. The PTA meeting was on May 12.

Old Mill Road had a great fundraiser, Chipotle, Swirls World, and United Skates. Spring Boutique was held for students to purchase gifts for Mother's and Father's Day. Preparations are underway for the upcoming Fun Day. Pat's Farms offered a ten percent discount when our school was mentioned during purchases last week.

SEPTA held Circus Night last week, and it was a huge success. June 4th is our annual ice cream social, being held at Camp Avenue this year from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Education is appreciative of all the PTAs' efforts—just another incredible year across the board.

Procedural: C. Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Carder, Director of Facilities, stated that the air conditioning being installed in the HDF gym, which should be complete in about a week to two weeks. This will ensure 100% air conditioning throughout the district.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communication

Joanne Long, District Clerk, reported that one communication was received and responded to.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Unfinished business

None

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. New business

Ms. Kate Caporusso introduced Ms. Nicole Schmidt, the new school psychologist at Old Mill Road.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maria Pezzolla, spoke about the UPK program, and the Scope contract was rejected due to monetary reasons. With the closure of that program, does that open up more spaces for students, allowing us to have the program in our schools, Fayette and Old Mill?

Dr. Seniuk explained the process involved in securing the UPK program. We don't have the space to bring a program into all of our schools. The one classroom that SCOPE was using is now being used by students next year.

Jenie Mei-Chan will be moving in at the end of June, and so I will be registering my 7-year-old son. She explained that she and her husband work full-time, so before- and aftercare is a necessity. She spoke to the Belmore Merrick aftercare to register him, and he is on a waitlist. My question is, if he does not get into the before-and-after-care program at Old Mill and is sent to another school, what happens then? Will he have a spot at the before-and-after care?

Dr. Seniuk commented that she spoke with June Smith yesterday and went over the availability in each school. Dr. Seniuk recommended remaining in conversation with Ms. June Smith, and that Ms. Smith feels hopeful about being able to hire more workers. It's not about the space, it's about getting workers to work in her program. Although it is not a specific answer, until you're registered, there's nothing we can do.

Christine Atwell Steinholz commented that her child will be attending kindergarten at Camp Avenue in September. She spoke about the confusion of trying to register for before and aftercare. She contacted them in March and was told that registration hadn't started yet, but they didn't provide a specific date. As a result, she missed the deadline and is now at risk of not having childcare. After speaking with other parents on social platforms, she is not alone in stating that childcare is a significant issue for residents of North Merrick, and that there needs to be more access, clearer communication, and a slightly more user-friendly registration interface.

Board President Ms. Ryan thanked the resident for bringing her concerns to the district.

14. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS (BOE only).

A. Appropriation Status Report; Revenue Status Report; Trial Balance; Cash Flow

B. Absences of Five Consecutive Days

C. Enrollment

D. Health Office Report: Student/Adult Accidents

E. Building and Grounds Reports

15. ADJOURNMENT

Action: A. Adjournment 7:58 PM
Adjournment 7:55 PM

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Steve Enella.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Steve Enella, Mary Keene