

Monthly School Board Meeting (Tuesday, October 14, 2025)**Board members present:**

Board President, Megan Ryan; Vice President, Ed Corona, Trustees: Tracey Miller, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, William Luciani and Kathy Moran

Administration present:

Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Kate Caporusso, Superintendent for Personnel & Instruction

Mrs. Marie Donnelly, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations and Special Education

Dr. Ed Murphy, Assistant to the Superintendent for PPS and Special Education

Mr. Samuel Carder, Director of Facilities

Steve Goodstat, Ingerman Smith

Joanne Long, District Clerk

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM**1. OPENING****A. Called to order**

Board President, Megan Ryan, called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

B. Executive Session

For matters of personnel and negotiations

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Mary Keene.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

C. Reconvene to the Public to begin the Audit Committee Meeting at 6:20 PM in the conference room.

Ms. Maryann Van Duyne and Thomas Lake from RS Abrams presented a review of the 2024-2025 audit to the audit committee.

Reconvene to the Public to begin the Audit Committee Meeting at 6:20 PM

Motion by Ed Corona, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

D. Call to Order

Called to Order by Board President, Megan Ryan, at 7:03 PM

The Board of Education and Administration extend their heartfelt condolences and prayers to the Kushner family. Matt Kushner dedicated 18 years of service to the Board of Education, including 10 years on the high school board. His wife, Sheila Kushner, devoted twenty years to teaching in the North Merrick School District.

E. Pledge of Allegiance

Board President led in the pledge.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Superintendent's comments

Dr. Seniuk, Superintendent, welcomed everyone to the October Board meeting. She provided a brief recap of recent events and shared an overview of upcoming school activities and programs.

3. PRESENTATION

Discussion, Information, Presentation, Procedural: A. Auditor's Report/R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP

Ms. Van Duyne reported that North Merrick received an unmodified opinion, which is the best rating a school district can receive. There were no current or prior year findings or recommendations, and she thanked Mrs. Donnelly and the business office for their cooperation during the audit.

Ms. Van Duyne then reviewed the district's financial summary from last year to this year. The general fund balance showed a net decrease compared to an increase in 2024, due to expenditures and financing uses exceeding revenues and financing sources. The school food service fund balance also decreased, mainly because of higher salaries and food service management costs, partly offset by increased meal sales. There was no change in the debt service fund balance since no transfers were made to cover current debt

payments. The district plans to use the remaining debt service fund balance to help pay for debt costs in the 2025–2026 school year. She discussed new accounting standards. GASB No. 101 introduces a single model for reporting leave liabilities, focusing on leave earned from past service and likely to be used. GASB No. 103 aims to make governmental financial statements more consistent and comparable, and GASB No. 104 requires certain capital assets—such as right-to-use assets, subscription assets, and assets held for sale—to be disclosed separately.

B. Celebration of Retiree - Principal Laura DeLuca

Retiree Laura DeLuca was honored and celebrated for her remarkable career as Principal of Old Mill Road. She was recognized for 21 years of dedicated service to the students, staff, and community. Under Ms. DeLuca's leadership, the school flourished—not only academically, but also as a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child was encouraged to learn, grow, and succeed.

Mr. Merims, along with teachers and CSEA members, presented Ms. DeLuca with flowers and expressed heartfelt appreciation for her leadership, noting that her positive impact will be felt for many years to come. Warm wishes were extended to Ms. DeLuca as she begins her well-earned retirement.

4. ROUTINE APPROVALS

Action, Minutes, Procedural: A. Approval of Minutes- September 9, 2025 monthly school board meeting
Approval of Minutes - September 09, 2025 monthly school board meeting
Consent agenda Items 4A-4C

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: B. Approval of Warrants, Wires and Budget Transfers
Approval of Warrants, Wires and Budget Transfers
Consent agenda Items 4A-4C

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: C. Approval of Treasurer's Report
Approval of Treasurer's Report
Consent agenda Items 4A-4C

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, 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 2024-25 school year prepared by R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.
Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, 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, 2025 Reserve Plan for use of Reserves and Fund Balance for the 2024-25 school year.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, 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, 2025: • a transfer of \$604,989.25 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, 2025:

- a transfer of \$604,989.25 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-6I

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action D. The Board of Education authorizes the following transfers from General Fund Balance to reserves as of June 30, 2025: • a transfer of \$500,000 to the Retirement Contribution Reserve • a transfer of \$200,000 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 \$204,809 to the Capital Reserve Fund-2025

The Board of Education authorizes the following transfers from General Fund Balance to reserves as of June 30, 2025:

- a transfer of \$500,000 to the Retirement Contribution Reserve
- a transfer of \$200,000 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 \$204,809 to the Capital Reserve Fund-2025

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, 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, 2025, as detailed in the mailing.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action, Procedural: F. The Board of Education accepts the donation from SEPTA for playground communication boards within our district, including one at Camp Ave, two at Old Mill Road, and two at Harold D. Fayette Elementary Schools.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: G. The Board of Education approves entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Hofstra University for the 2025-26 school year for the placement of student observers and student teachers.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: H. 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-6I

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action I. The Board of Education approves the Professional Development Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

Consent agenda Items 6A-6I

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

7. POLICIES

Action: A. The Board of Education approves the second reading/adoption of Policy #9200 School Board Powers and Duties.

The Board of Education approves the second reading/adoption of Policy #9200 School Board Powers and Duties.

Consent agenda Items 7A-7B

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action B. 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 adopt new Policy #8113 Extreme Heat Condition Days, 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 #8113 Extreme Heat Condition Days.

Consent agenda Items 7A-7B

Motion by Tracey Miller, second by Steve Enella.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

8. PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT

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

Motion by Kathy Moran, second by Will Luciani.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

9. SPECIAL SERVICES

Action: A. The Board of Education approves the contract agreement between Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf and the North Merrick School District for tuition for resident special education student attending as per their IEP for the 2025-2026 school year.

Consent agenda Items 9A-9C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: B. The Board of Education approves the three (3) 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 9A-9C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

Action: C. The Board of Education approves the seven (7) Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) which were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education, as detailed in the mailing.

Consent agenda Items 9A-9C

Motion by Mary Keene, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Information, Procedural: A. High School

Mr. Corona reported that a student representative from each high school attended the Board meeting. These students provide monthly reports that help keep the district community informed and connected.

The Central High School District was recently ranked No. 67 in the nation, according to Niche's 2026 study of more than 10,000 school districts across the country. The district also earned an impressive ranking of No. 14 in New York State out of 596 districts.

Additionally, one student from the Central High School District has been recognized as a National Merit Semifinalist, and 13 students have been named Commended Students in the prestigious 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.

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

Ms. Keene expressed her gratitude to the PTA for being "awesome" and for their outstanding support. She highlighted the many events and fundraisers held throughout the district, including Reflections, Picture Day, and book fairs. Upcoming activities include Red Ribbon Week, Uncle Tony's Reptile Show, yoga and drama clubs, and the Skate-a-Thon.

Ms. Keene also congratulated Principal Mrs. DeLuca on her retirement. She praised Mrs. DeLuca for her many years of dedicated service and commitment to the students at OMR, noting that she has been a true role model for all.

Information, Procedural: C. Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Carder, Director of Facilities, reported that over the weekend a tree fell at Camp Avenue School due to the storm. He also noted that October is a busy month with various activities, including fall festivities, Trunk or Treat, and the Halloween parade.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

Information, Procedural: A. Communications

None

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Information, Procedural: A. Unfinished Business

None

13. NEW BUSINESS

Information, Presentation: A. New Business

Board Trustee, Mary Keene, expressed her sadness at the passing of Fern Sobel. She dedicated many years as a special education teacher aide at Old Mill, touching the lives of countless students with her kindness and care.

Dr. Seniuk shared the sad news of the unexpected passing of Nancy Dies, the mother of Jen Shah. For twenty-seven years, Nancy served as the District Clerk for the North Merrick. Condolences were extended to her family.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Information, Procedural: A. Comments

None

15. INFORMATION 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 and Grounds Reports

16. ADJOURNMENT

Action, Procedural: A. Adjournment
Adjournment 7:45 PM

Motion by Megan Ryan, second by Tracey Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Tracey Miller, Megan Ryan, Ed Corona, Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Kathy Moran, Will Luciani