February 14, 2012 Page 1
2011-2012

The Board Meeting of the North Merrick Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

Present:  
Mrs. Alyse Middendorf, President  
Mr. Neil Brown, Vice President  
Mr. Jonathan Butler  
Mrs. Linda Fuller  
Mrs. Wendy Gargiulo  
Mr. George Haile  
Dr. Matthew Kuschner  
Mr. David S. Feller, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Beth Friedman, Deputy Superintendent for Personnel & Instruction  
Mr. Stephen Draper, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations  
Al D’Agostino, Esq., Minerva & D’Agostino, Esqs. (Arrived 7:20 PM)  
Ms. Barbara Wortman, Assistant to the Superintendent for PPS  
Mrs. Joanne Long, District Clerk  

Absent:  
Ms. Terri McCurry, District Treasurer  
Mr. James Saitta, Director of Facilities and Operations  

Mrs. Middendorf called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.  

Call to Order  

Mrs. Middendorf led in the pledge.  

Pledge  

Mr. Feller explained that we now have new laws which require the district to post the Board Report on-line prior to the meeting. Also, after consulting with our attorney he stated that FMLA does not require Board approve as it is and will now be put in the Board Report as an informational item. 

Executive Session  

Mr. Haile seconded by Dr. Kuschner moved approval to adjourn into executive session at 7:19 PM for matters of employment.  

7 – 0  

Mrs. Middendorf reconvened to public session 8:11 PM  

Reconvene to Public  

Mrs. Middendorf led in the pledge.  

Pledge  

Mrs. Middendorf read the following inspirational message.  

“In love is something eternal; the aspect may change, but not the essence.”  – Vincent van Gogh  

Inspirational Message  

Mr. Butler seconded by Mr. Brown moved approval of the following meetings: December 8, 2011 Special meeting; December 13, 2011 regular Board meeting and January 10, 2012 regular Board meeting.  

Approval of Minutes
February 14, 2012 Page 2
2011-2012

Motion carried 6– 0 – 1 (Recused – Dr. Kuschner)

Mr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval of the following payroll and bills:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$5,932,655.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Lunch Fund</td>
<td>$141,272.93</td>
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<td>Special Aid Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Reserve Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust and Agency</td>
<td>$112,471.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval of the following budget transfers in the amount of $16,000.00 and a total wire transfer in the amount of $4,046,814.03.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval of the treasurer’s report.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Mr. Feller was pleased to introduce twelve students from our district who participated in the Martin Luther King Superintendent’s Challenge. He said this assignment gives children the opportunity to do research on specific topics. The children wrote essays, poems and made beautiful drawings. Mr. Feller called up each child and they read their work and were given a certificate for participating in the challenge.

Mr. Feller introduced Mr. Stephen Draper, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations. Mr. Draper did a presentation that explained the tax cap levy. He discussed that there is a specific calculation which is used to formulate the maximum allowable tax levy subject to the 50 percent plus one voter approval for the 2012-13 school year. He also pointed out that the two percent tax cap is not a cap on the taxes of the residents, but it is a cap on the levy. He went over certain exemptions that apply. The budget vote was discussed and Mr. Draper pointed out if the school goes above the
maximum allowable tax levy, then we would need 60 percent of voter approval to pass the budget. Mr. Feller mentioned if the budget fails twice the school district would be required to operate with a zero percent increase in the tax levy. Mr. Feller stated we need to educate the community as to what the impact would be if the budget failed. Mr. Feller thanked Mr. Draper and reminded all present that the next Budget meeting will be on March 1st at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Feller wished all present a Happy Valentine’s Day. He congratulated Camp Avenue 3rd grade class for collecting coats, pajamas and various food items and distributed them to charitable organizations throughout Long Island. Mr. Feller was pleased to announce that Debbie Giaco and Peggy Rakas will be presented with the annual SCOPE Service Award. They were nominated for outstanding service. Mr. Brown also congratulated Mr. Feller for being nominated for this same award. Fiddler on the Roof will take place on March 9th and 10th at Brookside. There are approximately 150 North Merrick students participating in this year’s show. Ms. Friedman has posted information on our school website about the upcoming show along with a music soundtrack from Fiddler on the Roof.

Mr. Feller state he participate in a lengthy interview with the Merrick Herald on APPR. He felt he wanted to clarify that the North Merrick School district has always had a teacher evaluation system in place. He stated our administrators do a great job in helping teachers grow as educators.

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Brown moved to approve for Joanne Long, District Clerk to attend the Semi-Annual District Clerk Meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2012 in Holbrook from 8:45 AM to 1:00 PM. There is no cost for this conference (plus mileage/travel).

Motion carried 7 - 0

Mrs. Middendorf seconded by Mrs. Fuller moved approval of the nomination of Susan Bergtraum for Nassau BOCES Board members.

Motion carried 5 - 1 - 1
(Opposed – Dr. Kuschner; Abstained – Mr. Butler)

Mr. Haile seconded by Mr. Brown moved to approve the disposal of equipment that is no longer in use by the school district, and that such equipment will be disposed of in a manner which serves in the best interest of the North Merrick Union Free School District.
February 14, 2012 Page 4
2011-2012

Motion carried 7 – 0

Mr. Brown seconded by Dr. Kuschner moved to approve the following transfer: From: A9010.800-04 NYS Employees Retirement System - $35,000.00 To: A9040.800-04 Workers’ Compensation Insurance - $35,000.00.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval for the district to enter into a contract with the Jericho Public School to pay Health Services for one (1) student residing in our district and attending Long Island Lutheran School in Jericho during the 2011-2012 school year. The cost for the 2011-2012 school year - 1 student at $ 969.15, total $ 969.15.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval for the district to enter into a contract with the Plainedge Public School to pay Health Services for one (1) student residing in our district and attending Maria Regina School in Plainedge during the 2011-2012 school year. The cost for the 2011-2012 school year - 1 student at $ 551.00, total $ 551.00.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval for the district to enter into a contract with the Uniondale Public School to pay Health Services for two (2) students residing in our district and attending Kellenberg Memorial High School and one (1) student attending St. Martin de Porres Marianist School in Uniondale during the 2011-2012 school year. The cost for the 2011-2012 school year – (3) student at $ 614.29 per student, total $ 1,842.87.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Mr. Butler seconded by Mrs. Fuller moved approval of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provisions of Education Law, 1907 and 3635, and General Municipal Law, 119-0 relating to Municipal cooperative activities, the Board of Education of the North Merrick Union Free School District is hereby authorized and directed to continue its participation in a regional

Budget Transfer
Health Service Contracts
Cooperative Transportation Agreement
transportation consortium with the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District and other component districts is hereby authorized and directed to continue its participation in a regional transportation of students of the District and participation districts to the schools which such students attend in accordance with the parameters defined in a document entitled, “Cooperative Student Transportation Feasibility Study” dated March, 1989; the foregoing resolution shall be operative to commit the North Merrick Union Free School District to participation in such regional transportation system for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized and directed to give effect to the within Agreement if, in his judgment, there is sufficient participation among the participating district to make participation by the North Merrick Union Free School District Feasible and economically advantageous to it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of schools be authorized and directed to take such other and further actions as shall be necessary or appropriate to give effect to the within resolution.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Mrs. Fuller seconded by Mr. Brown moved to approve the following conference requests: Laura Leudesdorff, Ron Reinken and Howard Merims to attend the Teacher Evaluation Training Workshop (module #4 APPR mandated) on February 6, 2012, sponsored by BOCES. The cost is $115 per person. Laura Leudesdorff, Ron Reinken, David Feller and Barbara Wortman to attend the Teacher Evaluation Training Workshop (module #5, APPR mandated) on March 22, 2012, sponsored by Nassau BOCES. The cost is $55 per person. Stephen Draper to attend Accounting III Workshop on April 18 & 19, 2012, sponsored by NYSABO. The cost is $225. Barbara Wortman to attend Teacher Evaluation Training (modules #4&5, APPR mandate) on January 31, 2012 and February 27, 2012, sponsored by Nassau BOCES. The total cost $170. David Feller and Beth Friedman to attend the Teacher Evaluation Training Workshop on February 27, 2012, sponsored by Nassau BOCES. The cost is $115. Howard Merims to attend the Writing Teacher Evaluations to Improve Instruction Effectiveness on February 16, 2012, sponsored by Nassau BOCES. The cost is $125. Laura Leudesdorff to attend the Data for Principals in an Age of Accountability on March 12, 2012, sponsored by Nassau BOCES. The cost is $60. (The district will pay for travel/mileage if required
February 14, 2012 Page 6
2011-2012

for workshops/conferences.)

Motion carried 7 – 0

Mrs. Fuller seconded by Mr. Brown moved to approve the following conference request: Ron Reinken to attend Planning Workshop for Professional Development, Math CCSS on February 17-19, 2012 sponsored by University of Arizona. The cost is $640. (The district will pay for travel/mileage if required for workshops/conferences.)

Motion carried 7 – 0

Mrs. Fuller seconded by Mr. Brown moved to approve the following conference requests: Abba Krebs to attend Long Island Mathematics Conference: Getting to the Core on March 16, 2012, sponsored by LIMACON. The cost is $60.00. Lisa Drewes to attend Common Core State Standards for Reading on March 13, 2012, sponsored by the Institute for Education Development. The cost is $70. Lori Dugan, John McDaid, Jim Barton and Karen Nolan to at the NYS Ahperd Nassau Zone Annual Conference on March 2, 2012, sponsored by NYS Ahperd. The cost is $60 per person. Ericka Moeller to attend the School Based Data Inquiry Team on February 9, 2012. There is no cost for this conference. Lisa Drewes and Jamie Macko to attend Focus on Authentic Grammar Instruction and Writing Assessment on March 9, 2012, sponsored by Schoolwide Inc. There is no fee for this conference. (The district will pay for travel/mileage if required for workshops/conferences.)

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Butler moved to approve the retroactive appointment of Lisa Clark-Pohorelec as a homebound tutor to provide one hour of general education instruction to a student who was suspended from school for one day. Tutors, by contract, are compensated at $45 per hour.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval to add the following names to our per diem substitute teacher list, pending fingerprint clearance and/or proof of certification: Gina M. Biegelman – Childhood Education Grades 1-6 (Initial); Dina Trapani – Childhood Education Grades 1-6 (Initial).

Motion carried 7 – 0
February 14, 2012 Page 7
2011-2012

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval to add the following name to our per diem substitute teacher list, pending fingerprint clearance and/or proof of certification: Kristina Stathis – Childhood Education Grades 1-6 (Initial); English to Speakers of Other Languages (Initial).

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Butler move to approve the request Child Care Leave of Christine Talbot commencing on or about May 23, 2012 through the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Talbot plans to return to her position for the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion carried 7 - 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Butler moved approval of the ELA Before and After School Support Program which will take place from February 6, 2012 through April 2, 2012. Each session will meet for one hour every week for eight weeks, and the teacher will received a stipend of $537.00 for each group/grade taught (except where noted). The following Teachers will serve as English Language Arts support teachers: Amy Blacker; Nancy St. John; Louise Young; Roxanne Schwartz; Kimbilee Alfano; Nicole Scheuermann; Andrea Aldorasi; Sandra Schwartz; Roseanne Petraglia; Angela Savella; Lisa Drewes*; Donna Fox; Sharon Kapitansky; Kara Addeo; Joyce Kelley; Barbara Ryan; Melissa Portmore; Elizabeth Cramer; Denise Homolka; Erika Moeller; Lydiamarie Schutte; Kristen Bowers; Lisa Clark-Pohorelec; Anthony Schlosser and Brittany Cabrera. (*Teaching two sessions).

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Butler moved approval of the Math Before and After School Support Program which will take place from February 13, 2012 through April 16, 2012. Each session will meet for one hour every week for eight weeks, and the teacher will received a stipend of $537.00 for each group/grade taught (except where noted). The following teachers will serve as Math support teachers: Amy Blacker; Sandra Schwartz; Nancy St. John; Katherine Pascarella; Arlene Nucero*; Kathleen Costello*; Suzanne Rupp*; Irena Rudtser; Geraldine Tarantino; Roseanne Petraglia; Angela Savella; Lisa Drewes; Sharon Kapitansky, Marcy Rodriguez; Joyce Kelley; Barbara Ryan; Angela Wehram; Elizabeth Cramer; Samantha Jones; Lydiamarie Schutte; Kristen Bowers; Lisa Clark-Pohorelec; Anthony Schlosser; Chris Monaco and Brittany Cabrera. (*two sessions).
Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval to accept the irrevocable resignation for the purpose of retirement of Janet Tafeen, subject to the conditions set forth in her attached letter, with appreciation for her 27 years of service to the children of North Merrick and with best wishes for a healthy, enjoyable and exciting future.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval to accept the irrevocable resignation for the purpose of retirement of Joan Mantle be accepted subject to the conditions set forth in her attached letter, with appreciation for her 29 years of service to the children of North Merrick and with best wishes for a healthy, enjoyable and exciting future.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Mr. Brown seconded by Mrs. Fuller moved to approve the following requests to take course for credit: Kristen Bowers to take Discipline with Dignity for three graduate credits. For Mindy Buckley to take Effective Classroom Management for three graduate credits.

Motion carried 6 – 0- 1(Recused – Dr. Kuschner)

Mr. Brown seconded by Mrs. Fuller moved approval to grant in-service credit to the participants listed below, who completed the following professional development workshops previously approved by the Board of Education: Discovery Streaming, December 6, 2011 – January 24, 2012 for ½ in-service credit to Sheila Kuschner; Jill McDaid; Michael Riggio; Barbara Ryan and Nancy St. John*. (*Audit Only)

Motion carried 6 – 0- 1(Recused – Dr. Kuschner)

Mrs. Fuller seconded by Mr. Butler moved approval to appoint the following staff members to serve in this year’s Theatre Arts Program, to be compensated at the rate of $35.00 per hour: Tricia Callahan – Lighting Director (not to exceed 28.5 hours) Sheila Kuschner – General Support (not to exceed 20 hours).

Motion carried 6 – 0- 1(Recused – Dr. Kuschner)
Mr. Butler seconded by Dr. Kuschner moved to approve the salary reclassification, effective retroactive to February 1, 2012 of the following: Tara Fitzpatrick Ward – OMR – from Step 20 Column 6 $119,340 to Step 20 Column 7 $122,016. Mindy Buckley – Camp – from Step 7/8, Column 5 $65,015/$78,990 to Step 7/8, Column 6 $77,367/$81,326. Kathryn Pascarella – Camp – from Step 10/11, Column 4 $82,395/$85,271 to Step 10/11, Column 5 $84,748/$88,286.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Butler moved to approve the Old Mill Road After School Zumba Instructor for the 2011-2012 school year. She will be paid at a rate of $50 per hour, for a total of 12 hours ($50.00 x 12 hours = $600) paid by Old Mill Road School Site Based Funds.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Brown moved approval to appoint Ana Bekhit as a Part-Time Substitute Cleaner, pending fingerprint clearance and Nassau County Civil Service approval. She will be compensated at a rate of $15.00 per hour as per the Salary and Rate Schedule for 2011-2012.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved approval of the following:

WHEREAS, the employee listed on Schedule A (annexed) has heretofore been separated from the service (i.e., his employment position in accordance with Civil Service approval) by reason of an occupational injury; and

WHEREAS, the employee has heretofore been granted a leave of absence pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 71, such leave being from the employee’s position by reason of such occupational injury; and

WHEREAS, the leave of absence has heretofore expired on January 16, 2012; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of clarity in connection with administrative classification of personnel, the Superintendent of Schools has hereby recommended an extension of such leave of absence to and through February 13, 2012.
NOW, THEREFORE, by due deliberation being had thereon, the aforementioned leave of absence pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 71 is hereby extended to and through February 13, 2012.

Motion carried 6 – 0 - 1 (Mrs. Middendorf recused)

WHEREAS, the employee listed on Schedule B (annexed) has heretofore been separated from the service (i.e., his employment position in accordance with Civil Service approval) by reason of occupational injury; and

WHEREAS, the employee has heretofore been granted a leave of absence pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 71, such leave being from the employee's position by reason of such occupational injury; and

WHEREAS, the leave of absence, as extended, has heretofore expired on February 13, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the employee has not requested a further extension of such leave of absence; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of the employee that such occupational injury is of such a nature as to permanently incapacitate him from the performance of the duties of his position; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has accordingly recommended the termination of the employee’s continued leave and his termination from the service and employment of the district in accordance with and subject to the terms and provisions of Civil Service Law Section 71.

NOW, THEREFORE, by due deliberation being had thereon, the aforementioned leave of absence pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 71 is hereby terminated and the employee’s service and employment by the district are terminated effective March 30, 2012, subject to the rights of the employee in accordance with Civil Service Law Section 71.

Motion carried 6 – 0- 1 (Mrs. Middendorf recused)

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Butler moved approval of the fifteen Individualized Education Programs that were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Special Education.
February 14, 2012 Page 11
2011-2012

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Butler moved approval of the nine Individualized Education Programs that were developed by the North Merrick Committee on Preschool Special Education.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Dr. Kuschner stated that during the last high school meeting on February 1st they honored the Intel Finalist, Asia Brown. He stated the next Lay Budget meeting will take place tomorrow at Brookside at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Feller met with the PTA Council today to discuss additional fundraising for Theatre Arts. SEPTA is holding an estate planning meeting for students with special needs. Mr. Feller stated the Harlem Wizards came to Fayette School today. The Olympic Champion, Kristi Yamaguchi, will be reading from her book at Old Mill Road School on March 7, 2012 at 12:30 PM.

Dr. Kuschner reported routine maintenance was performed district wide.

Mrs. Middendorf stated we will be review the Dignity Act for all Students policy.

Mrs. Middendorf said she will be heading up to Albany tomorrow to participate in the Commissioner’s Advisory panel on Special Education.

Mr. Feller stated he receive a letter from Rosemarie Halleran in which she thanked the district for paying tribute to her husband by flying the American flag at half-staff at all three school.

Mrs. Fuller stated she has known the Halleran family for many years and felt this was a perfect way to honor him for his dedication and belief in our country.

Mr. Feller referred to a letter he received which suggested we look into either purchasing or renting Sacred Heart School.

Mrs. Gargiulo commented on the decreased amount of nurse phone calls. Mr. Haile asked about kindergarten registration. Mr. Feller indicated that as of today there are 148 students registered for Kindergarten for September 2012.
February 14, 2012 Page 12
2011-2012

Mr. Feller said we will receive a BOCES EBALR refund. He explained that we have contributed to this fund indirectly and will be receiving a refund. The amount of the refund is unknown and we are still waiting on information from the state.

Mr. Feller stated the Summer Recreation Program will take place at the Old Mill Road Elementary School dependent on the budget passing. Mrs. Betty Milano is in charge of the program. Ms. Milano has been advised that there will be some construction taking place during the summer to make certain that the construction has minimal impact on the program.

Jennifer McNamara of 8 Huston Road stated she has a 6th grader at OMR. She has just found out that French will only be taught at Mepham High School and that if her child continues with French they would have to attend Mepham High School in Bellmore.

Dr. Kuschner stated this choice was made due to budget reasons and the number of students taking French has decreased in the past several years.

Meredith Petry of 1798 Old Mill Road stated she has a kindergarten child and asked if there is a cap on class size. She feels the class size is too large and thinks it’s extremely hard for a teacher to handle twenty-four students and feels it’s too difficult for a teacher to meet the needs for our children.

Mr. Feller stated there is no cap, however once the class size reaches twenty-five he informs the Board of Education. He feels our teachers are doing an outstanding job and believes they are well preparing our children for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Haile stated that we met with a representative of the government about the tax cap. There are major decisions that have to be made and the public needs to address these concerns. He encourages all to participate in the budget process.

Dr. Kuschner seconded by Mr. Haile moved to adjourn into Executive Session for matters of employment at 9:20 PM.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Mrs. Fuller seconded by Mr. Brown moved to reconvene into Public Session at 11:30 PM. No action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion carried 7 – 0
There being no further business, Mr. Haile seconded by Mr. Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 PM.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Long
District Clerk