



NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – JANUARY 13, 2020

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School 2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710	7:30 PM
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The Business meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, January 13, 2020, in the All Purpose Room of the Martin Avenue School at 2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Nina Lanci, President
John Ferrara, Vice President
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Rosemarie Corless
Jo-Ann Erhard

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
Carol Eskew, Deputy Superintendent
Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Jacqueline Rehak, Assistant Superintendent
Jason Fischetti, Executive Director of Technology, Data and Information Services
Christopher Powers, District Counsel
Jeanne Canavan, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel matters. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:38 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mrs. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Corless read the District’s mission statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the business meeting of December 5, 2019. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mrs. Testa announced that the Board will vote on the 2020-21 school calendar tonight and that she is recommending moving the March Superintendent's Conference Day to May 13. There would be no school for students on that day.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Malone introduced the sixth grade Board of Education representatives who spoke about life as a sixth grader at Martin Avenue School: Alexa Fico, Brigid Flanagan and Kayla Kruszewski.

They reported on their experience at Project Adventure and how they learned to work together and problem solve to help figure out how to get over the wall. They said that they enjoyed it so much that they hoped to be invited to the High Ropes Challenge in the spring.

They talked about donating to Ronald McDonald House over the holidays and how great it felt to give to others in need. They spoke about their New Year's resolutions. They talked about the Martin Avenue sixth grade Annual Trade Fair where they learned about each other's talents and how to barter with their friends. The students invited the community to attend their sixth grade play, *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*, on March 19 and 20 at 7 PM.

Mrs. Testa stated how proud she was of the students and thanked them for being leaders! Mrs. Testa presented each student with a certificate.

STUDENT ART PRESENTATION

Mrs. Testa announced that we are celebrating the arts tonight! Mrs. Testa expressed her gratitude to the art teachers who facilitated the Lion's International Peace Poster Contest, *Journey of Peace*. This year there were over 50 entrants districtwide.

On behalf the Bellmore Lions, Mrs. Lanci thanked the art teachers and students for their partnership with the Lion's Club. Mrs. Lanci thanked all the students who participated in the contest. Mrs. Lanci presented each school winner and district winner with a certificate and award: Dinkelmeyer: Sara Pittman, Martin: Brigid Flanagan (District Winner), Newbridge: Alia Alam, Park Avenue: Kaitlin Tansey and Saw Mill Road: Francesca Adipietro. Mrs. Lanci thanked the parents for supporting the arts and their children.

Mrs. Testa introduced Mrs. Brugge, the liaison for the Art Department. Mrs. Brugge thanked the students for their outstanding artwork that is on display this evening and the teachers for their inspiration. She then introduced the art teachers: Mrs. Emmer, Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Skelly. Each teacher introduced and presented certificates to their art students. Mrs. Testa added that the artwork will be displayed throughout the District Office for everyone to appreciate for the next several months.

The meeting adjourned for a short break at 8:12 PM to appreciate the artwork. The meeting reconvened at 8:17 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no agenda item related questions.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Lanci advised that correspondence was received and will be addressed by the Board.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended November 30, 2019. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

**HIGH SCHOOL
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci reported that at last week's meeting, the Board recognized three students from Kennedy High School who were named Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholars. The retirement of Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business, was announced. The Board adopted the 2020-21 school calendar, which includes a conference day on May 13 so that the students can be off from school to celebrate Eid. The students are getting ready to attend the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Mrs. Lanci invited the community to attend the Faculty Follies on January 30. It is a lot of fun and it is a major fundraiser for the Community Cupboard. The next meeting will be held on February 5, 2020.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of December 2019.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated January 13, 2020. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

- A. Appointments
- B. Resignations
- C. Leave Requests
- D. Terminations

**STAFF
DEVELOPMENT**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated January 13, 2020, as presented. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa reported that our architect, John Grillo, toured each building with Mr. Russo to work out the schematics for the security vestibules, including the District Office. Mrs. Testa invited the Board to look at the plans. We are excited to move forward.

Mrs. Testa stated the Winter Accessories drive, food drives and clothing drives over the holidays were very successful. The students are living up the district's Mission!

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT Mrs. Rehak reported on the following:

The annual kindergarten central registration took place last week and was a great success. A lot of work went into planning this event. Mrs. Rehak thanked everyone involved for their help and input: Mrs. Pollitt, the Business Office staff, Mr. Russo, Mr. Fischetti, the IT Department, all the building clerical staff, the nurses, and ENL teachers. We registered 236 students during this two-day event. If we add pre-registered students, we are looking at a potential enrollment of 290 students, which is equal to our current enrollment. Right now, the District's numbers are looking somewhat steady overall. Five students from streets we rezoned are registered in Martin or Dinkelmeyer, as opposed to Saw Mill Road School.

The Food Services Manager we offered the position to was approved by Civil Service last week. She will be starting with the District later in the month provided she is approved by the Board. She has over 20 years' experience food services in schools. We are very excited to have her here in North Bellmore.

Work is continuing on the 2020-21 budget. The first draft is almost complete and will be submitted to the Board shortly. We are also working on the Budget calendar. The Budget is scheduled to be presented on April 2 at the Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Martin Ave School. There is also a presentation to the PTA Coordinating Council on April 27. District residents are invited to attend each of the presentations. Last year there was one districtwide budget workshop in March at Newbridge Road School. Mrs. Rehak asked the Board if they would like to proceed as we did last year, as opposed to having a budget presentation at each school. Mrs. Rehak recommended holding one districtwide budget workshop, as it gets a larger attendance at once. The Cabinet discussed possibly moving the budget presentation to Martin Avenue School. Mrs. Rehak asked the Board for their approval.

Mrs. Lanci asked Mrs. Rehak to check the dates with the High School District. The Board agreed to move the workshop to Martin Avenue this year.

Back in December, we submitted the District's application for the State and Municipal Facilities program to complete some Districtwide security enhancements. The total budget we applied for is \$100,000. As of now, we have not heard anything yet but will keep the Board updated.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT Questar performed our annual risk assessment audit in December. Overall, it went well, and there were no surprises. We are awaiting the preliminary report, which should come sometime in February.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt gave the following report:

Universal Pre-K applications are posted on the website and are due on March 13. We have received 61 applications so far. Last year we received 183 applications for 66 spots.

Last week a team of teachers attended the “How to Make Math Count” conference at Molloy College. They reported that they learned some new strategies. One teacher reported that, “We left feeling proud of our colleagues and our district for the level of PD that we give and receive in house!”

Our Winter PD Series, which focuses on Mental Health and Wellness, began today. Teachers had the opportunity to choose among seven workshops in the month of January and February. Our next District Mental Health and Wellness Committee meeting will be held on January 22.

Our Instructional Coaches are working with Mrs. McNamara to provide ongoing support for grades K-3 teachers and holding PD regarding Fountas & Pinnell Classroom products. Teachers in grades 4-6 continue to participate in the Schoolwide Writing professional development sessions that are facilitated by the Schoolwide Writing consultants.

Mrs. McNamara and the Professional Development Committee met last week to plan for the March staff development day. Course proposals are being sent out to all faculty members this week. While we have secured a few outside consultants already, the majority of the workshops are led by our own talented staff.

Building-wide reading department meetings are taking place. Mrs. Pollitt thanked all of the reading teachers and principals for their active participation. Regression testing took place in December to help form our summer services. We are in the process of administering the F&P assessment and getting a quote on the third edition of F&P Benchmarking Kit for implementation 2020-21.

Mr. Duffy will meet with the component elementary school counselors on Friday to finalize the Individualized Progress Review Form template for Naviance. Correspondence will go out to all grade 6 families with further information in the near future.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

We are in the process of planning for our kindergarten screening this spring. We are looking forward to using the new kindergarten-screening tool, DIAL 4, for the first time.

We have received very positive feedback from teachers using the Exploring Science program in terms of all materials provided. While visiting classrooms today, Mrs. Pollitt saw young scientists engaging in inquiry-based lessons and scientific method, creating data tables, making and testing hypotheses and drawing conclusions. We will be ordering new Rocketry kits for grade 6.

**TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Fischetti gave the following updates:

Knowbe4 software has been purchased and is now in use. With the software, Mr. Fischetti sent out a test email to 271 employees today to “test” our cybersecurity. Fortunately, only a few people clicked on the link in the email. The software contains hundreds of training videos that he will be sharing periodically keeping the district up to date with required professional development and meeting the requirements of NYS Education Law 2-D.

The Echleaf Tape backup system has been delivered and installed. We are currently backing up data to it successfully. We will be backing up all essential files to tape each night. Should we be unfortunate as to have our files encrypted, it will allow us to recover clean data and provide an up to date reference point on all essential data.

North Bellmore was reimbursed \$438,000 of Smart Bond funding. We currently have \$274,000 remaining of the \$1,289,000 allocation. Of the available \$274,000, just over \$100,000 has not been earmarked as of yet. Some extra funds are remaining as a “just in case” should prices increase, or we feel the need to improve other areas.

In terms of instruction, we are very happy to have ordered Lego We-Do Kits. The technology instructional team will utilize these class kits across the district to provide real-world design and engineering activities to their curriculum.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
CSE/CSE REPORTS**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated January 13, 2020. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
REPORT**

Ms. Eskew gave the following updates:

The STAC verification process is complete for the 2018-2019 school year, which was transmitted to the State on January 10, 2020. The STAC verification process for the summer of 2018-2019 has begun.

Sixth grade transition meetings to the BMCHSD have been completed and went very well. The annual review process has begun.

Dr. Rich, CSE Chairperson, Mrs. Marino, CPSE Chairperson, and members of our building special education teams have begun visits to students in out-of-district placements. They will be assessing the potential for students in these placements to return to a District-based program.

The Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be distributed districtwide to all staff who come in contact with students who have life-threatening allergies. Notices are sent to parents of students in classes attended by students at risk for anaphylactic reactions. After conversations with parents, it has been determined that the holiday season is a time when exposure to food allergens increases due to the festive activities that take place in school. The District plans to send reminders to parents during this season in an effort to minimize the risk of exposure for our allergic students.

**NEW BUSINESS
CONTRACTS**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2019/20 school year:

- David Ganeles, MD
- Hilary Gomes
- Health & Safety Connection, LLC
- Metro Therapy, Inc. (Academic Tutoring)
- Metro Therapy, Inc. (Special Education)
- Monarch Life Coaching, LLC
- North Merrick UFSD (Health & Welfare)
- Dr. Joseph Scardapane

Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**2020-2021 SCHOOL
CALENDAR**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the calendar for the 2020-21 school year. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

SECOND READING

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the following policies for a second reading:

- Policy No. 5150 School Admissions Policy
- Policy No. 5110 Attendance Zone

**ADOPTION -
Policy No. 5150
Policy No. 5110**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education adopt Policy No. 5150 School Admissions Policy and Policy No. 5110 Attendance Zones. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

DONATION

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education accept a donation from Box Tops for Education in the amount of \$122.10 to be used to purchase materials for Saw Mill Road School Pride Week. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lanci stated that she had the pleasure of attending the Eagle Scout Ceremony for John Berry. Mrs. Lanci thanked Mr. Russo, Mrs. Malone, and the Board for their support during the project.

On behalf the Bellmore Lions Club, Mrs. Lanci thanked the Board of Education, the NBTA, and North Bellmore students and parents for all their help to make the fifth annual Polar Express Party a success for over 500 children in Nassau County. It was a great day!

Mrs. Lanci thanked Mrs. Testa for being on the forefront of researching the Eid holiday, sharing the information with the other superintendents, and finding a balance that will provide a meaningful Staff Development Day, as well as helping the Board to make the best decision for everyone.

Mrs. Testa thanked the Board for being leaders and for their patience while trying to find answers to all their questions. Mrs. Testa stated that she was pleased with the outcome and happy for the children who celebrate Eid.

Mrs. Lanci also thanked Mr. Powers for his help with clarification of the Education Law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Shuart (Sherman Ave. Merrick) asked if the Board of Education will take a public stance on the proposed HPV vaccine mandate and flu vaccine mandate for students who attend public school. She submitted letters to the Board written from other school districts to Governor Cuomo and elected officials in opposition of the mandate and a list of the top reasons to oppose the HPV vaccine mandate and teen consent bills.

Mrs. Testa stated that the New York State Council of Superintendents has advised districts not to give medical advice. The subject is being discussed now among the Nassau County Superintendent groups and they are currently gathering information.

Mrs. Shuart asked about the Naviance Program. Mrs. Pollitt said that it is a new platform that the guidance counselors will use one-on-one with the

PUBLIC COMMENTS

sixth grade students to help align students' strengths and interests. The documents will move on to the middle school with the student. Mrs. Pollitt added that it is a great opportunity to set goals.

Mrs. Umar (Queen St.) stated that she was very excited about the Board's decision and thanked them on behalf of her family and community. Mrs. Umar welcomed all to their community.

Mrs. Rizvi (Peapond Rd.) thanked the Board, and especially Mrs. Testa, for including Eid in the 2020-21 calendar—"It's good for our community and all of our children! "

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Ferrara seconded by Mrs. Corless and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan
District Clerk