



NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School	7:30 PM
2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710		

The Business meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, November 12, 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:

Rosemarie Corless, President
Jo-Ann Erhard, Vice President
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Nina Lanci
Christine Malloy

Also present:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM. Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Erhard to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session for the purpose of discussing contractual personnel matters. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 8:03 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Corless led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Cmar-Grote read the District's mission statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the business meeting of October 8, 2020. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

Mrs. Testa announced that we are celebrating Board Recognition month tonight. Mrs. Testa read tributes to the Board from various North Bellmore groups thanking the Board for their dedication to the students and families in North Bellmore and expressing gratitude for their service and leadership throughout the year. On behalf of the North Bellmore Principals' Association and the North Bellmore Teachers' Association, gift cards were donated in the Board's honor to North Bellmore families in need in each of the schools. On behalf of the Central Administration Team, Mrs. Testa thanked the Board for their steadfast determination, for their tremendous amount of hard work and for setting high standards relative to delivery of instruction and for always placing the students first in all decisions.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Corless and Mrs. Erhard stated how proud they are of the District and thanked the teams for inspiring the students and striving to follow the District's mission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no agenda item related questions.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Corless advised that there was no correspondence.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Erhard moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended September 30, 2020. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci reported that the High School District is carefully monitoring the COVID cases and contact tracing. The administration is trying their best to keep the District open with in-person learning. Mrs. Lanci stated that it is bittersweet to announce that the Board accepted the resignation of John DeTommaso, for the purposes of retirement, at the end of the school year. Mrs. Lanci added that Mr. DeTommaso has done an exceptional job leading the District over the past eight years and added that Mr. Michael Harrington will assume the position of Superintendent as of July 1. The next Board meeting will be held on December 2. Mrs. Lanci added that she is hoping that everyone stays safe over the holidays.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of October 2020.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated November 12, 2020. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education hereby accepts the 2019-20 Internal Audit Risk Assessment Corrective Action Plan. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

FINANCE

Mrs. Erhard moved that the Board of Education hereby accepts the 2019-20 Student Registration Internal Audit Corrective Action Plan. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education hereby accepts the 2019-20 Financial Audit Corrective Action Plan. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa stated that Mr. DeTommaso will be sorely missed and welcomed the opportunity to work with Mr. Harrington in the year to come. Mrs. Testa stated that Mr. DeTommaso always led with the best interest of students in mind and that, under his leadership, the partnership between North Bellmore and the BMCHSD has become stronger.

Despite the pandemic, the PTA Coordinating Council has donated over 80 boxes of candy to the Belmore Lions Annual Drive, the BMCHSD Community Cupboard and Mephams' Bellmore Leo Club. Mrs. Testa thanked the NB Teachers' and Principals' Association for all their support with this effort.

Mrs. Testa mentioned that the Coordinating Council is partnering with the Bellmore Lions Club again this year to conduct a winter accessories drive to benefit 400 families living in shelters across Nassau County. The drive will run through November 20.

The results of the Coordinating Council's "Rock the Vote" was a districtwide Pajama Day, which will take place on November 25. The students will participate in World Kindness Day tomorrow. Mrs. Testa added how proud she is of the students.

Mrs. Testa reported that the COVID management situation is all-encompassing and stated her appreciation to the school community for their continued support during these challenging times. Adhering to the NYS Department of Health safety protocols, as well as the Travel Advisory and Quarantine requirements, strengthens the likelihood of the District being able to continue to provide full in-person instruction. The cases are emanating from outside events, including social gatherings or sporting events. Mrs. Testa gave a detailed account of the daily steps the District is taking in handling the individual COVID matters regarding quarantine and isolation situations and the rigorous cleaning and disinfection process.

Mrs. Corless thanked Mrs. Testa for keeping the Board informed and thanked the administration, faculty and staff for doing an amazing job educating the students and keeping everyone safe.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated November 12, 2020. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

- A. Appointments
- B. Change of Status
- C. Leave Requests
- D. Resignations/Retirement

STAFF DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated November 12, 2020. Mrs. Erhard seconded the motion was carried 5-0.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mrs. Rehak reported that she met with the Audit Committee a couple of weeks ago and reviewed the Internal Audit Report and related Corrective Action Plans. Mrs. Rehak thanked the Board for approving the plans.

The Internal Audit on Central Registration went very well. There were only three recommendations and they were all already corrected. This report, related Corrective Action Plan, and Board approval will be submitted to the State Education Department tomorrow.

Mrs. Rehak thanked the Board for approving the Risk Assessment report. It is very similar to previous years with our risk classification staying at low and low/moderate levels. A few of the recommendations noted by the auditor are being implemented. A few items that were noted in the report are either contractual items or the cost / benefit is not worth it for the District to implement a change. This included the timing of payroll and utilizing perpetual inventory systems. After discussions with the Audit Committee, it was agreed to accept the risks related to these items. The auditor made note of it and will remove these items going forward from the report.

The External Audit Correction Action Plan was also discussed with the Audit Committee. As reported last month, the District had savings from the school closure and expenditures coming in less than budgeted. We will continue to monitor the increasing costs and loss in revenue, as well as the unappropriated fund balance to get us back to the 4% statutory limit by the end of the current fiscal year. This is everything that was included in the CAP that the Board approved tonight and will be submitted with the Board's approval to NYSED.

Mrs. Rehak stated that she is working on ESSA Reporting, which is due by the end of December.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

The District's CARES Act funding applications were submitted to the State. The State is still currently reviewing the application and will let us know if they require any further information.

As Mrs. Rehak reported last month, we also applied for CARES Act funding through the Town of Hempstead in the amount of \$530K. We have not heard back from them as of yet.

Mrs. Rehak reported that she is working Human Resources to prepare a form for Federal and State Sick Leave with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each time there is a case or a quarantine, we need to analyze and track employees taking sick leave, determine which leave they qualify for, and track the hours they took. The new form will help the District ensure that we have collected all the required documentation for these leaves and ensure that the District is paying staff correctly.

Mrs. Rehak worked with Mrs. Testa to send out NYS Travel Advisory updates to the employees so that our employees understand these provisions prior to the upcoming breaks.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt announced that the second Trimester Learning Model Intent Forms are due back on Sunday, November 15. To date we have received a total of 244 responses, which includes the following:

- # Remain Virtual- 203 (out of 307)
- # Virtual who want to Move to In-Person- 39
- # Virtual who still have to respond- 65
- # In-Person who want to move to Virtual- 2

Mrs. Pollitt and Mrs. Rehak are working closely to analyze the enrollment in terms of the impact on in-person and virtual classes.

It is the District's intent to place students in their home building, as well as to place siblings in the same school (unless, of course, a child needs a special education program that may be housed in another building).

iReady Assessment - We are administering Reading and Math Diagnostics in the month of November for grades 3-6 learners, both in-person and virtual, to pinpoint individual students' areas of strength and areas for growth. All in-person learners are taking the assessment on their individual iPads and we are receiving positive feedback. All at home learners are taking the assessment on an iPad or other device at home. The assessment is given during school hours, We received feedback from virtual families to extend time— ex. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM or so.

Mrs. Pollitt thanked everyone for doing their best

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Professional Development—Tillie McNamara is working closely with Literacy Consultant, Erica Pecorale. Erica will be presenting at next week's 90 min afterschool professional development sessions. She will continue to build upon the work we've started in terms of reading instruction and assessment, and the implementation of our new Fountas & Pinnell Classroom resources. Erica will also be delivering professional development sessions with our virtual teachers, focusing on these same items, but with a lens toward how this work translates to the virtual landscape.

Quarantined Classes & Individual Quarantines - Whole Class Quarantines - Based on feedback from the teachers who've had to move into a full remote model with their class, we devised a three day staggered implementation plan.

- Day 1 will be asynchronous as usual with work posted to Seesaw (and will allow for device pick up)
- Day 2 will begin whole class live videoconferencing at the three set times (Ex: 9 AM, 12PM, 2:45 PM)—students will work asynchronously in between
- Day 3 will begin small group live videoconferencing (in addition to the whole class times)

Once Mrs. Testa and the principal's letter is sent to families notifying them of the class quarantine, Mrs. Pollitt will follow-up with a separate correspondence regarding the virtual learning plan. Mrs. Pollitt is working with the teachers to ensure a smooth transition and coordinating with Jason Fischetti and his team.

Individual Quarantines -If individual students need to quarantine, the principal has a discussion with the parent regarding their learning options: they can either have work sent home from their child's in-person teacher or virtual learning.

Once decided virtual, students are placed in a virtual class accordingly—notify the teacher who contacts the parents, classroom teacher for attendance taking. Mr. Fischetti's team sets up the technology.

In both cases, whole class and individual, we work with the Special Education Department to make sure that their services are scheduled.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote and carried 5-0 for the following consent agenda items: Nos. 16.1 – 16.6.

**NEW BUSINESS
CONTRACTS**

16.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2020/21 school year:

contracts for the 2020-21 school year:

- Lisa Arbucho-Veneroni
- Association for Children with Down Syndrome
- Frances Bacon
- Bellmore UFSD (DOR/DOL)
- Bellmore UFSD (SEDCAR Flow-Through)
- The Center for Developmental Disabilities
- Family Pediatric Home Care, A Division of Tri-Borough Home Care, Ltd. (Related Services)
- Family Pediatric Home Care, A Division of Tri-Borough Home Care, Ltd. (Skilled Nursing)
- The Hagedorn Little Village School (SEDCAR)
- The Hagedorn Little Village School (Tuition)
- Health Source Group, Inc. (Nurse Services)
- Hebrew Academy for Special Children, Inc.
- Just Kids Early Childhood Learning Center
- Kids First Evaluation & Advocacy Center, Inc.
- Suanne Kowal-Connelly, MD
- Amanda McCarthy (ABA Services)
- Metro Therapy, Inc.
- Mind Prep Tutoring LLC (Academic Tutoring)
- Mind Prep Tutoring LLC (Related Services)
- Mind Prep Tutoring LLC (Skilled Nurse Staffing)
- New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc. (Academic Tutoring)
- New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc. (Related Services)
- Persaud Pillai (Transportation Consultant)
- Lindsay Plunkett (Evaluations)
- Rockville Centre UFSD (Summer Tuition)
- Rockville Centre UFSD (Tuition)
- Kimya Sakhai Kreinik
- Variety Child Learning Center (SEDCAR)
- Variety Child Learning Center (Tuition)
- Henry Viscardi School
- Rona T. Weiss (Evaluations)

DONATIONS

16.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Martin Avenue PTA of recess equipment to supplement recess bags for outdoor recess for use by the Martin Avenue students (approximate value \$360.00).

DONATIONS

16.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Saw Mill Road PTA of Scholastic books to enhance classroom libraries at Saw Mill Road School (approx. value \$2400).

16.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the American Heart Association of a gift certificate in the amount of \$300 to be used to purchase physical education supplies or equipment for use by the students at Martin Avenue School.

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

16.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education set the daily pay rate of \$125 for North Bellmore retirees who are working as substitute teachers and those individuals assigned to a permanent substitute teacher position, effective October 9, 2020.

RECORDS RETENTION AND DISPOSITION

16.6 WHEREAS, in or about May each year, the North Bellmore Union Free School District conducted its annual budget vote and election; and

WHEREAS, the District Clerk is currently in possession of all cast ballots resulting from annual budget votes and election from prior to 2019 and the 2019 election; and

WHEREAS, the Record Retention and Disposition Schedule ED-1 provides for the destruction of such ballots after one (1) year from the date of the election; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District orders the destruction of all cast ballots resulting from all elections from 2019 and prior.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The community posed the following questions through the zoom link:

1. What date do the report cards post to the portal? Mrs. Pollitt stated that they will post on December 9.
2. What is the return procedure when a child is out sick? Mrs. Testa stated that the school nurse will communicate with the student's family and request a note from their healthcare provider stating that the student is clear to return to school. If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, it has to be at least 24 hours since the individual has had a fever and at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. Would you recommend closing school after Thanksgiving to help stop the spread? Mrs. Testa stated that the District does not have plans to close schools at this time.
4. If children are quarantined, would you consider zooming them into their classroom? Mrs. Pollitt stated that this option is not typical for an elementary school student. The District is not set up for it right now.
5. Can we reconsider pulling out a sibling of a child who is in individual quarantine? Mrs. Testa stated that the District is not doing it at this time. As per CDS guidelines, the sibling who lives in the same household as someone in quarantine does not necessarily need to quarantine themselves unless the household member in quarantine is then determined to be a COVID-19 case. Mrs. Testa added that a quarantined child is not permitted on school property.
6. A person commented that a child who was quarantined came up to class to pick up a sibling. Mrs. Testa stated that she will send out a letter reminding families of the District's protocols.
7. Are there any consequences for parents who send their child to school after testing positive? Mrs. Testa stated that there is no District policy on consequences at this time. Fortunately, this has not occurred yet.
8. If the District goes on full remote, can a parent choose an individual tutor, if they didn't participate in our remote classes? Mrs. Pollitt asked parents to contact her if they want to deviate from the District's procedures.
9. Is there any thoughts on how to support a child with an IEP remotely? Mrs. Pollitt stated that the District does have full virtual ILP classes. There is no in-person additional support in virtual. Ms. Eskew added that full remote learning is very challenging for special education students. It can be very difficult for students to be independent on a computer, sustaining attention and focusing for an extended period of time. There is no solution for this problem at this time. Mrs. Testa suggested that the parent contact their child's teacher or Ms. Eskew for additional help.
10. Will there be live teachers in specials? Mrs. Pollitt stated that classes are asynchronous for specials.
11. Are children and staff who test positive for COVID-19 required to test negative prior to returning to school? Mrs. Testa said no. A person can test positive for an extended period of time. The nurse

PUBLIC COMMENTS

and or principal will contact the family and make sure that the person is symptom free before they return to school.

12. Should siblings stay home if a sibling is sick? Mrs. Testa stated that it is the parents' decision to make. However, Mrs. Testa suggested that if the child exhibits any COVID symptoms, they should stay home.
13. Have any of the contact traced students come down with COVID who were quarantined? Mrs. Testa said that she is not aware of any cases.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded by Mrs. Erhard and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan
District Clerk