



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2023**

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 12, 2023, in the All Purpose Room of the Martin Avenue School at 2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, New York, and via Zoom Video Conference.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

- Melissa Cmar-Grote, President
- Christine Malloy, Vice President
- Rosemarie Corless
- Nina Lanci
- Christopher Nardo

Also present:

- Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
- Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Jacqueline Rehak, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Christopher Powers, District Counsel
- Laurice Gunnels, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. Corless and seconded by Mr. Malloy to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mrs. Cmar-Grote led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Malloy read the District’s Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Business meeting of December 6, 2022, and Special meetings of December 8, 2022, December 20, 2022, and January 5, 2023. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Martin Avenue School:
Sixth Grade Representatives** Mrs. Testa opened by welcoming the student artists and the sixth-grade representatives from the Martin Avenue School. Beginning with the sixth-grade student BOE representatives, Mrs. Testa invited Mr. O’Brien, Principal of Martin Avenue School, up to introduce the students.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Martin Avenue School:
Sixth Grade Representatives
(continued)**

Mr. O'Brien extended his appreciation to the BOE, Mrs. Testa, and the Central Administrators for their invitation this evening. He indicated in preparation for this evening the sixth-grade classes came to together to *brainstorm* why Martin Avenue is so special. With pride Mr. O'Brien spoke to the Martin Avenue School community, the excellent students, and their talented and professional faculty and staff. He then introduced the sixth-grade representatives:

Aliyan Khan (unable to be present this evening)
Tyler Pascalli
Sarah Reddington

Sarah and Tyler individually spoke to the special qualities that Martin depicts, and although Aliyan could not be here this evening, Mr. O'Brien presented on his behalf. Their words collectively emanated what makes Martin Avenue special in the eyes of their classmates.

- Gratitude and appreciation for all faculty and staff including the special area teachers, Ms. Emmer, Mr. Roff, Mr. "W" (Weiner), Mr. Bevilacqua, Ms. Francolini, Ms. Weintraub, Ms. McNamara, the custodians, secretaries, LRA's, etc., and Mr. Charlie, the Security Guard.
- Field trips are an exciting and fun learning teamwork experience, i.e., Petty zoo, Safety Town, Long Island Aquarium, Project Adventure, DNA Lab, the sixth-grade canoe trip, etc.
- Special Events such as the Talent Show where students of all grade levels can perform, the Halloween Parade to show off their costumes, the Holiday Boutique allowing them the opportunity to buy gifts for family and friends, and now as sixth graders, enjoying the book buddy experience of reading with their "buddies" in the younger grades, and the preparation and performance of the sixth-grade play.

Mrs. Testa thanked Mr. O'Brien, offered her heartwarming appreciation to the sixth-grade representatives for their words collectively illustrating their community of staff and students at the Martin Avenue School, and presented them with BOE leadership award certificates.

District Student Art Celebration

In celebration of the arts, Mrs. Testa welcomed and extended gratitude and appreciation to the district art teachers this evening, Ms. Skelly, Ms. Emmer, and Ms. Lopez, in sharing their visions and talent through instruction have placed art in the center of the district, and commented and congratulated proudly on the beautiful student artwork framed and on display this evening.

Mrs. Testa introduced Mr. Rosof, the District Liaison for the Art Department of North Bellmore and Principal of Saw Mill Road School. Mr. Rosof was excited to speak to the art on display, a depiction of color and imagination, created by students in Kindergarten through sixth grade.

**District Student Art Celebration
(continued)**

Mr. Rosof called upon Ms. Skelly, Ms. Emmer, and Ms. Lopez to introduce and present certificates to the Art Honoree students this evening:

<u>Dinkelmeyer</u>	<u>Martin Avenue</u>	<u>Newbridge Road</u>
Madison Lau	Avianna DiGioia	Zachary Balnis
Mikaela Malot	Nicolette Ferro	Colin Maroney
Carlyn Masiulis	Haley Gallace	Avery Messina
Emily Murphy	Peyton Paul	Emma Traynham
Nicole Quevedo-Armas	Cooper Vassallo	Grace Wynne

<u>Park Avenue</u>	<u>Saw Mill Road</u>
Dylan Crocenzi	Mia Bernstein
Bruce Hernandez	Rebecca David
Stacey Ojjezele	Alexa Ferrantello
Francesca Roussine	Trinity Hanna
Xavier Wilson	Julian Hershkowitz

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(Agenda Items Only)

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Cmar-Grote advised that the Board received correspondence and it was discussed in Executive Session.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s report for the month ended November 30, 2022. Mrs. Corless seconded and motion carried 5-0.

BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS

Mrs. Lance reported that the BMCHSD met on Wednesday, January 4, and proudly shared the BOE honored the middle school students in recognition of their service and participation in Polar Express. In Curriculum and Instruction, the role and connections of athletics for the students was presented and, as examples, a lookback over a ten-year history of opportunities was shared. The student representatives from the high schools reported on news from their buildings, and as part of the regular course of business, a SEQRA with respect to the purchase and installation of new bleachers at Brookside was started. In closing, Mrs. Lanci excitedly congratulated Luke Feldman and Tyler Bissoondial, both of Kennedy High School, as two Regeneron Scholar recipients, a prestigious honor chosen from students nationwide. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of December 2022.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mrs. Testa happily spoke to the arts in North Bellmore. Following in line with the artwork, she thanked Mrs. Brugge, the music teachers, and students for all their hard work and congratulated them on their amazing performances portrayed at the winter concerts this past month at Brookside.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
(continued)**

Mrs. Testa invited the residents of the community to visit the website and the local Herald to view the outstanding achievements and wonderful works of goodness here in the North Bellmore School District. The website is frequently updated with the accomplishments of the students, faculty, and staff, and drew focus to the local Herald containing articles highlighting school events and the amazing demonstration of the level of work portrayed.

With respect to the recent Bond Vote, Mrs. Testa spoke of the results and offered her appreciation to all that came out to vote. She highlighted the following:

- The Bond Vote did not pass with a total vote of 533 voters in approval and 628 rejecting the proposition. The majority of votes cast consisted of community members and faculty who reside in North Bellmore.
- The District will begin to address with the BOE the pending issues district wide, and highlight possible solutions moving forward.

Lastly, Mrs. Testa indicated the District calendar for 2023/24 is on the agenda this evening, and if approved, will be posted to the website.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved to approve the Personnel Report dated January 12, 2023. Mrs. Malloy seconded and motion carried 5-0.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Corless moved to approve the Staff Development report dated January 12, 2023. Mrs. Malloy seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mrs. Rehak focused her report this evening on the district's next steps in planning for the future with respect to projects district wide post the negative outcome of the bond vote.

- HVAC - Mrs. Rehak discussed the possibility of revisiting another bond vote in the latter part of 2025 into 2026 after the old debt rolls off. In the interim the district would continue to maintain the existing equipment and possibly upgrade the electrical work through a reserve which could potentially reduce the cost of a future bond.

Mrs. Rehak also spoke to revisiting the bond sooner by curtailing the scope of work to HVAC only and reconsider future planning for Gunther. She did indicate there has been community outreach to the district with respect to Gunther, i.e. excluding that building as part of the bond, selling the property, etc.

Playgrounds – Mrs. Rehak indicated the district will continue to maintain the playgrounds. If replacement of a particular playground becomes a necessity, grants and/or consideration in future annual budgets will be visited.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT
(continued)**

- Elevators installation can be revisited in a new bond and/or as a consideration for a future reserve.
- The smaller projects estimated at approximately \$500K can be included as future projects in the budget totaling approximately \$250K per year. If performed in this manner, the timeline projected for these projects is two to three years.

In furtherance, with respect to the future timing of a bond, Mrs. Rehak did stress the overall cost for the projects may continue to rise and the impact of interest rates is unknown. Mrs. Rehak expressed the willingness to discuss options and inquired of the BOE if they had any questions.

Mrs. Malloy inquired about the potential UPK program expansion to three and four-year-olds, would Gunther be considered the UPK building, and if so, what would Gunther need in preparation. Mrs. Rehak responded the timing for this discussion is too soon as the bill has yet to be passed. The potential program expansion to four-year-olds is by 2030, and three-year-olds by 2035, and as such, she indicated, if implemented, Gunther may be an option for consideration.

As a follow-up, Mrs. Malloy inquired if Gunther has a usable playground for children. Mrs. Rehak responded affirmatively and indicated that the playground at Gunther is maintained and inspected the same as all our playgrounds are at the other buildings.

Mr. Nardo spoke to other large projects prefaced by the architect over the next five years for consideration, i.e., roofs, other external construction, how will that impact us moving forward. Mrs. Rehak responded that thermal scanning is being incorporated into the budget for next year to obtain the true estimated use of life timeline associated with the roofs and the cost for same. She indicated the roofs can potentially be done with a reserve as opposed to a bond if the building timelines are scattered. In furtherance, she explained the thermal scanning will provide the data the district needs to get a better handle on the scope and the timing of the work by building, and plan accordingly.

Mrs. Lanci questioned Mrs. Rehak regarding the potential sale of Gunther that she raised in her report and if in fact that is a consideration especially if we need space in the future for UPK. Mrs. Rehak clarified that it was not mentioned as a recommendation but yet as a question raised by residents. Mrs. Testa in reiteration confirmed that after the bond failed inquiry from the public regarding the potential sale of Gunther was received. Mrs. Rehak again stressed this is not a recommendation, but was raised only as a request by community outreach.

**CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt, following up with the potential Universal Pre-K expansion program, indicated the district will continue status quo with the current process and keep all apprised of any future updates.

Moving forward, Mrs. Pollitt reported the following:

- The UPK application process began at the start of this month and the deadline for submission is March 10. There are presently 187 applicants. The district currently partners with seven schools which can vary from year to year. Mrs. Pollitt reported the possibility of some new and/or additional schools for next year who have expressed an interest and must complete a Request for Proposal (RFP) as part of the vetting process. Mrs. Pollitt spoke of personally performing on-site visits to current and potential UPK placements.
- The NYS Department of Education released the preliminary Accountability Status Report for the 2022/23 school year. Mrs. Pollitt proudly shared that every school in the North Bellmore School District is in good standing. This rating is based on a variety of factors acquired from 2021/22 data consisting of ELA, reading, and science scores, English language proficiency, chronic absenteeism if existing, etc.

Mrs. Malloy, regarding the AIS program, inquired if the consistency of the program is still being impacted by a shortage of substitute teachers. Mrs. Pollitt responded that the students are now receiving the services on a more consistent basis and thanked Mrs. Fisher for her due diligence in securing additional substitutes alleviating the need to pull the specialists.

Mrs. Corless questioned Mrs. Pollitt with respect to the UPK Program, if additional schools are added, how do we vet them, i.e., what type of programs do they have, how do they vet their staff, etc. Mrs. Pollitt explained the vetting process includes an RFP, Request for Proposal, a lengthy packet of requirements and information that must be provided, an on-site interview she holds with the Director of the facility, as well as strict guidelines overall they must follow in their capacity.

Mrs. Malloy inquired of the schools that participate in UPK program, do they have to be actively participating in NYS curriculum guidelines in order to receive the tuition from NYS or is every pre-school able to pick and choose their curriculum. Mrs. Pollitt indicated it has evolved over time requiring certain indicators and benchmarks, and now with the discussion of the current expansion, she stressed more focus will be placed on continuity in curriculum.

**TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mr. Fischetti began his report by addressing network security. He indicated the migration of mail and office servers to the cloud to prevent ransomware has been completed. The next step he described will be Multi Fact Authentication (MFA) where the user will be required to verify identity through a code. More detailed information will be distributed regarding the implementation of this.

**TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
REPORT
(continued)**

Mr. Fischetti continued with the following district wide updates:

- Utilization of Google Classroom has begun in the sixth-grade classrooms district wide. Some teachers have already started to set up a separate page for each subject and for those teachers that departmentalize, they will have the ability to access the required pages to be shared among co-teachers. A survey was performed and feedback is being utilized to capitalize on the functions and share ideas among the staff district wide. A second professional development is planned to focus on this feedback with the trainer.
- With respect to ongoing projects, the status of smartboard replacement was discussed and planning for Grade 2 is underway.
- Turning to upcoming projects, planning to cycle out five-year-old sixth generation I-Pads has begun. Mr. Fischetti explained these I-Pads though still functional will be limited on their ability to update to the newest IOS in the future.
- Installation of the new audio/visual equipment has begun and the distribution of new copiers district wide is underway. Availability of parts has slowed the overall process, but installation will be completed shortly.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

Mrs. Malloy moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated January 5, 2023. Mrs. Lanci seconded and motion carried 5-0.

DONATIONS

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education accept a donation from Literacy Supplies of the *Elements of Secret Stories Literacy Program* to support literacy learning in the kindergarten classes at Saw Mill Road School (approx. value \$197). Mrs. Malloy seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation from Mark Verdi in the amount of \$135.00 to be used to pay off outstanding lunch balances or the students/families in need at John G. Dinkelmeyer School. Mrs. Malloy seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**ADOPTION OF 2023/24
SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education adopt the school calendar for the 2023/24 school year. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve Items 16.4 through 16.12. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**QUESTAR III BOCES
CONTRACT**

16.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a contract with Questar III BOCES for the 2022/23 school year.

READING/RE-ADOPTION:
Policy Nos. 0110
0110.1
0110.2
8334

16.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a reading and re-adoption of the following North Bellmore School District policies:

- Policy 0110: Sexual Harassment
- Policy 0110.1 Sexual Harassment of Students
- Policy 0110.2: Sexual Harassment of Employees
- Policy 8334: Use of Credit Cards

FIRST READING:
Policy Nos. 4750
9140.1

16.6 The Board of Education accepts the following policies for a First reading:

- Policy 4750: Promotion and Retention of Students
- Policy 9140.1: Staff Complaints and Grievances

ABOLISH: Policy 6840

16.7 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education abolish Policy 6840: Gas Credit Cards.

RENUMERATE POLICY 2300 TO 2400

16.8 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education renumber Policy 2300 to 2400: Board of Education Meetings: Types, Agendas, Procedures and Minutes (content remains the same).

INVOKE EDUCATION LAW SECTION 913

16.9 **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the provisions of Education Law Section 913, that a non-instructional employee whose identity is known to the Board of Education, is hereby directed to report for a medical examination in order to determine her physical and mental capacity to perform her employment duties, the said examination will be conducted by a medical professional selected by the North Bellmore Union Free School District on a mutually agreeable date and time.

DONATION

16.10 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts a donation from Box Tops for Education in the amount of \$60.50 to be used for the Saw Mill Road School Principal Book of the Month initiative.

NEW BUSINESS CONTRACT FOR 2022/23

16.11 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a contract with Brookville Center for Children’s Service, Inc. for the 2022-23 school year.

APPOINTMENT TO NORTH BELLMORE DISTRICTWIDE SAFETY TEAM

16.12 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education appoint the following parent members to the North Bellmore Districtwide Safety Team:

- Sergio LaBoy
- Michelle Murphy

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made to return into Executive Session by Mrs. Lanci at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Corless for matters pertaining to collective bargaining and personnel. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 10:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk