



NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – January 11, 2024

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School 2616 Martin Avenue, North 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 11, 2024, 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 Linci, Vice President
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Christopher Nardo

The following members of the Board of Education were absent:

Christine Malloy, President
Rosemarie Corless

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. A motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mr. Nardo to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 3-0. The meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Cmar-Grote read the District's Mission Statement.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

John G. Dinkelmeyer Sixth Grade BOE Representatives

Mrs. Linci welcomed John G. Dinkelmeyer (JGD) BOE representatives and their families present this evening and invited Mrs. Brugge, Principal, up to introduce them. Mrs. Brugge reminded all of Saw Mill's inspirational presentation last month focusing upon the North Bellmore community and families. Inspired by this, Mrs. Brugge reflected upon discussions with the students, and indicated this evening the children will share their messages why North Bellmore and the school communities is a special place. She invited the sixth grade BOE representatives to the stage:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
**John G. Dinkelmeyer Sixth
Grade BOE Representatives
(continued)**

Jagger Carlin
Tyler Hansen
Aiden Ramnarine

Riley Rohs
Megan Saint Joy
Hailey Smith

The students, reflecting on the start of school, reported Mrs. Brugge and their teachers shared the core values, and indicated their message this evening will focus on how those values are illustrated in their school. In the building, the students offered gratitude for their hard-working teachers and staff, instilling confidence in learning and positivity, and offering a safe and happy environment. In North Bellmore as a community and a neighborhood, they shared experiences of families selflessly working together to assist one another. In closing, they extended gratitude to Mrs. Testa and the District Administrators for taking the core values into consideration when making decisions and expressed appreciation for their hard work.

Mrs. Lanci on behalf of the BOE expressed gratitude and appreciation of the students for demonstrating the importance of community through actions, enthusiasm, and words. Mrs. Lanci and Mrs. Testa congratulated the students and presented them with leadership certificates on behalf of the BOE.

BOE DISCUSSION

BOE Discussion was tabled since all members were not present this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a Motion by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mr. Nardo, and carried 3-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Business meeting of December 14, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Agenda Items only)

Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Lanci on behalf of the Board of Education. There were no public comments relating to agenda items only.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Lanci advised that the Board received correspondence and will be discussing them.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On a Motion made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mr. Nardo, and carried 3-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's report for the month ending November 30, 2023.

**BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH
SCHOOL REPORTS**

Mrs. Lanci reported the high school district met last week. She described a presentation by the 9th Grade elective STEM Program demonstrating a combination of science, math, and engineering skills, and spoke to the overall interest and growth in the program. Mrs. Lanci proudly shared five students were named Regeneron Scholars, three students from Mepham and two from Kennedy, and congratulated those students on this honor. In sports, Mrs. Lanci announced the Calhoun boys' volleyball team won the Nassau County Championship, and in football, Calhoun will receive the community service award for conducting cardio screening at all their games. The next meeting will be held on February 8.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledged review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of December 2023.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Testa began her report by extending her heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Administrators, faculty members, and staff within each individualized building for organizing and leading spirit assemblies and events for the children, working together to make a difference, forming a community based on the core values, and as a team, she proudly professed creating the pride of North Bellmore.

Mrs. Testa continued with updates on highlights districtwide:

- Security and safety are district's foremost priority. She commended all on the recent lockdown and lockout drills that were conducted, and mentioned that drills are followed by debrief meetings with safety teams.
- The 2024/25 school year calendar will be drafted for approval by the BOE in February.
- Congratulations was offered to the Administrators and teachers in the success of the sixth-grade articulation meetings held between North Bellmore and the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District.
- In the area of Curriculum and Instruction, benchmark assessments have begun, i.e. Fountas & Pinnell, I-Reading testing, etc., computer-based testing simulations are upcoming, and professional staff development is occurring districtwide. Gratitude was extended to Mrs. Pollitt and Ms. McNamara on their research and development of programs and skills for teachers and students.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a Motion made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mr. Nardo, and carried 3-0, the Board of Education approved Items 12.1 and 12.2.

PERSONNEL REPORT

12.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated January 11, 2024:

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

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

12.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated January 11, 2024.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mrs. Rehak reported the work on the potential 2024/25 budget is on target. She outlined the budget calendar and indicated a copy is available on the website.

- March 7 - Budget Workshop (Martin Avenue School)
- April 11 - BOE Meeting/Approval of Budget (Martin Avenue School)
- May 9 – Annual Budget Hearing (Martin Avenue School)
- May 21 – Budget Vote (Newbridge Road School)

Moving onto the federal funding, Mrs. Rehak reminded all that the CRSSA funding ceased in August of 2023, and the ARP funding will be ending this coming August. As previously discussed, Mrs. Rehak explained that items added due to these fundings are not sustainable in the general fund budget and further funding opportunities are being looked into and will be discussed in the upcoming months.

In closing, Mrs. Rehak spoke of the application process and the importance of timely filing for Non-Public School Transportation. The forms she indicated were mailed this week to all families currently receiving the service, and to those who may be new, the application is available on the website. She stressed the importance of the April 1 deadline for budgetary and bidding purposes, and no applications will be accepted after that date. In furtherance, she explained if more than one school is under consideration, an application should be submitted for all as there are no exceptions to the deadline and one application per child must be submitted even if you have multiple children attending the same school. Mrs. Rehak reminded all that the District Office is closed on Monday, April 1, for the holiday recess, and all applications must be received prior to that date.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a Motion made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mr. Nardo, and carried 3-0, the Board of Education approved Items 14.1 through 15.4.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

14.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated January 4, 2024.

BUSINESS CONTRACTS

15.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following contract for the 2023-24 school year:

- Kids Therapy Services, PLLC
- Literacy Nassau, Inc.

DONATIONS

15.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from three anonymous Saw Mill Road families of gift cards and gifts totaling approximately \$500 to offer Saw Mill Road families in need during the holiday season.

15.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a check in the amount of \$62.10 for participating in the Box Tops for Education that will be used to purchase books for the Saw Mill Road Principal Book of the Month initiative.

EXCESS DISTRICT EQUIPMENT	15.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the excess of the following instrument that is beyond repair from the Saw Mill Road School inventory: s25, Clarinet, Olds Brand, s/n 17364.
OLD BUSINESS	There was no old business discussed.
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Lanci on behalf of the Board of Education. Ms. Baricevic – <i>What is the ratio in an ICT classroom? Why isn't there two teachers in an ICT classroom all day? What is the max amount of student in an ICT classroom?</i> Mrs. Lanci requested Mrs. Malone approach to respond to Ms. Baricevic's questions. Mrs. Malone detailed the characteristics of an ICT classroom and explained the student population in an ICT must include general education students (those not having an IEP) equal to or greater than those students requiring an ICT setting. With respect to the timeframe two teachers simultaneously remain in an ICT classroom, Mrs. Malone spoke of the model utilized here denoted by a student's IEP, i.e. math, reading, and writing blocks. In furtherance of this, Mrs. Malone explained New York State regulations does not require a district to have an ICT setting and it is an optional program. In regard to the maximum number of students in an ICT classroom, Mrs. Malone reiterated the classroom structure described previously. In furtherance, Mrs. Testa spoke to the contractual average number of students permitted in a classroom, and detailed the complexity of the process in determining student placement.
	Ms. Gechowski – <i>What are the requirements or justification to have 3 classes for next year? Other grades have 3 classes and some are small.</i> In response, Mrs. Testa described the process for determining classroom sections in a building including the overall enrollment in a grade level, the number of classrooms districtwide, services that a student may require, and the potential for incoming new enrollees.
POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION	The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.
ADJOURNMENT	On a Motion by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mr. Nardo, and carried 3-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk