

Nico DeRoia
David Holmes
Charlotte Gianetta

Japleen McDonough
Japleen Nanota
Emmanuel Rios

The sixth-grade leaders welcomed the BOE, Administrators, faculty, and staff present this evening and expressed gratitude for the invitation. Reflecting on the New Year's Eve tradition, it was shared that the countdown in New York City began in 1907, the same year the North Bellmore School District was established. In celebration of the New Year and the first BOE meeting of 2025, the students re-enacted the ten-second countdown adorned with hats, horns, and joyous faces. They reminded all of the symbolic nature reflected by the tradition of new beginnings and togetherness, and for them, their fresh new start as they prepare to step into middle school.

The students shared collectively their experiences while at JGD which centered on the safe, secure, and healthy learning environment, and a community of teachers and staff who encouraged them to pursue their individualized goals stressing the importance of the core values focusing on respect for others, working together as a team and striving for excellence. In closing, they expressed excitement for their future opportunities and wished all a *Happy New Year*.

Mrs. Testa shared happily her heartfelt joy of the unique celebration symbolizing a new year, new beginnings, and proudly reiterated the importance of the district core values creating competent and patient learners as exemplified by the students present this evening. Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Lanci honored each student with a leadership certificate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Malloy, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Business Meeting of December 12, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (*Agenda Items only*)

Guidelines to Public Comments:

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Ms. Holmes (Logue Street) – Item 14.2 Regionalization. She expressed verbally her concerns regarding opting out of the regionalization planning phase and how that would impact the district if the state moves forward with regionalization in the future, and inquired about a possible lawsuit that other districts may be participating in. Mrs. Testa in response explained the meaning behind regionalization, spoke to the long-term partnerships this district already has with components as well as BOCES, and indicated there may possibly be only a couple of districts that are going to participate in the planning with the remaining opting out. In furtherance, Mrs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(Agenda Items only)
(continued)

Lanci pointed out that Item 14.2 speaks to the particulars as to why we are not participating, and Mr. Powers drew attention specifically to the last paragraph of the 14.2 resolution, an express reservation of rights provision, and read it into the record. Mrs. Testa shared the importance of that paragraph in protecting the rights of the district and, as such, the district does not plan to participate in the lawsuit. If approved this evening, Mrs. Testa said a letter will be sent to the State tomorrow.

In closing, Mrs. Testa proudly spoke to the Bellmore-Merrick's long history of working in partnership with each other, the components, and indicated all are active members in BOCES sharing in cooperative bidding, printing, transportation, special education services, etc. and said the district administrators meet monthly with their components for planning purposes and status updates.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Lanci advised that the Board received correspondence.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Nardo, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's report for the month ended November 30, 2024 (on file at District Office).

**BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH
SCHOOL REPORTS**

Mrs. Lanci indicated the BMCHSD met last evening. She was excited to direct attention to the cover of Newsday of this date illustrating the Regeneron Scholars of Long Island, sharing Long Island had the most regionally, and proudly shared five of those honorees are from Bellmore/Kennedy High School. In celebration of students, Mrs. Lanci shared the BOE honored Jack Levitt, News 12 Scholar/Athlete, a school record holder in the sport of pole vaulting, Brianna Wurria, Calhoun High School, a U.S. Army All American Cheerleader selection, and the 2024 Nassau County Champions, Mephram High School Girls Varsity Volleyball. The next meeting will be held in February.

FINANCE

10.1 The Board of Education acknowledges the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of December 2024 (on file at District Office).

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa opened her report by reminding the community and the BOE of the onset of the Universal Pre-K application process that has begun and will run through February 14. Children who are four prior to December 1 of 2025 will be eligible to enter the lottery contingent upon State funding, extending gratitude to Mrs. Pollitt for her due diligence in this regard.

Moving onto highlights districtwide:

- A draft of the 2025/26 school year calendar is currently being worked on and will be presented to the BOE in February for adoption.
- Kindergarten Registration began on November 18. Registration is by appointment only. For further information, please check the website and/or contact the Registrar's office.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(continued)**

- NYS has begun transitioning to computerized testing in ELA, Math, and Science. Thank you to Mrs. Pollitt, her team, and the Principals, a Computerized Based Testing (CBT) simulation will occur on January 28. The simulation is to familiarize and support students with digital testing and the test format. It is instructional in nature and will not be graded.
- Governor Hochul passed the classroom temperature law. Mrs. Testa reminded that past bonds for air conditioning were voted down by the community. She extended gratitude to the foresight of the previous Business Official, the BOE, and the administrative team for building into the budget funds for electrical upgrades as a source for individual unit installation. Mr. Cunningham will provide more detail in the Business Report.

In closing, Mrs. Testa happily welcomed and formally introduced to the community Mr. Richard Cunningham, whom she shared the district has had the pleasure to work with since Mrs. Rehak's departure. She reported that Mr. Cunningham is well respected in school districts and has an extensive background in business and finance.

**CONSENT AGENDA:
Item Nos. 11.1 to 11.3**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 11.1 through 11.3.

PERSONNEL REPORT

11.1 WHEREAS, one position has been abolished as indicated below. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the appointment of the following position in the North Bellmore Union Free School District hereby is excessed as indicated below, effective January 20, 2025.

Position: Bus Attendant
Employee: Kelly Green

11.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated January 9, 2025 (on file at District Office).

- A. Appointments
- B. Leave Requests
- C. Change of Status
- D. Resignations
- E. Termination

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

11.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated January 9, 2025 (on file at District Office).

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mr. Cunningham expressed gratitude to the BOE for having him as the interim Business Official while the search continues for a long-term replacement for Mrs. Rehak. He shared Mrs. Rehak left a positive impression upon the district and the Business Office, and laid groundwork for a smooth transition moving forward. He then updated the BOE on items Mrs. Rehak addressed during the December meeting:

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT
(continued)**

- The Rockefeller Institute of Government study on Foundation Aid was read and various seminars on the topic were addressed. Until the Governor releases the 2025/26 Executive Budget Proposal, it is still unknown how the recommendations of this study will impact the upcoming budget.
- Regarding the North Bellmore proposed budget, the district is still analyzing the expense side of the budget and is still awaiting the state aid proposal to complete the revenue side of the draft budget.
- The Governor did pass the classroom temperature law. The bid opening date is tomorrow with respect to adding electrical panels, outlets, and air conditioning units at Martin, Newbridge, and Saw Mill, and hope was shared for a recommendation of award on the February 13 meeting agenda.
- Gathering information and projected cost estimates for the district bathroom work is ongoing which will be included as a Capital Reserve proposition for voter approval May 2025.

Mr. Cunningham indicated he will update the BOE as more information becomes available in February concerning the above items. In closing, he described work that was performed over the holiday recess by the district maintenance staff and contractors including painting projects at Newbridge, installation of classroom partitions to provide space for small group/individualized instruction, uni-vents and plumbing maintenance, tree trimming, etc., and the cleaners/custodians were busy doing extensive cleaning of floors and glass.

**CONSENT AGENDA
(Item Nos. 13.1 to 14.4)**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 13.1 through 14.4.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
CPSE/CSE REPORTS**

13.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the CPSE and CSE reports dated December 20, 2024 (on file at District Office).

**NEW BUSINESS
CONTRACTS**

14.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2024/25 school year (on file at District Office):

- Clinical Staffing Resources (Skilled Nursing)
- Clinical Staff Resources (Related Services)
- LI Emergency Care Training, LLC
- Martin DePorres School
- Seaford UFSD (DOR/DOL)

**REGIONALIZATION
REGULATIONS**

14.2 WHEREAS, on September 9, 2024, the New York State Board of Regents approved, by emergency adoption, the addition of Part 124 and Subpart 124-2 to Subchapter E of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to regionalization plans (“Regionalization Regulations”); and

WHEREAS, at its December 9, 2024 meeting, the New York State Board of Regents approved the Regionalization Regulations for final adoption, as amended (the “Amended Regionalization Regulations”); and

**REGIONALIZATION
REGULATIONS
(continued)**

WHEREAS, the Amended Regionalization Regulations added a new Section 124-2.8 titled, "Non-participation", which provides a mechanism for a school district to elect not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan by notifying the New York State Education Department's Office of Education Policy of such election, in writing, by no later than January 15, 2025, and every ten years thereafter; and

WHEREAS, at the December 9th Board of Regents meeting, New York State Education Department representatives further asserted that notification electing not to participate under the Amended Regionalization Regulations constitutes an opt-out of the entirety of the regionalization process, including the development and implementation of a regionalization plan; and

WHEREAS, the North Bellmore Union Free School District strongly opposes any initiative that jeopardizes local control of our schools, or redistributes taxpayer dollars and resources to other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the preservation, protection and maintenance of complete and total local control of all School District operations is of paramount importance to the Board of Education and Administration, and in the best interests of the North Bellmore School community, our students and our schools; and

WHEREAS, after review and consideration of the Amended Regionalization Regulations, the North Bellmore Union Free School District has determined that it will not participate in the development of a regionalization plan or any aspect of a regionalization plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in accordance with the foregoing, the North Bellmore Union Free School District hereby exercises its election not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan or in any aspect of the regionalization plan [unless otherwise subsequently authorized by the Board of Education]; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools shall provide written notification of said election to not participate in a regionalization plan to the New York State Department's Office of Education Policy prior to January 15, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said notification to the New York State Department's Office of Education Policy shall include an express reservation of the School District's rights and remedies respecting its decision not to participate in the regionalization plan and/or any other action that negatively impacts local control of the District's operations.

DONATION

14.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board accept an anonymous donation of Stop and Shop gift cards to help Saw Mill families in need. (Value: \$100.00)

LEVEL 3 GRIEVANCE

14.4 WHEREAS, an employee known to the School District in Executive Session filed a level 3 grievance on November 8, 2024 appealing the Superintendent's determination at the Level 2 Grievance proceeding regarding longevity payments; and

**LEVEL 3 GRIEVANCE
(continued)**

WHEREAS, the Employee presented the grievance to the Board of Education pursuant to Level 3 of the grievance procedure contained in the applicable collective bargaining agreement; and

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon deliberating on the grievance, hereby denies the grievance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk is directed to notify the grievant of the Board's determination.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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There were no public comments.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The BOE did not adjourn into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Malloy, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk