



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 5, 2019**

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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, September 5, 2019, 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 for Business  
Jason Fischetti, Director of Technology, CIO  
Christopher Powers, District Counsel  
Jeanne Canavan, District Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mr. Ferrara to move into executive session. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:57 p.m. Mrs. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Corless read the District's mission statement.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the business meeting of August 1, 2019. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs. Testa was excited to announce that, as a reminder to put children at the center of everything we do, sixth grade student representatives will attend each board meeting to report on the highlights of their school. Mrs. Testa welcomed Dinkelmeyer students, Kiera Wildeman and Ryan Ernst, and invited them to share their perspective regarding the first days of the 2019-20 school year. They described that writing

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

and reading workshops had already started and that all the teachers greeted them with a smile.

Kiera and Ryan reported that the first day school went very well...everyone was welcoming and very organized. The school was clean and decorated nicely. Time was spent getting to know one another. They had their first fire drill of the year. They asked the Board and administrators to help them name the school mascot—the bulldog.

Mrs. Testa congratulated the students on a job well done! On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Testa presented each student with a Leadership Award and a rubber bracelet with the inscription “Who’s Doing the Work?” as a reminder from literacy instructor, Jan Burkins, that our amazing students are doing the work and teachers are setting the learning environment.

**VISITORS**

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 July 31, 2019. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

**HIGH SCHOOL  
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci reported on last night’s Board meeting at the High School District. A curriculum update presentation was held. Mrs. Lanci thanked the North Bellmore community for their donations to support the Community Cupboard. Presently 85 families are supported biweekly. The schools are looking great and are fully staffed. There were 52 new hires for September. Mrs. Lanci thanked the EID families for addressing the Board. The Mephram homecoming will be held on September 28. Middle School Back to School Night will be held on September 26. The next meeting will be held on October 2.

**FINANCE**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT’S  
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa stated that she has been visiting the classrooms and noticed a common theme across the district-- there was a tremendous amount of planning done by the teachers to present the children with warm, inviting learning environments. Mrs. Testa thanked the amazing faculty and staff for everything they do to make sure the children succeed.

In an effort to supplement our health and wellness programs, Mrs. Testa announced that safety stations have been created in each school staffed

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

with a nurse, psychologist and a social worker to collaboratively work together to help students with any concerns.  
 Mrs. Testa thanked Police Officer Clark and First Assistant Fire Chief Dave Marschall for joining the Districtwide Safety Team.

Mrs. Testa reported that she attended the opening of the North Bellmore Public Library--it is beautiful!

Kudos to Mr. Russo! The custodial and maintenance crew did a phenomenal job this summer. The buildings look very good. Fencing was installed along the perimeter of the Newbridge Road School property adjacent to the hockey rink. The new floors at Saw Mill look great. Eagle Scout Carrano did an amazing job refurbishing the 911 Memorial Garden in front of Park Avenue School. It is extraordinary looking!

Mrs. Testa reported that the district is the fortunate recipients of fifty backpacks filled with school supplies that were donated by Miss Abigail to help out any students in need. Any extra backpacks were donated to *Birthday Wishes* for children in homeless shelters.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel Report dated 9/5/19:

**A.1 PERSONNEL REPORT**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2019**

***Certified Personnel:*** Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it resolved that the following persons be appointed as teachers in North Bellmore Union Free School District as indicated below. All assignments are at the discretion of the district. Leave replacements are paid on a per diem basis per the NBTA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

<u>Appointments:</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
3.1 Wahl, Joanne	PT Reading Teacher		\$36/hr	8/27/19-6/30/20
3.2 Reising, Michelle	PT Reading Teacher		\$36/hr	8/27/19-6/30/20

**Change of Status:**

3.3 Martelli, Nicole	From: 7M+60 To:7M+75	(+1,314)	\$91,761/yr	8/28/2019
3.4 Mignoli, Melissa	From: 5M+30 To:5M+45	(+2,549.80)	\$78,698.95/yr	8/28/2019
3.5 Leone, Danielle	From:4M To: 4M+45	(+7,817.55)	\$76,185.25/yr	8/28/2019
3.6 O’Neill, Jennifer	From:5M To:5M+30	(+5,113.85)	\$76,149.15/yr	8/28/2019
3.7 Moir, Kristen	From:9M To:9M+30	(+5,716)	\$92,350/yr	8/28/2019

**Resignations:**

3.8 James, Janelle	Substitute Teacher			8/27/2019
3.9 Pearsall, Brittany	Substitute Teacher			8/27/2019
3.10 Kelly, Colleen	Substitute Teacher			8/27/2019
3.11 Sorto, Katie	Substitute Teacher			8/27/2019
3.12 Coyne, Deanna	Substitute Teacher			8/27/2019

3.13	Libretto, Elisa	Substitute Teacher	8/27/2019
3.14	Romano, Jamie	Substitute Teacher	8/12/2019
3.15	Scala, Emily	Substitute Teacher	8/02/2019
3.16	Rodriguez, Christine	Substitute Teacher	8/29/2019
3.17	Brisette, Nicole	PT Reading Teacher	8/23/2019
3.18	Tullo, Emily	PT Reading Teacher	8/13/2019

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<b>Appointments:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Eff. Date</b>
3.19	Lashin, Steven	Cleaner PT/Sub	\$16.94/hr	9/01/2019
3.20	Mancuso, Andrew	Cleaner PT/Sub	\$16.94/hr	9/01/2019
3.21	Monastero, Nanci	From: Teacher Aide PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.22	Apollo, Karen	From: Teacher Aide PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.23	Seniuk, Madison	From: Teacher Aide PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.24	Virapen, Donna	From: Teacher Aide PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.25	Paolillo, JoAnn	From: Teacher Aide PT To: Teacher Aide PT/Sub	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.26	Bagnasco, Josephine	From: Teacher Aide PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.27	Demetriou, Vasiliki	From: Teacher Aide PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.28	Clerici, Diane	From: Teacher Aide PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.29	Zucker, Fran	From: Teacher Aide PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.30	Reifschneider, Donna	Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.31	Cracchiolo, Emily	Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.32	Henningsen, Nicole	Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.33	Diaz, Doreen	Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.34	Devlin, Maria	Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.35	Ulmschneider, Christine	Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.36	Kelly, Adrienne	Teacher Aide PT	\$17.25/hr	8/28/2019
3.37	Carmela LaPietra	From: Monitor PT To: Monitor PT/Sub	\$14.42/hr	8/27/2019

**Resignations for the Purposes of Retirement:**

3.38	Gambo, Maureen	Teacher Aide PT	8/21/2019
3.39	Stebe, Donald	Custodian	8/16/2019
3.40	Stebe, Cheryl Ann	Monitor PT	8/16/2019

**Resignations:**

3.41	Libretto, Elisa	Teacher Aide PT	8/19/2019
3.42	Kehoe, Tracy	Teacher Aide PT	8/26/2019
3.43	Johnson, Michele	Monitor PT/Sub Bus Matron	8/21/2019

3.44	Monastero, Nanci	Monitor PT	8/26/2019
3.45	Berglund, Sabrina	Monitor PT	8/27/2019
3.46	Chayut, Robin	Monitor PT	8/27/2019
3.47	Seniuk, Madison	Teacher Aide PT/Sub	8/27/2019
3.48	Pearsall, Brittany	Teacher Aide PT/Sub	8/27/2019
3.49	Leggio, Colleen	Typist Clerk PT	9/27/2019
3.50	Crean, Kathleen	Teacher Aide PT	8/29/2019

## A.1 PERSONNEL REPORT Addendum

**September 5, 2019**

**Certified Personnel:** Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it resolved that the following persons appointed as teachers in North Bellmore Union Free School District as indicated below. All assignments are at the discretion of the district. Leave replacements are paid on a per diem basis per the NBT Collective Bargaining Agreement.

<u>Appointments:</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
3.51 Panchyn, Kathleen	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	9/03/19
<b><u>Change of Status:</u></b>				
3.52 Henchel, Kristin	From: 5M+30 To: 5M+45	(+2,549.80)	\$78,698.95/yr	8/28/2019
3.53 McGovern, Jennifer	From: 3M To: 3M+30	(+5,147.10)	\$70,949.80/yr	8/28/2019
3.54 Vaccaro, Diane	From: 6M+45 To: 6M+75	(+3,340)	\$88,916/yr	8/28/2019
<b><u>Resignations:</u></b>				
3.55 Watts, Kristen	Substitute Teacher			8/29/2019
3.56 Khanija, Falcia	Substitute Teacher			9/03/2019

**Classified Personnel:** Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it resolved that the following persons appointed in North Bellmore Union Free School District as indicated below. All assignments are at the discretion of the district.

<u>Appointments:</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
3.57 Chayut, Robin	Monitor PT/Sub		\$14.42/hr	8/28/2019
3.58 Longo, Donna	Monitor PT/Sub		\$14.42/hr	8/28/2019
3.59 Palmer Cornell, Diane	Nurse PT/Sub		\$28.98/hr	9/06/2019

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated September 5, 2019, as presented. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

## BUSINESS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mrs. Rehak gave the following updates:

We completed our first NYSED Transparency report, which is used to gauge how districts are allocating funds among various buildings within the district. This was the cause for all the recoding. As we are a service organization, salaries and benefits are the greatest expense. The location of various personnel can greatly affect the cost per pupil in each building, especially depending on years of service to the district. The report was based on the 2019/20 budgeted numbers. Based on the final numbers, Mrs. Rehak was happy to report that our funds are allocated

**BUSINESS  
DEPARTMENT REPORT**

relatively even among the schools. On average, we spend \$24K - \$27K per pupil in each of our buildings. Overall, it went well and we are pleased with the results.

We are preparing our Year-End Financials and State-Aid Reporting. There were no changes from our external audit. We were able to maintain four percent in fund balance as previously discussed and replenish the district's reserves.

Comptroller's Audit – After analyzing the report, we are pleased overall. The district procured services in accord with law and Board policy, including using RFPs for all the special education and related services. They were adequately documented, and all payments to providers were made in accordance with Board approved agreements.

The district was cited for not using an RFP process to procure external auditor services. The situation was fixed as soon as we were notified and current external auditors were procured through the RFP process.

The district was cited for a few other services not being procured through a RFP. Any applicable contracts were canceled through resolution at the August 29 Board meeting. RFPs for these services were mailed out the next day. Responses are due back on September 17. We are working on the Correction Action Plan, but happy to report it will be straightforward, as the two items cited, have already been corrected.

The nVision conversion went smoothly and we are up and running. Users have been trained on most of the day-to-day modules. As the year goes on, there will be additional training on other areas we need to use.

Student registration has been very busy in the last couple of weeks. We had approximately 10 registrants come in on the first day of school to the Business office. We are working to get all the required documentation before admitting, but moving quickly to get these students in school.

Transportation – The first week of school has been very busy. Mrs. Van Name, our transportation coordinator, is working diligently to address any issues as they arise. She has done a great job.

Banking Needs/Rates - Meetings are set up with our financial institutions for the end of the month to address district needs and our rate.

**CURRICULUM AND  
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt gave the following updates:

Professional Development - Superintendent's Conference days were very successful. Mrs. Pollitt thanked Mrs. McNamara, the instructional coaches and other professionals who arranged and led workshops. She also thanked the teachers for active engagement in workshops.

Mrs. McNamara and the coaches are now planning follow up PD for teachers implementing new FPC resource, fall 90 minute PD series and new teacher training for F&P benchmarking.

Consolidated Grant - This year, Dinkelmeyer and Newbridge Road schools qualified for Title I funds, which is based on free or reduced lunch eligibility. (Dinkelmeyer 14%, Martin Avenue 12%, Newbridge 15%, Park Avenue 7%, Saw Mill Road 11%. District average: 12%.) The funds will go towards portions of the reading teacher salaries and remedial reading supplies.

Parent University:

*Ready, Set... Off to Kindergarten We Go!* Sixty parents attended the first session on August 26. A follow up session will be held on September 26.

The October 21 Parent University will focus on Mental Health and Wellness. The presenter will be Laura Campbell, a Certified Crisis Counselor and the Director of Education for Long Island Crisis Center.

*Active Parenting NOW* workshop will take place on October 16, 23 & 30. from 6:30- 8:30 p.m. for first grade parents.

School Counselor/ Prevention: A tremendous amount of work was done over summer relative to the Guidance Plan/Planning Lessons. James Duffy, our new school counselor will be working with mainly 6th graders, as well as Prevention push-in lessons for fifth graders. A team of sixth grade students will attend the annual anti-bullying conference on October 7.

Assessment update: We are currently analyzing scores. AIS cut scores are being looked at to determine students in need of services.

All state assessment parent letters are being sent out. Fall local testing begins at the end of September: i-Ready and F&P Benchmarking.

**TECHNOLOGY AND  
CIO REPORT**

Mr. Fischetti reported on the following:

Ransomware: We are taking the potential threats very seriously. Over the summer, we spent a lot of time updating and improving the filtering on internet and email. Mr. Fischetti stated that he is also investigating some other backup systems that allow much quicker data

**TECHNOLOGY AND  
CIO REPORT**

restoration and offer more frequent backups due to capacity of the systems.

We have been very proactive, holding PD sessions, bolstering email filtering and network firewall protection. We are looking into software and systems that could help avoid infection or recover from it as quickly as possible, without having to pay a ransom.

Parent Portal: Our plan to utilize our parent portal to share student placements for the 19-20 school year was a huge success. There were zero connectivity issues. Many thanks to Evelyn Comas who handles everything eSchool related. She fielded at least 400 phone calls and worked hard to ensure every parent could access the portal and see their child's placement.

IPads and carts: Devices and carts have been delivered. Mr. Fischetti stated that he would meet with the principals on September 18 to go over their building level plans for use of the carts. The plans will outline storage and security, as well responsibilities of teachers and students. Proper procedure, handling and security of the devices is paramount to the success of using shared devices.

On Monday, September 9, we will be upgrading to the new Frontline platform that will allow users a single log on to access My Learning Plan, RTI and IEP Direct, rather than having three separate logins.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
REPORT**

Mrs. Eskew reported that the special education department has been working cooperatively with the business office staff with all the new registrants who require special education services. The district has up to 30 days to days to implement IEPs.

We are still having difficulty hiring and recruiting nurses to cover lunch hours. We are working with the NBTA to have the nurses take their lunch in their building so that they can be on call. We are still trying to recruit nurses from other agencies.

The special education teams have started using the DIAL 4 Assessment tools to help screen and diagnose Kindergarten students and new entrants more efficiently.

Mrs. Eskew added that she is working with the principals to review their special education teaching schedules to ensure that our providers are maximizing teaching time.

**CPSE/CSE REPORTS**

Motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated August 28, 2019. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT CONT'D.**

Mrs. Testa reported that the Board received correspondence requesting that the Eid holidays be included in the district calendar. Although there are no EID holidays in the 2019-20 school year on school days, there is one in the 2020-21 school year. Mrs. Testa stressed the importance of recognizing the diversity in the district and asked the Board to look at all religious holidays going forward. Mrs. Testa indicated that the discussion is still taking place with the component districts and the Nassau County superintendent groups.

Mr. Ferrara asked about kilowatt usage since we implemented LED lighting in the district in 2016-17. Mrs. Testa indicated that we have seen a savings of \$4,000 between 2016-17 and 2017-18 (59,929 less KWH).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote and passed unanimously for the following consent agenda items: 16.1 – 16.3.

**NEW BUSINESS****CONTRACTS**

16.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2019-20 school year:

-Bri-Sci Consultants

-Sharon Galvin

-Nassau County Dept. of Human Services, Office of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Service (Prevention Program – January to December 2019)

16.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the new transportation contract with We Transport.

**DONATION**

16.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation of a check in in the amount of \$500 from Applebee's Essay Contest to be used to purchase classroom supplies for Mrs. Patterson's classroom for the 2019-20 school year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mrs. Lanci thanked the custodial staff for doing a great job getting the schools ready for the opening of school. She mentioned that the teachers did a great job—the classrooms look lovely!

**VISITORS**

Mrs. Renz (Bedford Ave.) asked if the district is considering securing the perimeters at Dinkelmeyer School with fencing.

Mrs. Testa indicated that we have plans for securing each school. We are looking to establish a capital reserve fund in the May 2020 budget as a means to continue with the fencing project.

Mrs. Umar (Queen St.) humbly requested that the district add the two Islamic Eid holidays to the school calendar.

**VISITORS**

Mrs. Testa stated that she is conversation with the Board of Education and the component superintendents to make an informed decision.

Mrs. Virapen (Bellmore Ave.) thanked the district for looking into adding the Eid holidays to the school calendar and hearing the community's concerns.

Mrs. Block-Rosen (Duke St.) asked what could be done to make sure that all children in North Bellmore have equal access to after school care. Saw Mill children do not have the same access to after school care as other schools have.

Mrs. Testa stated that North Bellmore School District is not the administrator of the Bellmore Merrick Child Care Program. The program has outgrown what it was initially intended to be. At this point, the program at Saw Mill is at its maximum capacity. Mrs. Testa added that she has been in conversation with June Smith, the Director of the program, to exchange ideas on finding a solution to the current situation.

Ms. (Beckman Dr.) asked the district to consider having the sixth graders change classes in preparation for middle school.

Mrs. Testa advised that there are many factors that need to be taken into consideration with departmentalizing, e.g., the number of classes, push in services, teachers' APPR scores, etc. Mrs. Testa stated that she has spoken with the middle and high schools and they have informed her that our students become acclimated to the middle school schedule very quickly.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 5-0, to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session for the purpose of discussing Board of Education training related to roles and responsibilities at 9:40 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan  
District Clerk