



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

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, December 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
Jason Fischetti, Executive Director of Technology, Data and Information Services
Christopher Powers, District Counsel
Jeanne Canavan, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel matters. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:59 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

Mrs. Lanci announced that, similar to the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District's Board meeting last night, the North Bellmore Board of Education will table agenda item No. 16.4 to approve the 2020-21 school calendar in order to continue to gather information and explore options in order to make an informed decision on whether to include the Muslim

holidays in the school calendar. Mrs. Lanci thanked the community for their patience and understanding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the business meeting of November 14, 2019, as amended. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mrs. Fisher introduced the Newbridge Road School sixth grade Board of Education representatives: James Quilty, Elaine Li and Ben Goff.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The students spoke about leadership and being a role model to the younger students by being kind, respectful and helpful. They shared the many ways the Student Council has been helping others and inspiring others to do better: Thanksgiving food drive, Toy Drive to benefit the John Theissen's Children's Foundation, Red Ribbon Week. They stated how proud they are to be leaders—you're never too young to lead!

Mrs. Testa said that she was exceedingly proud of the students and that this is what our district mission is all about! Mrs. Testa then presented the students with a Leadership Award.

Mrs. Corless told the students that she has seen the sick children in hospitals receive the toy donations and how it helps make the holiday special for many kids.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended October 31, 2019. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci reported on last night's Board meeting. The Board recognized Mephram student, Matthew Hegi, for receiving the News 12 Scholar Athlete Award. The student representatives spoke of ways they are helping families in the community during the holidays. The Board accepted several donations including a donation of \$6,000 from the Bellmore Merrick Basketball League to be used towards the purchase of speakers for the outdoor field at Kennedy High school. The Board approved a district-wide security camera software upgrade. The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2020.

FINANCE

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Testa thanked the Board for asking for additional information on the 2020-21 calendars.

Mrs. Testa gave the following department updates:

Mr. Russo is working with our architect on the security vestibule plans before they are submitted to the State.

Our new accounts are being opened at Sterling Bank this week.

Over the next month, we will be looking at our 2018-19 expenditures and start breaking them out by building.

Central registration will take place on January 7 and 8 at Newbridge Road School. The kindergarten registration postcard will be mailed out on December 16.

We are updating our District website. Syntax will be developing a new website and maintaining the site moving forward.

We started gathering information in preparation of the 2020-21 budget.

We submitted the District's application for the State and Municipal Facilities Program in order to complete some district-wide security enhancements, which include perimeter fencing, new walkie-talkies and outdoor speakers.

We are preparing for our annual Risk Assessment Audit, which will take place the week of December 16.

Mrs. Testa thanked the Board of Education for their approval regarding her assessment of Mr. Fischetti's scope of responsibilities. Mrs. Testa congratulated Mr. Fischetti on his new title, Executive Director of Technology, Data and Information Services.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated December 5, 2019. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

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

STAFF DEVELOPMENT	Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated December 5, 2019, as presented. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.
SPECIAL EDUCATION CSE/CSE REPORTS	Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated November 26, 2019. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.
CONSENT AGENDA	Motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless and passed 5-0 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: -Bellmore UFSD -Bellmore-Merrick CHSD -Rosa Cabral-Karp -Eliza Della Monica
DONATIONS	16.2 BE IT RESOLVED , that the Board of Education accept a donation from the 2018-19 graduating class of Newbridge Road School of a check in the amount of \$8,000 to be used to purchase a water filling station, iPads and cases for use by Newbridge Road School students.
FIRST READING	16.3 BE IT RESOLVED , that the Board of Education approve the following policies for a first reading: -Policy No. 5150 School Admissions Policy -Policy No. 5110 Attendance Zone
2020-21 SCHOOL CALENDAR	Discussion was tabled until next month.
CHANGE OF DATE – JANUARY BOE MEETING	Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara that the Board of Education meeting date, currently scheduled for January 9, 2020, hereby be rescheduled to January 13, 2020. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.
OLD BUSINESS	There was none.
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Mrs. Christine Malloy (Pierce Ave.) asked about the possibility of bringing STEAM classrooms to the elementary schools, sensory pathways to the whole school building and flexible seating in classrooms. Mrs. Testa thanked Mrs. Malloy for sharing her ideas. Mrs. Testa stated that we are moving in the direction of flexible seating and thanked the teachers who have already done that. It is a huge initiative. Mrs. Testa said that she would speak to Mr. Rosof to look at bringing sensory pathways to various

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areas of the school as we go forward. Mrs. Testa added that the computer labs are used for STEAM classes and students are also supported by the Library Media Specialists. Currently, classroom space is an issue, and STEAM lessons are push in only. If space becomes available, that is our goal.

Mrs. Goedel (Martin Ave.) stated that adding additional days off into the school calendar will be a hardship for working parents and asked the Board to be mindful of that when considering increasing student days off from school.

Mrs. Batool Rizvi (Peapond Rd.) expressed the importance of the Eid holiday and requested that the Board add Eid to the school calendar.

Miss Lila Elsayed (Taft St.) (former Saw Mill student) spoke about her feelings about not being off from school on a very wonderful holiday and stated that it is not fair that she has to choose to miss school in order to celebrate Eid with her friends and family.

Mrs. Umar (Queen St.) stated that she has been attending board meetings for three years to request that Eid being included in the school calendar. She added that absentee numbers will not reflect the importance of the holiday to the families, as the children do not want to take off from school.

Mrs. Aya Elsayed (Taft St.) stated that Eid is one of the most holy days of the year. She clarified that the community is not asking for an additional day off, but rather requesting that the days off be moved around on the calendar. She requested that the Board send a positive message of acceptance. The children should not have to feel left out.

Mrs. Peoponakis (Atlantic Ave.) asked if the push-in teacher was hired yet for the Saw Mill third grade.

Mrs. Testa stated that a highly qualified teacher, Mrs. Klotz, was hired to increase instruction in guided reading and small group instruction.

Mr. Umar (Queen St.) stated that it was very disturbing that school was closed on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and Eid was not listed as a holiday this year. He also stated that it is not about numbers, but it is all about accepting others. Mr. Umar said that he hopes the Board makes the right decision and this situation gets resolved.

Mrs. Testa thanked Mr. Umar for his comments. Mrs. Testa stated that the 2020-21 school calendar was tabled at last night's Board meeting at

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BMCHSD, and since we share families with the High School District, the Board will not make a decision in isolation. We will not divide families.

Miss Summer Marfani (Saw Mill Rd.) (former Saw Mill student and current sophomore at Mepham High School) shared her story of attending Project Adventure while attending Saw Mill and learning about overcoming obstacles. She shared her point of view on adding the Eid holiday to the calendar and asked the Board for their help, empathy and acceptance. She added that the community needs to embrace the diversity.

Mrs. Rolston (Walnut Ave.) asked what are the requirements to create an ERR/ICT class and if there is a minimum number of students required to create an ICT class.

Ms. Eskew stated that the number of students recommended for an ICT placement is continuously monitored throughout the school year. Every effort is made to place the student in a grade appropriate ICT class in their home school; however, this is not always possible. In such cases, students are placed in buildings where grade appropriate ICT classes have openings. When it is necessary to open additional ICT classes, we consider the numbers of students placed outside their home schools and make every effort to open a new class in those schools. The parents of such students are then contacted and the option of returning to the home school is discussed.

Mrs. Carroll (Regina Ave.) asked for clarification of Ms. Klotz' role in the Saw Mill third grade.

Mrs. Testa explained that in response to parents' concerns about the class size, and assessments done by Mr. Rosof and Mr. O'Brien, Mrs. Klotz was hired to help support small group instruction in writing and reading workshops.

Mrs. Carrol asked what future steps the district will take so that this does not happen again.

Mrs. Testa stated that we strive to keep the class sizes as low as possible and similar among the schools. We are presently keeping an eye on enrollment in six classes across the district. We continually look at and analyze the cohorts. Mrs. Testa explained the concept of neighborhood schools and the desire our community has continually expressed in terms of keeping our neighborhood schools, rather than exploring other options.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There will always be slight discrepancies in enrollment when offering neighborhood schools.

A non-resident submitted a petition to the Board regarding closing school in observance of Eid.

Mrs. Lay (Willard St.) asked if there is a plan to continue with the push-in teacher for the Saw Mill third grade, or will there be a section added next year.

Mrs. Testa stated that the Board is assessing the enrollment for next year. We will know more information in the summer. It would be premature to make a decision at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Erhard, seconded by Mrs. Corless and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan
District Clerk