

MINUTES OF THE NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 1, 2018

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The regular meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, November 1, 2018, 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, Vice President  
Rosemarie Corless  
JoAnn DeLauter  
John Ferrara

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Melissa Cmar-Grote, President

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools  
Carol Eskew, Deputy Superintendent  
Mark Schissler, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Jason Fischetti, Director of Technology  
Larry Tenenbaum, District Counsel  
Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. DeLauter, to move into executive session at 6:38 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Motion was carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve a one-time extension of an unpaid leave of absence for Mrs. Mary Grace Roach from 11/20/18 -1/1/19. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. DeLauter, to move into executive session at 7:25 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:42 p.m. Mrs. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Corless then read the District's Mission Statement.

Mrs. Lanci called for a Moment of Silence in remembrance of the victims of the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the regular meeting of October 11, 2018 and the special meeting of October 23, 2018. Mrs. DeLauter seconded, and the motion was carried 4-0.

**SPECIAL  
PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Michael Nawrocki of Nawrocki Smith gave a brief presentation to the Board of Education of the North Bellmore School District's financial statements as of June 30, 2018. He reported that there was a timely, accurate closing of the books and records (no audit adjustments). Mr. Nawrocki stated that the audit went very well and thanked Mr. Schissler and the Business Office for their excellent cooperation and attention. There was a timely filing of audit reports with New York State. The district received "clean" or unmodified opinions in all auditor's reports. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control were found.

**BOARD  
APPRECIATION**

Mrs. Testa announced that we are celebrating School Board Appreciation Month tonight to honor the Board members for their commitment to North Bellmore and its children. Mrs. Testa expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the Board for their support. Mrs. Testa added that, "school board members give the North Bellmore citizens a voice in education decision making. Even though we make a special effort to show our appreciation in November, their contribution is a year-round commitment."

Mrs. Lanci, on behalf of the Board of Education thanked everyone who applied for the vacancy on the Board of Education and noted that the pool of candidates was outstanding. After the interviews were concluded, Mrs. Rosemarie Corless was appointed to the seat until May 21, 2019. Mrs. Lanci welcomed Mrs. Corless back to the North Bellmore Board of Education. All interested candidates are invited to run for the open Board seat in May.

On behalf of the central office administrative team and the Principals' Association, Mrs. Skelos thanked the Board for their dedication, energy and compassion, and presented them with a donation of \$250 to the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD's Community Cupboard in the name of the School Board. Student representatives from each school presented the Board with thank you cards that they made and were signed by all the students. On behalf of the Coordinating Council and the PTAs, Mrs. Muoio stated that a subscription to the National Geographic Magazine is being donated to each school in the Board's honor. Ms. Skelly, on behalf of the NB Clerical Association presented the Board with a donation to the Ronald McDonald House in memory of Meghan Roach. On behalf of the Paraprofessionals Association, Mrs. Paolillo stated that a donation of \$100 was made in the Board's honor, to The Long Island Ronald McDonald House in memory of student, Dylan Murphy. Mrs. Collins, on behalf of the NBTA, presented the Board with Stop and Shop gift cards to be donated to each school in the Board's honor.

Mrs. Lanci, on behalf of the Board of Education, stated that it was their pleasure to serve the community and children of North Bellmore.

The meeting recessed at 8:10 PM for a cake break. The meeting convened at 8:20 PM.

<b>VISITORS</b>	There were no questions relating to agenda items only.
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	Mrs. Lanci advised that correspondence was received and will be addressed by the Board.
<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>	Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended September 30, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion and was carried 4-0.
<b>HIGH SCHOOL REPORT</b>	Mrs. Lanci reported that the Board will meet next on November 7. The National Honor Society Inductions will take place on November 13. Mrs. Lanci announced that the Mephram Boys Soccer team captured the Nassau County title defeating Garden City High School yesterday. Mrs. Lanci reported that students in the senior service-learning project raised over \$5,000 by selling flags to benefit the organization, <i>Building Homes for Heroes</i> . Approximately 300 American and military branch flags are displayed on Mephram High School's lawn, Field of Honor through December 10.
<b>FINANCE</b>	The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Internal Auditor for the month of October 2018.
<b>BUDGETARY TRANSFERS</b>	Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated November 1, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.
<b>AUDIT REPORT</b>	Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept the Audit of the financial records of the district for the 2017-18 school year by Nawrocki Smith, LLP and directs that all proper filings be completed. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.
<b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b>	Mrs. Testa gave the following updates:  <i>Safety and security:</i> We are still waiting to hear from Leg. McKeivitt regarding the security vestibule grant.  <i>Fencing estimates:</i> As a follow up to the Homeland Security's recommendation for schools to secure the perimeters of the buildings, Mr. Russo obtained an estimate from Island Fencing for fencing in the property at all five schools, which includes the cost of new fencing and blacktop on Saw Mill's property (where the former primary equipment was located). This area could be used for additional parking if we decide to do so. The estimate is nearly \$80,000. Mrs. Testa asked the Board if they want to proceed with the project. If so, we would need to determine how best to scaffold the additional fencing into yearly projects over the next few years.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Saw Mill Road Playground:* We are moving closer to going out to bid and hope to begin the installation of the playground in the spring of 2019.

*Reassignment of Streets:* The deadline to return the street reassignment form is December 17. To date, we only received one request to transfer out of Saw Mill.

*Saw Mill Assistant Principal:* We are in the process of screening resumes. Interview dates will be in November.

*Parent University:* Mrs. Testa invited the community to attend the Annual Kindergarten Math Night, which will be held on November 14.

*Lions Club:* Once again, the NB Coordinating Council is collaborating with The Bellmore Lions Club to hold a winter accessories drive to benefit the children who attend the Lions Club Polar Express party. The Newbridge, Park and Dinkelmeyer SAAD clubs will be helping this year by collecting and bagging of holiday candy for the party.

We are still in the process of hiring a maintainer in the district, as the last appointment was declined by the Nassau County Civil Service Commission.

Mrs. Lanci asked if the fencing is an aidable project. Mr. Schissler indicated that it is not.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel Report dated November 1, 2018. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**A.1 Personnel Report**

**November 1, 2018**

**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.

**Unpaid Leave of Absence:**

5.1	Brugge, Danica	Assistant Principal	1/2/19-6/30/19
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**Appointments:**

		<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
5.2	Warren, Kayla	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	10/18/2018
5.3	Mignoli, Richard	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	10/16/2018
5.4	Tunnell-Hall, Pamela	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	10/17/2018
5.5	Kriegel, Julia	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	11/28/18-1/18/19
5.6	Brunetti, Joanne	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	10/29/2018
5.7	Brugge, Danica	Interim Principal	<i>(Prorated)</i>	\$151,734/yr.	1/2/19-6/30/19

**Resignation:**

5.8	Cabral-Karp, Rosa	Substitute Teacher	10/25/2018
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**Classified Personnel:** Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it resolved that the following persons be appointed in North Bellmore Union Free School District as indicated below. All assignments are at the discretion of the district.

<u>Appointment:</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
5.9 Vermillion, Robert III	Summer Cleaner	1	\$13.30/hr	7/1/19-8/31/19
<b>Resignation:</b>				
5.10 Canarutto, Kristen	Teacher Aide PT/Sub			10/11/2018
Change to October 11, 2018 Personnel Report				
Rescind Appointment:				
4.29 Leviso, Aaron	Maintainer			10/29/2018

**Addendum**

**A.1 Personnel Report**

**November 1, 2018**

**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>
5.11 Zagorski, Amy	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	11/2/2018
5.12 Natko, Deborah	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	11/2/2018
5.13 Gennusa, Jaimie	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	11/2/2018
<u>Chaperone:</u>				
5.14 Hirsch, Dana	Music Teacher		\$43.39/hr	12/11/2018
5.15 Martelli, Nicole	ESL Teacher		\$43.39/hr.	12/11/2018
5.16 O'Neil, Jennifer	Special Ed. Teacher		\$43.39/hr.	12/11/2018

**Resignation:**

5.17 Plunkett, Amanda	PT Reading Teacher			11/2/2018
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**Classified Personnel:** Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it resolved that the following persons be appointed in North Bellmore Union Free School District as indicated below. All assignments are at the discretion of the district.

<u>Resignation:</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
5.18 Vogel, Marika	Teacher Aide PT	10/26/2018
5.19 D'Allessandro, Barbara	Monitor PT	10/29/2018

**STAFF  
 DEVELOPMENT  
 REPORT**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated November 1, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**BUSINESS  
DEPARTMENT  
UPDATE**

Mr. Schissler shared that for the third year in a row; the audit management letter made no recommendations involving the District's internal control structure. Mr. Schissler recognized the Business office staff for their good work. Mr. Schissler indicated that he is still handling a number of residency and homeless issues and will continue to investigate them. Work continues on the 2019-20 school budget.

**CURRICULUM AND  
INSTRUCTION  
UPDATE**

Mrs. Pollitt gave the following updates:

*Dignity for All Students Act:* Mrs. Pollitt reported that the DASA coordinators (one per building) recently attended a training. She advised that she met with the team today to review our reporting forms, protocols and required turnkey trainings. New this year, the district needs to retain paperwork until the youngest child involved in the incident is 27 years old. She and Mr. Fischetti are creating a system on our network for this purpose.

*Climate Survey:* This year the district will conduct a school climate survey targeting the four following groups:

- Students in grades 5-12
- All parents
- Instructional Staff
- Non-Instructional Staff

School climate is defined as – *“the way school culture affects a child's sense of safety and acceptance, and consequently is a critical determinant of their ability to focus on the task of learning.”*

The surveys will measure student engagement, safety and the school environment. We are collaborating with Nassau BOCES who has established a secure survey platform that provides anonymity and confidentiality while rendering data reports that comply with the state reporting requirements.

*Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)---Replaced No Child Left Behind:* To eliminate gaps in achievement, ESSA outlines a new accountability system which now includes non-academic measures (chronic absenteeism, school climate, out of school suspensions) in addition to academic measures (state testing).

The four new school classifications will be (1) Recognition Schools, (2) Schools in Good Standing, (3) Targeted Support and Improvement Schools and (4) Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools.

Another major shift includes a focus on test participation rates, which will potentially impact a school's classification rating (not funding) if it does not meet the 95% participation rate or show a steady growth in the participation numbers. As we gain further insight regarding the application of ESSA, Mrs. Pollitt stated that she will continue to update the Board.

**CURRICULUM AND  
INSTRUCTION  
UPDATE**

School data will be compared each year based on Measures of Interim Progress (MIP). Just this week, the state shared the baseline data. Mrs. Pollitt and Mr. Fischetti are in the beginning phase of reviewing the data.

*Assessment:*

- State assessment refusal rate is at approximately 60%
- Internally, we have local assessments that help inform instruction and measure whether or not students are mastering grade level standards:
  - i-Ready Diagnostic in both Math and Reading-
  - Fountas and Pinnell Reading Benchmark
  - EnvisionMath Common Assessments
  - Writing Samples throughout the year in each mode of writing— narrative, informational and opinion
- Principals and teachers analyze data and identify students who are in need of academic intervention services

*Professional Development – Mrs. McNamara:*

- November 90 min PD—Mr. Tenenbaum & another attorney from Jaspán Schlesinger will be delivering the state required Sexual Harassment training (another session will be conducted on March conference day for all non-instructional staff).
- Collaborating with our principals to plan the building specific PD with our Schoolwide writing consultant
- Beginning phase of planning Edcamp- March Superintendent Conference Day
- Professional Development Committee Meeting on 11/28
- Visiting classrooms and working with our instructional coaches
- Working on Beacon Newsletter which will focus on mindfulness

Kindergarten Math Game Night, presented by Soula Sotirakos, will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Saw Mill Road. Approximately 50 families are registered so far.

**TECHNOLOGY  
UPDATE**

Mr. Fischetti reported that the STEAM curriculum has grown tremendously over the past two years. We are constantly adding new tools and resources in a budget-friendly way.

Grade 1- BeeBots- This month

Grade 2- Dash and Dot robots- December

Grade 3- Ozobots

Grade 4- Cubelets- currently occurring

Grade 5- 3-D Printing (drawing and design software, conversion to 3D, 3d print)

Grade 6- Spheros

**TECHNOLOGY  
UPDATE**

Report Cards open tomorrow to teachers. We sent out a training video showing how to complete the new report cards in our new version of eSchool

Smartboard Maintenance: We have changed approximately 10 controllers, and just ordered 10 more. The controller is the brains of the smartboard. They are starting to fail after 10 years. The controller is approximately \$190.00, a fairly inexpensive way to keep equipment running smoothly, rather than changing out smartboards.

Special Education- Smart Bond:

As we wait on reimbursement, we have a small amount of funds available to begin outfitting ILP classes with iPad for student use.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
CPSE/CSE**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated October 25, 2018. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
UPDATE**

Ms. Eskew gave the following updates:

- October PD was on the Early Identification of Dyslexia. Ms. Eskew met with Mrs. Pollitt and Mrs. Testa to discuss revising our Kindergarten screening process in order to identify students with Dyslexia at that point. We have purchased several new testing instruments that would facilitate early identification.
- December PD will be to update staff about regulatory requirements in advance of annual reviews.
- The Special Education Plan is in the process of being updated for presentation to the Board at the December or January meeting.
- Met with Jason Fischetti and Leslie DiChiara to discuss revisions to our Assistive Technology protocol and procedures resulting from budgetary constraints. We will once again be referring some evaluations to BOCES.
- Our psychologists and Mrs. Malone, Administrative Liaison to Special Education, attended a half-day workshop offered by BMCHSD and given by Dr. Perry Zirkel, a well-known and highly regarded authority on the law as it relates to 504 Plans.
- We are in the process of once again visiting our students placed outside the District to assess the appropriateness of their current programs and whether a less restrictive placement (e.g., District based program), could meet the students' needs.

**NEW BUSINESS  
CONTRACTS**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approved the following contract for the 2018/19 school year :

- More Than a Gym, LTD

Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.



- DONATION** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Bellmore Lions Club in the amount of \$1,000 to be used to support the Community Garden at Park Avenue School (to purchase two jumbo Rubbermaid sheds, one pegboard, one set accessories, one shelving unit, two padlocks and mounting hardware). Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.
- OLD BUSINESS** None.
- VISITORS** Mrs. Adipeitro (Pacific St.) asked if the speech specialists are trained in the Lidcombe method.
- Ms. Eskew stated that it is not offered in the district. The speech pathologists are trained in Prompt Therapy.
- Mrs. Virapen (Bellmore Ave.) thanked the Board of Education for doing a great job. Mrs. Virapen asked for an update on adding EID holidays to the school calendar.
- Mrs. Lanci advised that the Board of Education is in the process of discussing the holiday calendar with the High School District and the New York State School Boards Association.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, the Board agreed to enter into Executive session at 9:13 PM to discuss matters relating to the employment history of a particular administrator.
- RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION** On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mrs. Corless, the Board returned to public session at 9:28 PM.
- EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education hereby approves Amendment No. 3, dated November 1, 2018 to the Employment Agreement between the Board of Education of the North Bellmore School District and Marie Testa: and
- Be it further resolved, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Vice President of the Board to execute said Amendment on the Board's behalf.  
Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.
- ADJOURNMENT** On a motion by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Corless and carried 4-0, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

Mark Schissler, District Clerk