

MINUTES OF THE NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING February 7, 2019

The regular meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, February 7, 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:

Melissa Cmar-Grote, President
Nina Lanci, Vice President
JoAnn DeLauter
John Ferrara

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Rosemarie Corless

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
Carol Eskew, Deputy Superintendent
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 6:33 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, to move into executive session at 6:34 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Motion was carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m. Mrs. Cmar-Grote led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 10, 2019 and the minutes from the special meeting of January 30, 2019. Mr. Ferrara seconded, and the motion was carried 4-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Newbridge Third Grade International Hall of Shelters: Mrs. Testa thanked all the students for sharing their research and shelter projects with the community. She added that she was inspired by what they created and how they explained it. Mrs. Testa introduced Mrs. Fisher who introduced the third grade teachers, Mrs. Adragna, Mr. Lopez, Mrs. Brust and Mrs. Diogo. Mrs. Fisher commended the team for bringing the curriculum to life for the students. The teachers stated how proud they are of the students for their research on how people in different areas of the world meet their basic needs through shelter and why houses are built in certain climates.

At 7:55 PM the meeting adjourned for viewing the students' projects. The meeting reconvened at 8:18 PM.

VISITORS

There were no questions relating to agenda items only.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Cmar-Grote advised that correspondence was received and will be reviewed by the Board.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended December 31, 2018. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion and was carried 4-0.

**HIGH SCHOOL
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci reported on the high school board meeting last night. The Board recognized three accomplished teachers who received National Board Certification. Three Kennedy High School seniors were recognized as 2019 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholars. The Board accepted another donation in the amount of \$14,355 from the estate of Michael J. Dubin to be used for creating learning centers at JFK High School. The Board approved the 2019 20 school year calendar.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa announced that the schools recently celebrated Global Play Day and World Read Aloud Day. She added that it was inspirational to see the children enjoying reading, creative thinking and free play. Mrs. Testa thanked the administrative team for making a sensational world read aloud video for the students. Mrs. Testa thanked the Board for their support in providing the students this experience.

Mrs. Testa reported that since the FAER program is not continuing, she contacted SCOPE program to provide a summer enrichment and recreation program in the district this summer in July for our students. A flyer with more information will be sent out to families in the near future.

The Buildings and Grounds Department is conducting a building assessment and districtwide assessment relative to prioritizing summer work. They are also working with building principals and PTAs relative to possible donations.

Mrs. Testa thanked the Saw Mill PTA for providing an outstanding presentation to the parents in the district on social media and how to teach children to communicate online in a safe and healthy way.

Mrs. Testa stated that she met with NCPD Officer Monez, a liaison from Homeland Security, to review our safety and security practices.

Mrs. Testa thanked Mrs. Pollitt and Mrs. McNamara for their work on the Spring Beacon Newsletter, which will focus on the district's reading initiatives. We are diligently working on the Budget Newsletter and working to meet the Voting Act Regulation, which states that we have to provide all budget related information in Spanish.

Mrs. Testa reported that for the second consecutive year, the New York State Comptroller has published a report designating the North Bellmore Union Free School District as "susceptible to fiscal stress." This designation was anticipated. As earlier reported, this is due to the fact that the District used a portion of reserves and fund balance to reduce the tax levy. We continue to replenish the fund balance to the recommended 4 percent and anticipate that this will remove us from the Comptroller's list. We have since met with the auditor from the Comptroller's Office and provided them with an overview of our budget plans moving forward. We are pleased to report that we have a good budget plan in place.

The first budget meeting will take place on March 12 at 7 PM at Newbridge Road School.

Mrs. Cmar-Grote asked about class projections in regular education and special education classes for next year.

Mrs. Testa stated that the administrative team is looking at many factors: kindergarten registration numbers, number of sixth grade sections going out, number of teachers, students, and talking with the principals, etc. Mrs. Testa estimated there could possibly be 16 kindergarten classes for next year, if all expected registrations come in. A majority of new kindergarten parents have already registered their child.

Mrs. Eskew added that there is some unpredictability in special education classes. Visitations to children outside of the district are being scheduled to determine if any students may be able to return the district. Special education team meetings, CPSE and CSE meetings are in progress and we will not have the information until later in the school year. The analysis and processes have already started. There are many variables to take into consideration.

FINANCE

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

BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated February 7, 2019. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel Report dated February 7, 2019. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

A.1 PERSONNEL REPORT

February 7, 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.

NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING February 7, 2019

| <u>Appointments:</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Step</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Eff. Date</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 8.1 Collins, Pauline | Substitute Teacher | | \$100/day | 4/08/19 – 6/26/19 |
| 8.2 Theim, Tara | Substitute Teacher | | \$100/day | 1/25/2019 |
| 8.3 Bodner, Diana | Lv. Repl. Psychologist | 95%1M | \$304.78/day | 1/28/19 – 6/30/19 |
| 8.4 Turowski, Christine | Occupational Therapist | 3 | \$70,665/yr | 2/01/2019 |

Family Medical Leave of Absence:

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--|--|------------------|
| 8.5 Schoepfer, Kathryn | Special Ed. Teacher | | | 2/5/19 – 4/28/19 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--|--|------------------|

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> |
|---------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| 8.6 Vallancourt, Patricia | Monitor PT/Sub | | \$14.42/hr | 1/11/2019 |
| 8.7 Afreen, Nighat | Monitor PT/Sub | | \$14.42/hr | 1/11/2019 |
| 8.8 Grasso, Edna | Monitor PT/Sub | | \$14.42/hr | 1/11/2019 |
| 8.9 Zucker, Frann | Monitor PT/Sub | | \$14.42/hr | 1/28/2019 |
| 8.10 Fairfull, Geraldine | Monitor PT/Sub | | \$14.42/hr | 1/28/2019 |
| 8.11 Henkell, Shari | Monitor PT/Sub | | \$14.42/hr | 1/28/2019 |
| 8.12 Davela, Silvia | Teacher Aide PT/Sub | | \$17.25/hr | 1/22/2019 |
| 8.13 Paolillo, JoAnn | From: Teacher Adie PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT | | \$17.25/hr | 1/02/2019 |

Resignation:

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|--|-----------|
| 8.14 Perez, Desiree | Teacher Aide PT/Sub | | | 1/28/2019 |
| 8.15 Portillo, Ruth | Monitor PT/Sub | | | 1/28/2019 |
| 8.16 Bradshaw, Donna | Teacher Aide PT | | | 2/08/2019 |
| 8.17 Donnelly, Tasha | Teacher Aide PT | | | 2/15/2019 |

**STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated February 7, 2019. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
CPSE/CSE**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated January 31, 2019. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**BUSINESS OFFICE
UPDATE**

Mrs. Testa reported that administration team is moving forward with staffing and budgeting plans for 2019-20. The Comptroller's Office has approved our budget plans moving forward and we are in the right place.

Mrs. DeLauter asked about revenue from the State and the impact of State Aid. Mrs. Testa stated that she is attending a Financial Forum with Nassau County superintendents tomorrow to address these issues and the impact of the Governor's Budget.

**CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION
UPDATE**

Mrs. Pollitt gave the following updates:

Climate Survey: All correspondence has gone out to parents, instructional and non-instructional staff and grades 5 and 6 who will proctor the survey with their students in class. The survey closes on February 15. BOCES has reported that they are in awe of the response rate. The results will be shared with the Board once we receive the data back from BOCES.

Parent University: A three-session workshop for parents of first graders, Active Parenting NOW, will be held on March 6, March 20 and March 27 at Park Avenue Library at 6:30 PM.

Professional Development: Two days of Branching Minds PD took place on January 28 and 29. Each teacher attended one of the four half-day sessions.

The host teacher meeting on February 1 was a huge success. We received positive feedback regarding the impact on teachers' instruction and students' performance, and engagement and joy in reading.

Mrs. McNamara and the Coaches are planning half-day release sessions for Grades K-2 the last week in February.

We are finalizing the EdCamp professional development for March 15. We are seeking out proposals from the faculty.

A team of reading teachers will attend a two-day Wilson Training next week where they will learn about the updated 3rd edition, which has been purchased for each school.

Reading Regression testing will take place over the February break. Reading teachers will assess whether or not students show any regression after not receiving instruction for the extended period of time. We will be collecting data before the break and then after to determine whether or not students are able to get back to their pre-break data points.

**TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**

Mr. Fischetti gave the following updates:

The January Professional Development on Office 35 was well received. The turnkey trainers did an excellent job of introducing the most important tools that Office 365 has to offer, and we are happy to see it in use all across the district. Office 365 offers every North Bellmore email account holder the ability to install the entire MS Office suite at home, on up to four devices for free. It also provides users with 2tb of cloud storage to teachers, and very shortly, students will be able to work in school and also at home or on an iPad seamlessly. Working in Office was never a possibility on iPads or Apple devices prior to this, so this really bridges the gap between the iPads and the Microsoft platform we have here in North Bellmore.

Network Security: This week an email was sent to all faculty, staff and administration warning them of a new virus that other districts have fallen victim to. The virus enters the network through an email that looks legitimate. No firewall or virus protection can stop it, as of yet. The subject might say, "invoice" or appear to be from administration. We asked that that all emails be carefully scrutinized before opening, and the first thing to look at is the senders email address. Lynbrook and Elmont both experienced devastating effects of the virus, including having to wipe out and restore 1600 machines, not be able to process payroll etc. Since sending the warning, Mr. Fischetti reported that 4-5 teachers shared suspicious emails with him and, fortunately, none of which were dangerous. Mr. Fischetti thanked the staff for helping to avoid such a difficult problem from arising.

Wi-Fi update: Part of the plan during the wireless network upgrade was to create a new, completely separate guest network that would provide internet to all visitors to the schools. This week we completed the setup of that network. Now all visitors can simply connect to NB guest without the need for a password. This network is complete private and separate from the north Bellmore network.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
UPDATE**

Mrs. Eskew reported that the special education team is working on projections for next year. Sometimes a child requires a program that we have never provided. For example, Sequential Oral Therapy, a program for assessing and treating children with feeding difficulties. We need to get training for staff in preparation for next year.

Ms. Eskew stated her appreciation to Dr. Rich and Mrs. Powell for doing a great job covering for Dr. Azus while she is out on leave. We have now hired a leave replacement for Dr. Azus.

We are in the process of interviewing for a teacher aides—one position for outside the district and others to replace positions in the district that were recently vacated.

Annual Reviews and 504 meetings are taking place with the High School District for our sixth graders to ensure that the students make a smooth transition to the high school district.

Ms. Eskew stated that she met with nurses and psychologists to revise the district's critical care plan.

**2019-20 SCHOOL
CALENDAR**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the calendar for the 2019-20 school year.

- CONSENT AGENDA** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education move to a consent agenda for agenda item Nos. 15.2 through 15.6. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.
- NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS** 15.2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approved the following contract for the 2018/19 school year :
-Adelphi University – Hy Weinberg Center
-Nassau BOCES
- DONATIONS** 15.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a check in the amount of \$30 from Box Tops for Education to be used to purchase materials for Saw Mill Road Pride Week for the students of Saw Mill Road School.
- EXCESS OF EQUIPMENT** 15.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education excess the following musical instruments that are in poor condition ad beyond repair:
1 Harry Pedler Trombone ID 79 Yr 1960 Serial #64342 – Martin Ave.
1 Olds Trombone ID 1231 Yr 1958 Serial #219078 – Martin Ave.
- POLICIES** 15.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a first reading: Policy No. 5422 Integrating Mental Health Education and Well-Being Within an Entire School Environment.
- 15.6 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education adopt the following revised policies:
Policy No. 8414.5 Alcohol and Drug Testing of Drivers
Policy No. 2340 Notice of Meetings
Policy No. 411 Display of the Flag
- OLD BUSINESS** None.
- VISITORS** There were none.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 4-0, the Board entered into Executive session.
- ADJOURNMENT** On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 4-0, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

Mark Schissler, District Clerk