

MINUTES OF THE NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 2, 2017

The regular meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, November 2, 2017, 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:

Peter Mayo, President
Melissa Cmar-Grote, Vice President
JoAnn DeLauter (arrived at 8:25 p.m.)
John Ferrara
Nina Lanci

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, Chief Information Officer
Larry Tenenbaum, District Counsel
Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion was carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:48 p.m. Mr. Schissler led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Park Avenue student, Alex Gordon, then read the District's Mission Statement.

Mr. Mayo led a moment of silence to honor the victims of the terror attack in New York City that occurred on Halloween.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Minutes from the Regular meeting of October 5, 2017. Mr. Ferrara seconded, and the motion was carried 4-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Phil Marciano, Audit Manager from Nawrocki Smith LLP, gave a brief summary of the audit of the district's financial statements for the 2016-17 school year. Mr. Marciano stated that the audit went very well thanked Mr. Schissler and the Business Office staff for their cooperation. The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the financial statements. No deficiencies or material weaknesses were disclosed. No findings were reported. No recommendations were made. Prior year recommendations were implemented. The Audit Manager advised the Board of Education to be mindful not to go too much lower regarding the reserves and fund balance.

**SCHOOL BOARD
RECOGNITION**

Mrs. Testa stated we this evening we are celebrating School Board Recognition month. Mrs. Testa expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the Board for their insight, feedback, respect and vision, as well as their support of the children, administrators, and all faculty and staff. On behalf of the administrative team, in Thanksgiving gratitude, Mrs. Testa presented the Board with a decorative plate to use at Thanksgiving. Mrs. Skelos, on behalf of the Principals' Association, thanked the Board for helping us help the children and presented them with a donation made to the Juvenile Diabetes Relief Fund in the name of School Board. Student representatives from each school presented the Board with Thank you cards that they made signed by all the students. Ms. Signorelli, on behalf of the NBTA, presented the Board with Stop and Shop gift cards, purchased in their honor, to be distributed to students in need in each school. On behalf of the Coordinating Council, Mrs. Muoio stated that a subscription to the National Geographic Magazine is being donated to each school in the Board's honor. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Mayo thanked everyone for all the donations for doing their best for the children in our community.

The meeting recessed at 8:05 PM for a cake break. The meeting reconvened at 8:25 PM.

Mrs. DeLauter arrived.

VISITORS

There were no questions relating to agenda items only.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Mayo advised that correspondence was received and will be addressed.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended September 30, 2017. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

**HIGH SCHOOL
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci reported that Board members were honored at last night's Board meeting with student musical and art presentations. Several teachers were recognized for being nominated as NYS Educators of the Year. Mrs. Lanci announced that a special vote will be held on December 5 at Newbridge Road School regarding the sale of the Jerusalem Avenue School. Mrs. Lanci indicated that a mailer is being sent to the community explaining the details of the Jerusalem Avenue property sale. The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Board accepted the Audit Report of Cullen and Donowski for the school year ending June 30, 2017. The District received an unmodified opinion and a high level of assurance. The next Board meeting will be held on December 6.

FINANCE

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

**BUDGETARY
TRANSFERS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated November 2, 2017. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

AUDIT REPORT

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education accept the Audit of the financial records of the district for the 2017-17 school year by Nawrocki Smith, LLP and directs that all proper filings be completed. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Schissler commented on the Audit report. He stated that by law a school district can retain no more than 4 percent of the next year's budgetary appropriations. As per the Board's direction, over the last five years, we have created budgets that intentionally reduced the fund balance. In June 2017, we were only able to retain 2.7%. This June the percentage will be even less. Due to a large influx of unexpected special education costs this year, our budget allocations were affected. These costs will be built into future budgets. Looking forward to the 2018-19 budget, our reserves will need to be utilized, as will our fund balance. Doing so will create a very tight budget with little remaining in reserves.

Mrs. Testa gave the following updates:

Mrs. Testa spoke about how the administrators have spent a lot of time and energy investigating social media and inappropriate posts. Mr. Fischetti and his team, along with the Prevention Department, are focusing on delivering lessons on digital imprint and educating children on cyberbullying, what can and cannot be posted and making positive decisions on social media. Mrs. Testa added that there have been 25 cases where the police had to get involved over the past three years. Mrs. Bennett has been working on a School Climate Survey for students in grades 4-6. As part of DASA requirements, teachers participate in a climate survey every year. The survey is a way of assessing our Prevention Program and driving instruction. A survey will be developed for parents in the future.

Mrs. Testa asked for the support of all the families to work together to come up with ideas to stop the posting of negative comments and to respect others opinions.

Technology:

The Technology Department is working on STEM instruction and gearing up for the implementation of iPads.

All security guards were given non-photo, swipe ID Cards so they can easily exit and re-enter the buildings as required. The security guards have monitors that allow them to view visitors.

Building and Grounds:

We are in the process of looking for a new Director of Facilities.

We are adding more Smart Boards in the classrooms.

The Eagle Scout Garden is coming along at Dinkelmeyer. New benches were added.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Curriculum and Instruction:

The new science books and kits for grades K-5 were delivered.

We added Spheros to the STEM program in grade 6.

The Writing Workshop and Math Parent University classes were well attended.

A Kindergarten Math Family Game Night is scheduled for the end of the month.

We are now using Clever Instant Logon Program to help students and teachers log on to our software programs and textbooks online line using a single sign on.

Human Resources:

Mrs. Testa and Ms. Eskew have been conducting secretarial interviews and screening resumes for the Director of Facilities position.

We are still experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers, as all districts are at this time.

Jenna Stack and Leslie DiChiara delivered after school professional development on iPad apps.

Mrs. Testa thanked the Coordinating Council and the parents for sharing questions and concerns regarding the consistency of field trips across the district. In response to the concern, the principals and administrators met to discuss the matter. A district-wide committee, led by Mrs. Pollitt, will be convened to address field trips this year. We will look toward a district-wide plan for the 2018-19 school year.

As shared previously, the reading caseload at Saw Mill Road has increased and we have hired additional part timers to handle the additional caseloads. Additionally, we had a few groups of Saw Mill students who received reading instruction at stations set up in the hallway due to caseload numbers and lack of space. We now moved all groups out of the hallway to different classrooms.

Mrs. Testa thanked the PTAs for sending out invitations to all parents to volunteer to be a member of the Shared Decision Making Team in their child's school. A question was posed for consideration that, instead of the PTA's holding a vote when more parents volunteer than spaces available, that a parent be chosen randomly, such as picked out of a hat for the 2018-19 school year. Mrs. Testa said that she appreciated the idea and would bring it to the District Committee for consideration.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel Report dated November 2, 2017. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

A.1 Personnel Report

November 2, 2017

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.

Appointments:	Title	Step	Rate	Eff. Date
5.1 Furey-Jablonski, Lisbeth	AIS Part-Time Teacher		\$36/hr	11/1/17-06/22/18
5.2 Violetto, Roseann	Part-Time Reading Teacher		\$36/hr	10/17/17-06/22/18
5.3 Steininger, Elisa	Part-Time Reading Teacher		\$36/hr	11/1/17-06/22/18
5.4 Plunkett, Amanda	Lv Repl. Part-Time Reading Teacher		\$36/hr	10/12/17-11/27/17

Home Tutoring: (3hrs per week)

5.5 Theodore, Stacey	Teacher K-6		\$54.53/hr	10/9/17-6/22/18
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Mentors:

5.6 Lum-Jacoby, Janet	Speech Teacher	(stipend)	\$872.38	9/1/17-6/22/18
5.7 Pingitore, Lauren	Teacher K-6	(stipend)	\$872.38	9/1/17-6/22/18
5.8 Martelli, Nicole	ESL Teacher	(stipend)	\$436.19	9/1/17-6/22/18
5.9 O'Neil, Jennifer	Special Ed. Teacher	(stipend)	\$436.19	9/1/17-6/22/18

Returning from Family Medical Leave of Absence:

5.10 Meehan, Stephanie	Special Ed. Teacher			11/06/2017
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Resignations:

5.11 Abruzzo, Jenna	Part-Time Reading Teacher			10/20/17
5.12 Goldhammer, Megan	Substitute Teacher			11/03/17
5.13 Graziose, Celeste	Substitute Teacher			11/03/17
5.14 Pandolfi, Lea	Substitute Teacher			11/03/17

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.

Appointment:	Title	Step	Rate	Eff. Date
5.15 Fitzsimons, John	Cleaner PT/Sub		1	\$16.73/hr
5.16 Haugh, Nicole	Teacher Aide PT/Sub		\$17.25/hr	11/03/2017
5.17 Zaretsky, Sherry	Teacher Aide PT/Sub		\$17.25/hr	10/16/2017
5.18 Muraca, Janis	From: Monitor PT		\$14.42/hr	10/27/2017
5.19 Falcone, Denise	To: Monitor PT/sub Bus Driver PT/Sub		Differential between Bus Driver & Matron	11/03/2017
5.20 Agoglia, Dianne	Typist-Clerk	5	\$34,458/yr	11/03/2017

Leave of Absence:

5.21 Forth, Heather	Cleaner FT			10/02/17-10/27/17
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Resignations:

5.22 Lazar-Nordin, Laura	Teacher Aide PT			10/25/17
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Terminations:

5.23 Giambald, Dina	Teacher Aide PT/Sub			10/10/17
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NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 2, 2017

Change to October 5, 2017 Personnel Report

Appointment: (Effective date)

4.46	Halbig, Danielle	Prob. Speech Pathologist	95% 1M	\$60,955.80/yr	10/2/17 -10/2/21
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Change to June 8, 2017 Personnel Report

Appointment: (Rate)

12.90	Boschert, Kim	Typist Clerk PT/Sub	4	\$21.94/hr	6/09/2017
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**A.1 Personnel Report
 Addendum**

November 2, 2017

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.

Family Medical Leave of Absence:

		<u>Title</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
5.24	LoBello, Lauren	Elementary Teacher	10/30/17 – 12/31/2017

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.

Termination:

		<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
5.25	Romanitch, Francis	School Lunch Manager			11/03/2017

**STAFF
 DEVELOPMENT
 REPORT**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated November 2, 2017. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
 CPSE/CSE**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated October 26, 2017. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS
 CONTRACTS**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the following contracts:

- ACDS
- Applied Data Services
- Bellmore UFSD
- Brookville Center for Children’s Services
- The Hagedorn Little Village School
- Interdisciplinary Center for Child Development
- Just Kids Earl Childhood Learning Center
- Kids First Evaluation & Advocacy Center
- Kids Therapy Services, PLLC

CONTRACTS

- Martin De Porres School for Exceptional Children, Inc.
- Amanda McCarthy
- Metro Therapy
- Mid Island Therapy Associates, LLC dba All About Kids
- Nassau BOCES
- Rockville Centre UFSD
- School for Language and Communications Development
- Seaford UFSD
- United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County
- Variety Child Learning Center
- Henry Viscardi School

Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

POLL WATCHERS

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education appoint the following as poll watchers for the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD Sale of Property Resolution on 12/5/17: Anne Barbera, Karen Hartnett, Michael J. Bevilacqua, Nicholas Bazarewski, Susan Salvo, Barbara Fillios, Riva Bazarewski, Linda Van Name, Kim Cavanagh, Carol Sena, Karen Guerra, Christine Kropp.

Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

DONATIONS

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education accept a donation from Victoria Cardinali, in memory of Joseph Fleigner, of a check in the amount of \$250 to be used to purchase flexible seating options for ILP classrooms at Martin Avenue School. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a check from Stop and Shop A+ Rewards in the amount of \$1,227.29 and a check from The Kula Foundation of \$1.02, to be used for library activities and to supplement the music program at Newbridge Road School. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of a check in the amount of \$200 from The Newbridge Road School PTA to be used to pay for students who cannot pay for trips at Newbridge Road School.

Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**INTERMUNICIPAL
COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENT**

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the Intermunicipal Cooperative Agreement between Bellmore-Merrick CHSD and the North Bellmore UFSD (for Joanne Finelli). Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Cmar-Grote inquired about the Eagle Scout project at Saw Mill. Mrs. Testa indicated that we are going to start the project. Mr. Russo is following up, with the help of Mr. Steinmuller.

VISITORS

Mrs. Casucci (Sycamore Ave., Merrick) asked how the district is ensuring all students' safety with the public twitter feeds of the district. Mrs. Testa stated that we are using Twitter as a tool to celebrate what is happening in the school and that we have had positive feedback. We have Twitter guidelines. Mrs. Testa added that she will investigate the security issues further and check with the district's attorney.

Mrs. Casucci commented on Mr. Schissler's report and said that she hopes that special education costs are never considered a financial burden to the district. Mr. Mayo stated that we are very proud of our special education department. Mrs. Testa stated that we cherish all students.

Mr. and Mrs. Pulliza (Julia La.) made a request for the Board to considering changing the kindergarten cut-off date from December 1 to December 31, or offer testing for early admission to Kindergarten. Ms. Eskew stated that we do have a process for early admission for first graders who have attended a state approved kindergarten program elsewhere.

Mrs. Tucci (Eileen Ct.) made a request to the Board to rezone school lines so that all schools have the same class sizes. She stated that Saw Mill is overcrowded. Mr. Mayo stated that the Board has not considered rezoning for this year. Mrs. Testa stated that the community's concerns are being heard and that the Board is looking at other solutions to the situation.

Mrs. Wildeman (Sterling St.) asked the Board at what point will the district considering rezoning, because the overcrowding at Saw Mill has officially started and is causing academic problems. Mr. Mayo responded that the Board understands the concerns. The Board is monitoring the enrollment and exploring options.

Mr. Mayo wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 5-0, the Board of Education agreed to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 PM to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law with instructional bargaining units.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

Mark Schissler, District Clerk