

MINUTES OF THE NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING January 11, 2018

---

The regular meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, January 11, 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:

Peter Mayo, President  
Melissa Cmar-Grote, Vice President  
JoAnn DeLauter  
John Ferrara

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Nina Lanci

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools  
Carol Eskew, Deputy Superintendent  
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 6:30 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion was carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Mayo led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. DeLauter then read the District's Mission Statement.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the Minutes from the Regular meeting of December 7, 2017. Mrs. DeLauter seconded, and the motion was carried 4-0.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Mrs. Testa welcomed everyone to the Board meeting and stated that tonight we are recognizing our students for their outstanding artwork. Mrs. Testa added that the pictures would hang in the central administration offices and hallway for the next several months. Mrs. Testa turned the meeting over to Mrs. Skelos, who supervises the district's art program. Mrs. Skelos expressed her thanks to the art teachers for their inspiration and the students for sharing their work. She then introduced the art teachers, Mrs. Emmer, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Lopez, and Mrs. Skelly. Each teacher introduced and presented certificates to their art students.

The meeting adjourned for a short break at 7:55 PM to appreciate the artwork. The meeting reconvened at 8:05 PM.

- VISITORS** There was none.
- CORRESPONDENCE** Mr. Mayo advised that correspondence was received and will be addressed.
- TREASURER'S REPORT** Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended November 30, 2017. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion and was carried 4-0.
- HIGH SCHOOL REPORT** Mr. Ferrara reported on last week's board of education meeting. Several donations were accepted for the Community Cupboard, as well as a donation of \$234,845.90 from the Estate of Michael J. Dubin, to be used for the creation of learning centers at Kennedy High School. Mr. Ferrara reminded the community that a public vote that will be held on February 8 to authorize Nassau BOCES to purchase the Jerusalem Avenue School.
- FINANCE** The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Internal Auditor.
- BUDGETARY TRANSFERS** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated January 11, 2018. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** Mrs. Testa reported that she and Board have received correspondence from many parents regarding social media posts, arrival and dismissal practices at a particular school and snow removal.
- Mrs. Testa extended a hearty bravo to the custodial crew for the snow removal. We had contacted the Town of Hempstead and made a formal complaint regarding the poor snow clean up and blockages around the schools. Mrs. Testa thanked Mrs. Brugge for her assistance in contacting Supervisor Gillen.
- Mrs. Testa stated that she is aware of recent posts on social media regarding procedures followed at one of our schools. She added that she has also received correspondence from parents related to those posts. As is common in situations such as this, the online comments associated with the original post have ranged far beyond the original issue. Mrs. Testa advised that we insist on appropriate procedures in all our buildings and is not aware of any improprieties or breaches of protocol. Mrs. Testa added that both she and the Board of Education seriously consider any allegations brought to their attention. Mrs. Testa assured the community that the district would promptly and thoroughly review the matter and, if appropriate, take action.
- Mrs. Testa stated that the principal handled the recent correspondence regarding

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

allegations by a community member in a very respectful and professional manner.

Mrs. Testa extended her sincere appreciation to the Dinkelmeyer PTA and all the PTAs for supporting the academic, social and emotional experiences at the school and forging positive relationships with the Central Office administrative teams.

Mrs. Testa asked the community to follow the correct protocol and proper chain of command when addressing a situation and to communicate with respect and dignity. Mrs. Testa reminded parents to think carefully when communicating online or via social media, as the negative comments and rumors could have potential serious consequences.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Mrs. Testa reported that the administrative team continues to plan for the 2018-19 budget. We are waiting for the Governor's State of the State Report to learn our state aid figures and Tax Cap. Mrs. Testa stated that the Foundation Aid is fixed, while the expense driven aids, such as transportation, special education and BOCES, are known at the end of the year, once all the expenses are tabulated. As previously reported to the Board, the Library is not permitted to borrow money and the district is legally responsible to do so on their behalf. The debt service for the Library project is \$8.9 million as passed via vote by the public. The district is responsible for paying the principle and interest, in the amount of \$809,784. As such, this figure is included in the 2018-19 budget. The Library is responsible for paying the full amount, \$809,784,000, back to the district. Mrs. Testa noted that the Board and public should be aware that since the amount of \$809,784 will be included in the 2018-19 budget, our budget-to-budget comparison (18-19 vs. 17-18) will look higher than the actual budget-to-budget increase.

Mrs. Testa referenced the audit report from November and reiterated that the district is going to streamline budgets for 2018-19 and 2019-20. Mrs. Testa reiterated points from the audit report in terms of including that the district responded to the state directive (issued in 2014) appropriately in terms of lowering the fund balance and reserves. Over the past years, the district did just that by applying part of the reserves and the fund balance in order to create budgets that were at or under the Tax Cap. Mrs. Testa referenced that the district auditor advised that the district has lowered the funds accordingly and should refrain from going any lower.

Additionally, Mrs. Testa shared that the State assigns rates to account for the

**BUDGET UPDATE**

assessed values of the properties in all districts. She indicated that Nassau County approached the State and issued a complaint about how the assessed values for districts were calculated. As a result, the State issued new assessed values for districts including North Bellmore. As a result, our Tax Cap figure will include an increase. Mrs. Testa indicated that she and her administrative team would continue to report to the Board as they work on the budget.

**PERSONNEL UPDATE**

Mrs. Testa reported that 14 substitute teachers were approved on tonight's personnel report which will be added to our substitute pool. Our search for a new Director of Facilities continues. We are interviewing for reading teachers. We have received several retirements, which are included in our personnel report. Mrs. Testa announced that Mrs. Lisa Veneroni is the new substitute scheduler for the district, who will replace Mrs. Gunnels. Mrs. Gunnels will be assigned to Saw Mill Road as a school secretary.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Mrs. Testa stated that the Math leaders, AIS teachers and Mrs. Fisher will attend a conference, *How to Make Math Count*, at Molly College tomorrow.

Mrs. Testa reported that the UPK process is underway. Letters have been sent out to the community. The lottery will be held in March. Mrs. Testa added that she, Mrs. McNamara, and Mrs. Pollitt began planning for the March Superintendent's Conference Day.

Mrs. Testa announced that all schools will be participating in *Global Play Day* on February 7. The *Play Day* takes place across six continents and is designed to bring awareness to the importance of unstructured play. Additionally, the day will promote critical and creative thinking and promote team building and problem solving environment. Each principal will work with a school committee to design their own schedule.

Mrs. Pollitt led a math leader meeting yesterday and we are excited to announce that the math leaders will lead our 90-minute professional development this month.

**TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

Mrs. Testa announced that our school district will be hosting an "Apple Accessibility Conference" with Apple products. All Directors of Technology across Long Island are invited to attend as Apple overviews the technology tools relative to IOS.11.

Mrs. Testa stated that a technology presentation was going to be given this evening relative to the Smart Bond, however, since the pricing on the products

**TECHNOLOGY  
 UPDATE**

and the model numbers have changed since the approval of our Bond proposal, we are in the middle of reviewing the order to update pricing and product.

Our Library Media Specialists continue to do outstanding work. They recently attended the Follett Discover Training.

Mrs. Testa reported that a ceiling fan was installed in the Dinkelmeyer cafeteria. The installation of the bottle filling stations in the schools is planned for February. Mrs. Testa thanked the custodian team who came in over the break and checked on the heating systems in the extreme cold weather.

**BUILDINGS AND  
 GROUNDS UPDATE**

**PERSONNEL REPORT** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel Report dated January 11, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**A.1 PERSONNEL REPORT  
 2018**

**JANUARY 11,**

***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.

<u>Appointments:</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
7.1 Bayer, Heather	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	12/19/2017
7.2 Dematteo, Danielle	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	12/19/2017
7.3 DiBiase, Nicole	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	12/18/2017
7.4 Kardiasmenos, Athena	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	12/19/2017
7.5 Marrali, Jennifer	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	12/19/2017
7.6 Miller, Janine	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	12/19/2017
7.7 Pfeffer, Merari	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	01/02/2018
7.8 Pais, Susan	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	01/02/2018
7.9 Taylor, Kristan	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	01/02/2018
7.10 Held, Shannon	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	01/08/2018
7.11 Siltanen, Sari	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	01/08/2018
7.12 Greco, Sarah	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	01/08/2018
7.13 Salamole, Nicole	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	01/08/2018
7.14 Kerby, Jonathan	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	01/08/2018

**Resignations for the Purposes of Retirement:**

7.15 D'Amato, Laura	Reading Teacher			6/30/2018
---------------------	-----------------	--	--	-----------

NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING January 11, 2018

---

7.16	Doherty, Maryann	Teacher K-6	6/30/2018
7.17	Nussbaum, Linda	Occupational Therapist	6/30/2018

**Leave of Absence:**

7.18	Zucker, Krista	Instructional Coach	03/10/2018-03/23/2018
------	----------------	---------------------	-----------------------

***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.

<b><u>Resignations:</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Step</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Eff. Date</u></b>
7.19	Rende, Julia	Teacher Aide PT/Sub		12/22/2017
7.20	DeGregorio, Mary	Teacher Aide PT		01/05/2018
7.21	Nolan, Theresa	Teacher Aide PT		01/12/2018

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT REPORT** Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated January 11, 2018. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION CPSE/CSE** Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated January 4, 2018. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2017/18 school year:  
 -Lisa Arbucho-Veneroni  
 -Achieve Beyond/Bilinguals, Inc.  
 -Capital Markets Advisors, LLC  
 Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**MOA – NBUFSD AND NBPA** Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve a Memorandum of Agreement By and Between The North Bellmore Union Free School District and the North Bellmore Principals’ Association for a two-year term: July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**OLD BUSINESS** None.

**VISITORS** Mrs. Fleming (Crest Road W.) asked if there is consideration given to opening another section the following year when a grade level reaches 24 students per section.

Mrs. Testa replied that ,in accordance with the NBTA contract, class size is limited to a maximum of 28 students per class. However, we work with principals and look at individual student profiles when determining class size and sections.

**VISITORS**

Mrs. Fulgieri (Rosemont St.) commented that she was disheartened by the recent social media posts and thanked the Board and administration for taking it seriously. She added that she was lucky her children go to Dinkelmeyer and she works with a wonderful PTA.

Mr. Mayo, on behalf of the Board of Education, thanked all the PTAs for all their time and effort in support of the students—*it is greatly appreciated*.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 4-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

Mark Schissler, District Clerk