

MINUTES OF THE NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING March 8, 2018

The regular meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, March 8, 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
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 6:40 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:43 p.m. Mr. Mayo led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. DeLauter then read the District's Mission Statement.
- MOMENT OF SILENCE** Mr. Mayo led a Moment of Silence in recognition of the horrific tragedy, which took place at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and in remembrance of Sal Guagliardo, a district maintainer, who suddenly passed away.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Minutes from the Regular meeting of February 8, 2108 and Minutes from the Special meeting of February 22, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded, and the motion was carried 5-0.
- VISITORS** None.
- CORRESPONDENCE** Mr. Mayo advised that correspondence was received by the Board.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended January 31, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

**HIGH SCHOOL
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci stated that the next Board meeting will be held on March 14, 2018.

FINANCE

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa gave the following updates:

Safety and Security: Mrs. Testa stated that, as always, the North Bellmore School District places the safety of our students and staff first. The Administration and Principals continue to work diligently and strategically to assess and adjust our district and building safety plans in accordance with NYS Project Save Legislation and in cooperation with the Nassau County Police Department. Mrs. Testa reported that she met with the Component Superintendents, as well as the Nassau County Superintendents, after the Parkland tragedy, to discuss safety and security protocols and to work together to share ideas and assess needs. Additionally, we are working along with the BMHSD and looking into security vestibules. Mr. Russo and Mr. Fischetti are visiting other districts and investigating options and costs for our district. Mrs. Testa added that she also met with June Smith of the Bellmore-Merrick Childcare Program to share our safety protocols, security procedures and emergency drill information. Mrs. Testa asked the parents for their continued cooperation and support by calling ahead to inform the school when they are visiting the school. Our security guards have been very helpful, as they are in our walkie-talkie system, walk around school grounds, and are outside at the recess periods. The booth is covered during that time. Ms. Testa indicated that we have received correspondence from parents expressing their concern over armed guards in school. Mrs. Testa stated that we will continue with our lockdown drills and proactive measures. Mrs. Testa thanked the faculty, staff and administrative team for working together to keep our children, faculty and staff safe.

Mrs. Testa reviewed the component district superintendents' snow closure protocol.

2018-19 Budget: Mrs. Testa reported that the first budget workshop will be held on March 13. Mrs. Testa added that the budget for next year is a

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

challenging endeavor. It was previously reported that the district had \$3.1 M in reserves. Presently, there is \$3.199M in reserves.

The administrative team is working on a three-year plan for the Board of Education to consider that stays within the Tax Cap and replenishes the fund balance and reserves.

Mrs. Testa clarified that under a new program, taxpayers will receive a tax rebate check if a district stays within the Tax Cap.

Mrs. Testa asked the public to keep in mind when looking at the budget, that the district is the borrowing agent for the Library. Additionally, there will be a proposition on the May 15 ballot to change the transportation mileage limit.

We are working closely with Syntax on developing our budget newsletter to delineate out all the budget scenarios.

Mrs. Testa stated that the budget entails an implementation of reductions, recommendation for consolidation of classes, and programming changes in terms of assignment of personnel.

Mrs. Testa added that after this year's budget was adopted last April, a number of children moved into the district who required out-of-district special education placements. The costs, in excess of \$1M, were not expected. These expenses need to be included in next year's budget.

Mrs. Testa concluded that it is very important for us to devise a plan to do what is best for children, as best as we can. Mrs. Testa encouraged the public to attend the workshop to learn more about the budget.

Personnel: We are interviewing for a maintenance position We continue to interview for substitute teachers.

Building and Grounds: Due to the excessive wins, a fence came down at Dinkelmeyer and is now repaired.

Trees fell down at Gunther and have been removed. There were some power outages due to the snow and rain.

Bottle filling stations are installed in all schools.

Technology update: Through the Smart Bond Act, Mr. Fischetti and his team installed a new Wi-Fi network across the entire district. Two wireless access points were installed in every gym, cafeteria and library and the auditorium at Newbridge.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

All 140 iPads for teachers arrived and are ready to be uploaded. The 500 iPads for students will be arriving shortly.

Mr. Fischetti has applied for Smart Bond reimbursement for both the Wi-Fi and teacher iPads, and we expect repayment in the near future.

Special Education: Mrs. Testa reported that the administrators are in the process of analyzing special education staffing and caseloads for next year. Both she and Ms. Eskew met with parents of special education students a few weeks ago to inform parents of the ways the district is working toward fostering student independence and our goals for the 2018-19 school year. The Special Education Department is working on adding a new class section at Martin for self-contained students. We are looking forward to bringing out-of-district students to a district placement. Annual reviews are beginning now and we will have more information as the meetings proceed.

Curriculum and Instruction: Mrs. Pollitt and Mrs. McNamara have been preparing for tomorrow's professional development, Ed Camp.

We are in the process of researching a reading program for next year and beginning discussion about supporting reading instruction in grades 1 and 2, as part of an initiative to saturate our youngest readers with support.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel Report dated March 8, 2018. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

A.1 Personnel Report

March 8, 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.

Appointments:	Title	Step	Rate	Eff. Date
9.1 Fitzpatrick, Heather	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	3/5/2018
9.2 Bragg, Jaime Lynn	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	3/5/2018
9.3 Kahn, Steven	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	3/5/2018
9.4 Miller, Nicole	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	3/5/2018
<i>Homebound services: (5x wk 1hr daily)</i>				
9.5 Drum, Jill	Teacher K-6		\$54.53/hr	2/14/18-6/22/18
<i>Homebound services: (1x monthly for 1hr)</i>				
9.6 Moir, Kristen	Special Ed. Teacher		\$54.53/hr	2/12/18-6/22/18
Family Medical Leave of Absences:				
9.7 Losquadro, Teresa	Nurse			3/09/18-3/23/18

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9.8 Malone, Leyna Principal 2/16/18-3/02/18

Resignations:

9.9 Pelaez-Shea, Gloria Substitute Teacher 3/01/2018

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.

Appointment:	Title	Step	Rate	Eff. Date
9.10 Ridner, Elyssa	Teacher Aide PT/Sub		\$17.25/hr	3/09/2018
9.11 Enderle, Kevin	From: Maintainer To: Senior Maintainer	12	\$73,618/yr	3/12/2018
9.12 Meyer, Henry	From: Maintainer To: Senior Maintainer	13	\$73,618/yr	3/12/2018

Resignations:

9.13 Clarke, Cathryn Teacher Aide PT 3/08/2018
9.14 Merlo, Michele Teacher Aide PT 2/16/2018

Resignations for the Purposes of Retirement:

9.15 Shimer, Robert Maintainer 6/28/2018
9.16 Bauer, Kathleen Teacher Aide FT 6/23/2018

Addendum

A.1 Personnel Report

March 8, 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.

Appointment:	Title	Step	Rate	Eff. Date
9.17 Ridner, Elyssa	Teacher Aide PT/Sub		\$17.25/hr	3/09/2018

Resignation:

9.18 Papasodero, Cristine Monitor PT/Sub 3/04/2018

Termination:

9.19 Englander, Thomas Teacher Aide PT 3/05/2018

STAFF DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development report dated March 8, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CPSE/CSE

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated March 1, 2018. 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 for the 2017/18 school year:
-Mary Broderson
-Nawrocki Smith LLP
-North Merrick UFSD

CONTRACTS

-Caryl Oris, MD, PLLC
-Seneca Consulting Group
-Uniondale UFSD
Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

LEGAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the legal notice of annual meeting, public hearing, election and registration of voters. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

EXCESS OF EQUIPMENT

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education excess the following equipment:
Audiometer (Newbridge Road School)
NBUFSD# 000287, Serial #24062
Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

DONATION

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Newbridge Road School PTA in the amount of \$6,900 to be used for:

1. The purchase of Makey, Makey, Dash and Dots and Little Bits, to support science and technology in the classroom. (Value: \$4,400)
2. The purchase of a new school sign for the front of the building, to replace the current one (on behalf of the graduating class of 2016/17) (Value: \$2,500).

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

ABOLISHMENT OF POSITION

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept the Superintendent's recommendation, that, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education abolish the position of Assistant Administrator for District Administration, effective at the end of the day, April 2, 2018.
Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

CUSTODIAL UNIT

Mrs. DeLauter moved that, effective immediately, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to approve up to two floating holidays per school year for full time members of the Custodial Unit. Such floating holidays will be subject to prior written request by eligible employees and further subject to approval in the Superintendent's discretion. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

VISITORS

Mrs. Courtney Fleming (1409 Sycamore Ave., Merrick) asked for clarification on the district's financial status and the cuts that will be made. Mr. Mayo read a letter from Mrs. Fleming detailing her concerns.

Mr. Mayo commented that each year the Board looks at the budget and what programs need to be implemented and where cuts need to be made. He commented that teachers and programs in North Bellmore are exceptional

VISITORS

and the district is doing their best for the students, under the fiscal constraints we have.

Mrs. Testa explained that the Board has been regularly monitoring the district's fiscal status. For the past five years, the district has been fiscally responsible by purposely and appropriately using its fund balance and reserves to keep annual budget increases at or below the district's state-mandated tax levy limit, thereby mitigating the onus placed on the community. Furthermore, the use of these funds has allowed the district to maintain and grow the programs that we have. While we have maintained our programs and staffing for as long as we prudently could, it was inevitable that eventually we would be affected by the fiscal impact of the Tax Levy Cap.

As we plan to stay within the Tax Cap, we are planning a budget that meets the Cap. However, at this time we will have to implement reductions in order to balance the budget and replenish the reserves. We are looking at every area of programming and staffing and prioritizing the cuts that would least effect the children, faculty and staff while maintaining and growing the programs we have.

Mrs. Testa commented that there has been extraordinary growth over the last five years based on the funds that we have.

Mrs. Testa advised that the Board does not want to raise the Tax Cap and burden the taxpayers. As a result, we are going to reduce as best we can and do the best we can do for the students, faculty and staff. Even with the consolidation of classes, we will still have some of the lower class sizes in Nassau County.

Mr. Mayo added that the Board of Education has made it a priority over the years not to make any program or staffing cuts, as many other districts have since the Tax Cap was implemented. He added that we have held on as long as we could, and now we do need to make cuts to meet the budget.

Mrs. Susanne Vera (Decatur Ave.) read a letter to the Board regarding the academic and behavioral benefits of increasing recess time, especially for students in grades K-2. Mrs. Vera asked the Board to consider increasing recess time.

Mr. Mayo stated that the Board would take it into consideration.

Mr. Mayo reminded the community that the budget workshop will be held next Tuesday, March 13, at Park Avenue School at 7 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. DeLauter and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

Mark Schissler, District Clerk