

MINUTES OF THE NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING February 4, 2016

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The regular meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, February 4, 2016, 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  
JoAnn DeLauter, Vice President  
Melissa Cmar-Grote  
John Ferrara  
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  
Larry Tenenbaum, District Counsel  
Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:05 p.m. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 8:17 p.m. Mr. Mayo led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. DeLauter then read the District's Mission Statement.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the Minutes from the Regular meeting of January 7, 2016. Mrs. DeLauter seconded, and the motion was carried 5-0.
- SCHOOL MEDIA SPECIALISTS PRESENTATION** School Media Specialists, Ms. Roccaforte, Ms. Squicciarini and Ms. Stasi, gave a presentation on the district's library collections and the subscriptions used to teach information literacy skills and literature skills. They demonstrated two programs: *Destiny Quest* and *Pebble GO*. These programs are also accessible via the district's website and are available at school and at home. They thanked the Board of Education for all their support. Ms. McNamara explained the connection between the Library Media Specialists and the Curriculum and Instruction staff and how they collaborate to enhance reading skills and inspire students to be lifelong readers.
- VISITORS** There were no questions relating to agenda items only.
- CORRESPONDENCE** Mr. Mayo advised that correspondence was received and will be addressed 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, 2015. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

**HIGH SCHOOL REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci reported on last night's Board meeting. The Board recognized the Nassau County Boys Cross Country Champions from Calhoun High School. The Mepham Varsity Cheerleaders will be competing at the nationals at Disney World in Florida this weekend. The middle school students participated in the MLK Day of Service and it was very successful. The 5K Run/Walk community service will take place on April 24. Mepham 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation will take place on February 10. The Board approved a resolution concerning the LIPA Reform Act. The next meeting will be on March 2.

**FINANCE**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the budgetary transfers dated February 4, 2016. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Testa recognized the following Board of Education members for participating in the New York State School Board Association's leadership development opportunities and thanked them for their time and effort put forth:

- Mrs. Grote: Level 1: *Board Achievement Award*
- Mr. Ferrara – Level 2:- *Board Excellence Award*
- Mrs. DeLauter - Level 4: *Board Lifetime Achievement*

Mrs. Testa reported that she attended the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents Financial Forum today. In addition to addressing issues related to legislative and financial challenges, they urged the State to decouple the ties between student test scores and teacher evaluations. Several leaders said that they were grateful to the opt-out movement for sending a message to the State. There will be a Joint Nassau/Suffolk Superintendents meeting tomorrow to draft more letters to the State.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

**A.1** **February 4, 2016**

**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.

<b>Appointments:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Eff. Date</b>
8.1 Goldberg, Daniel	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	2/5/2016
8.2 Goldhammer, Megan	Substitute Teacher		\$100/day	2/5/2016
<b>Parent University Presenters:</b>				
8.3 Roccaforte, Sharon	Librarian		\$54.12/hr	1/1/16-6/24/16

NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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Homebound Services: (not to exceed 1hr 30 min 2x weekly)

8.4	Vaccaro, Diane	ESL Teacher	\$54.12/hr	1/22/16-6/24/16
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**Family Medical Leave of Absence:**

8.5	DiMonda, Amanda	Teacher K-6		2/5/16-2/10/16
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**Resignations for the Purposes of Retirement:**

8.6	Levine, Tina	Special Ed. Teacher		6/30/2016
8.7	Montalbano, Susan	Registered Nurse		6/30/2016
8.8	Potucek, Josephine	Teacher K-6		6/30/2016

**Termination:**

8.9	Trageser, Michele	Substitute Teacher		1/7/2016
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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.

**Appointment:**

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
8.10	Blume, Jaymie	From: PT Teacher Aide To: PT/Sub Teacher Aide	\$17.49/hr	2/5/2016
8.11	Geschwind, Judith	Monitor PT/Sub	\$14.17/hr	2/5/2016
8.12	Gampero, Stephanie	Monitor PT/Sub	\$14.17/hr	2/5/2016
8.13	Agosta, Joanne	Monitor PT/Sub	\$14.17/hr	2/5/2016

**Unpaid Leave of Absence:**

8.14	Schwartz, Geri	Food Svr. Helper		2/1/16-6/30/16
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**Resignation:**

8.15	Castrillon, Jessica	Registered Nurse PT/Sub		1/19/2016
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**ADDENDUM**

**A.1 PERSONNEL REPORT**

**February 4, 2016**

**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.

**Appointment:**

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
8.16	Primus, Roseann	Substitute Teacher	\$100/day	2/5/2016
8.17	Gugel, Sofya	Substitute Teacher	\$100/day	2/5/2016

Homebound services: (not to exceed 5hrs a week)

8.18	Martelli, Nicole	ESL Teacher	\$54.12/hr	2/1/2016-6/24/2016
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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.

**Appointment:**

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
8.19	Blume, Jaymie	From: Teacher Aide PT To: Teacher Aide PT/Sub	\$17.10/hr	2/5/2016

***Classified Personnel***

**Terminations:**

8.20	Tejada, Balmore	Cleaner PT/Sub	02/05/2015
8.21	Shimer, Michael	Cleaner PT/Sub	02/05/2016
8.22	Spiegel, Josh	Cleaner PT/Sub	02/05/2016
8.23	Kirshner, Marschall	Cleaner PT/Sub	02/05/2016

**Resignation:**

8.24	Cruz-Gutierrez, Massiel	Teacher Aide PT	02/12/2016
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Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT  
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated February 4, 2016. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**BUSINESS  
DEPARTMENT  
UPDATE**

In Mr. Schissler's absence, Mrs. Testa gave the following update:

- Newbridge sign: We are still working on getting the sign at Newbridge installed--waiting for the ground to get softer.
- Dinkelmeyer fenced walkway: We are still investigating the plans.
- Budget: Still working on keeping the budget increase within one percent. The statewide tax levy cap is 0.12%, or 0.40% with exceptions. We are waiting to receive final State Aid numbers. We will continue to update the Board as information becomes available.
- LIPA PILOT: We received a partial payment of \$400,000. We are waiting for an additional \$15,000 payment that is owed.
- Enrollment: Slightly down from last year.

Mrs. Testa thanked the Facilities Department staff for doing a great job with the snow removal and getting the buildings ready to open for school on Monday.

**CURRICULUM AND  
INSTRUCTION**

Mrs. Pollitt outlined three significant changes that NYSED is making to the 2016 English Language Arts and Mathematics tests:

- Change in testing vendor from Pearson to Questar Assessment, Inc.
- Decreased number of test questions
- A shift to untimed testing.

Currently, 133 Universal Pre-K applications have been received. There are 66 placements available. Mrs. Pollitt and Mrs. Fisher have completed the first round of site visits. The second round of visits are scheduled for the spring.

Last week, a producer from *CBS News* attended the Digital Subscriptions Parent University. The story may possibly be aired some time in February. There are 83 parents registered for Monday's workshop, *Learn to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids will Talk*.

**CURRICULUM AND  
INSTRUCTION**

At yesterday's administrators meeting, District Literacy Coach, Mrs. Quinn, joined the administrative team for joint collaborative literacy planning and to review the upcoming February 90 minute professional development sessions on February 11 and 29 and the Superintendent's Conference Day on March 11.

**HUMAN RESOURCES/  
SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Mrs. Eskew stated that 11 cases of the flu have been reported by the nurses districtwide. A reminder is being sent to parents reinforcing expectations for cleanliness and spread of the flu.

Mrs. Eskew advised that NYSED has proposed a mandate to have elementary guidance counselors. There will be a meeting tomorrow to get further clarification.

In response to requests from the LRAs and Kindergarten monitors:

-Mr. Fischetti is looking into setting up email accounts to help improve communication.

-First aid and Heimlich maneuver training will be provided at the March 11 Staff Development Day.

At last week's professional development Carol Melnick from Jaspan Schlesinger gave an update on Section 504 Regulations to the psychologists, behavior specialists and occupational therapists. The information was extremely well received. Resource room and speech teachers met with the Ms. McNamara and Mrs. Quinn on the reading services and programs. School nurses met to develop a letter to parents on the new immunization requirements. Dr. Azus is working with the teachers on the NYS Alternate Assessment training. Beginning this school year, the assessment will be administered on computers.

Mrs. Eskew thanked Mrs. Wessel and SEPTA for their recent workshop, *The Use of Social Stories for Home and School Success*, presented by Mrs. Meehan.

Mrs. Eskew advised that she met with the speech pathologists concerning their caseloads, which are at maximum capacity. We are looking to seek support services from the outside to try and address the issue.

**CPSE/CSE REPORTS**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated January 28, 2016. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**TECHNOLOGY  
UPDATE**

Mr. Fischetti thanked the Library Media Specialist for their great presentation. He reported that the Wi-Fi walkthroughs are completed with the vendors. The Smart Bond Committee will meet again in February after the quotes are received to discuss the iPad implementation plan and plans for enhancing our network infrastructure.

**NEW BUSINESS  
CONTRACTS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2015-16 school year:

- -Freeport UFSD
- -Jonathan Holford
- -Malverne UFSD
- -North Merrick UFSD
- -Erika Stroh
- -Uniondale UFSD

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

**POLICIES**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education adopt the following revised policies:

- Policy 1230 Public Participation at Board Meetings
- Policy 500 Public Use of School Facilities

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

Mrs. Grote asked if the District is required to have voting/polling in the schools when students are present. Mrs. Testa stated that we are not permitted to say no.

**2016/17 SCHOOL  
CALENDAR**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education adopt the 2016-2017 school calendar. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0. Mrs. DeLauter thanked Mrs. Testa for collaborating with the High School district on the calendar.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**VISITORS**

Ms. Broxmeyer (Henry St.) asked if the District would consider providing bussing for students to the *All County Band, Chorus and Orchestra* rehearsals. Mr. Mayo advised that the Board would take it into consideration for next year.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 5-0, the Board entered into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. Collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law with several Civil Service and Instructional bargaining units.
2. Matters leading to the possible discipline of a particular member of the Instructional staff.
3. Current litigation with Nassau County and others related to real property taxes.

On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 11:29 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

Mark Schissler, District Clerk