

MINUTES OF THE NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING February 12, 2015

The regular meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, February 12, 2015, 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:

Grace Cramsie, President
Peter Mayo, 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
Larry Tenenbaum, District Counsel
Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mr. Mayo, to move into executive session to discuss negotiations. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 8:14 p.m. Mr. Schissler led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Mayo then read the District's Mission Statement.

The Board held a Public Hearing on the Volunteer Firefighters Property Tax Exemption.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Minutes from the regular meeting of January 8, 2015. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0, with Mrs. DeLauter abstaining.

SAW MILL PARKING LOT PROPOSAL

John Grillo, JAG Architects, presented the Board with four proposals to increase the parking area at Saw Mill Road School. The options included:

Option No. 1- located in front of the school - to the left of the entrance - 30 spaces - cost: \$156,515

Option No. 2 - located to the North - near the Little League field - 22 spaces - cost: \$90,600

Option No. 3 - located to the North -near T-ball field - 23 spaces - cost \$90,600

Option No. 4 - located off Roger Road - parallel to Saw Mill Road-50 spaces - cost \$214,524

Mrs. Cramsie asked Mr. Grillo for his recommendation. Mr. Grillo recommended option No. 4, with option No. 1 being the least desirable.

Mrs. Cramsie thanked Mr. Grillo for his presentation.

- VISITORS** There were no questions relating to agenda items only.
- CORRESPONDENCE** Mrs. Cramsie advised that correspondence was received.
- TREASURER'S REPORT** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended December 31, 2014. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.
- HIGH SCHOOL REPORT** Mrs. DeLauter reported that at last week's meeting the Board recognized the Intel competition semi-finalists from Kennedy High School. She stated that Mr. DeTommaso spoke to the Board about what is happening in Albany and how the Governor is holding districts ransom until the Legislature meets his conditions. No information on state aid runs will be available until sometime in April. Mr. DeTommaso explained the situation from a school district's point of view and how it is putting school districts in a difficult position. The "One Voice One Message Young Ambassadors" are organizing a 5K Run/Walk, with all proceeds benefitting Pediatric Cancer research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on March 21 at Grand Avenue Middle School. Participants can register online through the district website.
- FINANCE** The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Internal Auditor.
- Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated February 12, 2015. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.
- PERSONNEL REPORT** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel Report dated February 12, 2015. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

A.1 Personnel Report

February 12, 2015

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
8.1 Cincotta, Robert	Substitute Teacher		\$95/day	2/13/2015
8.2 Fried, Fern	Substitute Teacher		\$95/day	2/13/2015
8.3 Laby, Edith	Substitute Teacher		\$95/day	1/30/2015
8.4 Mittlemen, Julie	Substitute Teacher		\$95/day	1/23/2015
8.5 Schmitt, Amanda	Substitute Teacher		\$95/day	1/23/2015
8.6 O'Brien, Susan	Special Ed. Lv. Repl.	95% of 1M	\$299.51/day	1/28/15 - 4/12/15
8.7 West, Jenna	Special Ed. Lv. Repl.	95% of 1M	\$299.51/day	1/30/15 - 4/17/15
8.8 Manieri, Katie	PT Reading Teacher		\$31.93/hr	2/13/2015

Homebound Services: (not to exceed 1hr 3x weekly)

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8.9 West, Jenna Special Ed. Teacher \$53.58/hr 1/19/15 – 6/24/15

Change of Status:

8.10 Kaminska, Agata From:16M+15 to 16M+30 \$111,584/yr (+\$2,705) 2/01/2015

Family Medical Leave of Absence:

8.11 Giacomelli Zucker, Krista Special Ed. Teacher 1/28/15 – 4/12/15

8.12 Egan, Christine Special Ed. Teacher 1/30/15 – 4/17/15

8.13 O'Driscoll, Jennifer Special Ed. Teacher 1/13/15 – 1/16/15

Resignations:

8.14 Martin, Elyse Substitute Teacher 1/23/2015

8.15 Masone, Christie PT Reading Teacher 1/30/2015

8.16 Mitchell, Gina Marie Special Ed. Teacher 1/14/2015

Resignation for the Purposes of Retirement:

8.17 Neville, Laura Teacher K-6 6/30/2015

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.

Appointments:

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
8.18 Vetro, Kristina	Teacher Aide PT/Sub	1	\$17.10/hr	2/13/2015
8.19 Goonetilleke, Nalani	Teacher Aide PT/Sub	1	\$17.10/hr	2/09/2015
8.20 Studer, Jean Anne	Monitor PT/Sub		\$13.42/hr	2/13/2015
8.21 Timpone, Joyce	Monitor PT/Sub		\$13.42/hr	2/13/2015
8.22 Shevlin, Paula	From: Food Svr Helper PT/Sub To: Food Svr Helper PT	1	\$15.70/hr	2/13/2015
8.23 Khanijow, Monika	From: Teacher Aide PT To: Teacher Aide PT/Sub		\$18.68/hr	2/13/2015
8.24 Gerrato, Kelly	From: Teacher Aide PT/Sub To: Teacher Aide PT		\$17.10/hr	2/9/2015

Family Medical Leave of Absence:

8.25 Adragna, Anthony Custodian 1/26/15 – 3/13/15

8.26 Cullen, Carolyn Teacher Aide FT 1/12/15 – 4/17/15

Unpaid Leave of Absence:

8.27 Ignieri, Catherine Teacher Aide PT 1/23/15 - 4/03/15

8.28 Classie, Maria Teacher Aide PT 1/05/15 – 6/24/15

8.29 Cullen, Carolyn Teacher Aide FT 4/20/15 – 5/15/15

8.30 Gregory, Laurie Teacher Aide PT 1/07/15 – 2/06/15

8.31 Papoulis, Maria Cook 1/26/15 – 6/24/15

Resignation:

8.32 Smith, Nina Senior Clerk PT 1/07/2015

Termination:

8.33 O'Hanian, Tammy Teacher Aide PT 1/12/2015

8.34 Novak, Adar Teacher Aide PT/Sub 2/13/2015

ADDENDUM

A.1 PERSONNEL REPORT

February 12, 2015

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>
8.35 Demas, Audrey	PT Reading Teacher		\$31.93/hr	2/13/15

Resignation for the Purposes of Retirement:

8.36 Bidermann, Dorothy	Teacher K-6			6/30/15
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Rescind: (Declined position)

8.8 Manieri, Katie	PT Reading Teacher		\$31.93/hr	2/13/15
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**STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
REPORT**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated February 12, 2015. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa thanked the Board of Education, administrators and teachers for having a "growth mindset" and for putting children first. As Mr. DeTommaso did at the High School District's board meeting, Mrs. Testa spoke about the impact of the Governor's proposed Reform Agenda and the impact it would have in the district if it is passed. Mrs. Testa explained that despite the fact that Long Island students outperformed their peers from other regions in the state on assessments as well as Regents, unfortunately, we will be combined with places having more difficulty than we are. Under the proposal, failing schools could be taken over by an outside agency, which would take away all control from district superintendents and boards of education. If the Legislature agrees to the Governor's conditions, it would include changes to teacher tenure and evaluations. 85% of teachers' evaluation will be rated by someone else--50% will be based on state tests and 35% will be based on an observation performed by an observer appointed by the State. Mrs. Testa added that state tests are not a reliable measure and that teachers should not be rated on things that lack validity and reliability. Mrs. Testa explained that although some of the mandates are appropriate and good, others do not understand what our needs are and go against our strategic plan. Mrs. Testa added that she is impressed with the level of instruction she is seeing in the classroom and we have a team of administrators, teachers and faculty who wants to grow more and wants to do better.

**BUSINESS
DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**

Budget: Mr. Schissler reported that we are waiting to get information from the Governor on our state aid to determine how it will impact our budget. Budget workshops will be held starting in March. Information will be posted on our website. School districts must stay under the 2 percent Tax Cap or the lower of the CPI (1.62%) unless the district has exceptions. As long as we stay under the Cap, taxpayers will receive a rebate.

**BUSINESS
DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**

Enrollment: Student enrollment decreased by seven students this month.

North Bellmore Library: The Library is looking to move forward with renovating and expanding the present library building and would like to get the vote from the community to move forward. Everything, including the borrowing, must go through the school district, as the Lead Agency. The Library Board would like to add the vote to our budget vote on May 19. The Library will reimburse the district for any costs involved. He added that the Board of Education would have the final say on the plans.

Mrs. DeLauter asked if we are seeing an impact on enrollment with the development of new homes. Mr. Schissler indicated that the kindergarten numbers are what we planned on for September – approximately 279.

Technology: We are continuing with our initiatives. We are waiting for a letter of intent from BOCES.

Facilities: Mrs. DeLauter asked for an insurance update relative to the ruptured univent at Newbridge Road School. Mr. Schissler stated that we are still awaiting the results from the forensic engineering company. Mrs. Cramsie stated that she was very impressed with the manner that our administrative team and the teachers handled the situation. Mrs. Cramsie thanked everyone involved.

**CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION**

Mrs. Pollitt stated that the APPR Committee met at the end of January and focused on selecting a new teacher evaluation rubric. The team met with BOCES consultant, Michael Keaney, to review the state approved rubrics. The next meeting will be on February 25 and the committee will continue to analyze the various state rubrics. The goal is to come to a decision by the end of spring.

Mrs. Pollitt reported that the Professional Development Committee met last week to discuss professional development opportunities that are in alignment with our district's plan and mission, as well as to plan for the upcoming Superintendent's Conference Day scheduled for March 13. The meeting went very well and she received good feedback from the teachers.

Mrs. Pollitt, Mrs. McNamara and the principals worked collaboratively together to purchase additional guided reading materials with the stated approved rollover money from the Title II grant funds from last year to help support the students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Eskew reported that she has been receiving wonderful positive feedback from out-of-district Directors about our special education program. Ms. Eskew thanked the principals, teachers and psychologists for their good work.

Ms. Eskew explained that the State requires that the Response To Intervention (RTI) process precede the CSE process and that every effort must be made to

SPECIAL EDUCATION exhaust all general education strategies before a possible CSE referral is made. We are currently looking for a formalized way to get hard data to support a CSE referral. We are trying to come up with ways to collect information to measure progress and to show what general education strategies work and what doesn't work for children. We are looking into computer program, DIBELS Data System, that teachers can use to input results of assessments and it will generate reports and graphs to track and measure student progress. Presently, teachers are inputting the information manually, however, it is very labor intensive and paper intensive. Mr. Mayo asked how long it takes to satisfy the State. Mrs. Eskew stated that the process takes approximately 12 weeks. The new program would generate a report after a six-week period.

Ms. Eskew reported that the school psychologists will be attending a six-hour training that focuses on anxiety disorders in children.

Special education, regular education teachers and paraprofessionals will attend a workshop on staff development day that reinforces and defines the roles and responsibilities of the team in an ERR class. Mrs. Boroson will present a half-day training session to the paraprofessionals on strategies for supporting the children in the classroom.

CSE/CSE Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated February 5, 2015. Mr. Mayo 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 2014-15 school year:

- Art League of Long Island
- Lucille Cosentinora Transportation Services
- Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc.
- Finish Strong Corp.
- Level C, Inc.
- Plainedge UFSD
- Dr. Edward M. Potrosky, Psy.D.
- Joyce Raimondo
- Henry Viscardi School

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

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following policies:

- Hicksville School District
- Jericho School District
- Nawrocki Smith LLP
- Peggy Rakas
- Uniondale UFSD
- United Cerebral Palsy

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

POLICIES

The Board of Education accepted the following policies for a first reading:

- 2121 Board Member Qualifications
- 4326 Programs for English Language Learners
- 5405 Student Wellness
- 5500 Student Records

DONATIONS

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education accept a donation from Thomas Ancona of a student clarinet and case (approx. value \$300) to be used by the band students at Saw Mill Road School. Mr. Mayo seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a check in the amount of \$176.45 from Stop and Shop A+ School Rewards to be used for scholarships for the students of Saw Mill Road School. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education accept a check from General Mills Box Tops for Education in the amount of \$753.30 to be used to purchase indoor/outdoor recess equipment and physical education equipment for the students of Saw Mill Road School. Mr. Mayo seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS
EXEMPTION**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law §466-c provides that certain volunteer firefighters, ambulance workers and their spouses may be eligible for a real property tax exemption; and

WHEREAS, in order to qualify for such exemption the exemption applicant must live in the town which is served by the incorporated volunteer fire company or department or voluntary ambulance service; the property must be the applicant's primary residence; the property must be used for residential purposes; and the applicant must be certified as an enrolled member of the volunteer fire company or department or ambulance service for at least five years; and

WHEREAS, approved applicants would receive an exemption of 10% of the assessed value of such property for city, village, town, part town, special district, county or school district purposes, exclusive of special assessments; and

WHEREAS, the exemption may only be offered if the applicable governing body adopts a resolution providing for such after a public hearing has been held; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education resolves to extend the aforementioned real property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who meet the requirements under law.

Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 4-1, with Mr. Ferrara voting No.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Cramsie advised that there is a conflict with the date of the first budget workshop scheduled for March 9. Mrs. Testa added that the date will be changed.

VISITORS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Mayo, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education agreed to enter into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and employment history of a particular individual.

On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Mayo and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

Mark Schissler, District Clerk