



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

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| Business Meeting | Martin Avenue School 2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710 | 7:30 PM |
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The Business meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, February 11, 2021, via Zoom video conference.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Rosemarie Corless, President
Jo-Ann Erhard, Vice President
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Nina Lanci
Christine Malloy

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
Carol Eskew, Deputy Superintendent
Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Jacqueline Rehak, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Christopher Powers, District Counsel
Jeanne Canavan, District Clerk

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM. Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Erhard to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session for the purpose of discussing contractual personnel matters. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:59 PM.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Mrs. Corless led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mrs. Malloy read the District’s mission statement.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS** There were no agenda item related questions.
- CORRESPONDENCE** Mrs. Corless advised that the Board received correspondence and it will be reviewed in Executive Session.
- TREASURER’S REPORT** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s report for the month ended December 31, 2020. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.
- HIGH SCHOOL REPORT** Mrs. Lanci reported that the Board met last week via zoom conference. The Board recognized five Regeneron Science Competition Scholars from Kennedy High

**HIGH SCHOOL
REPORT**

School and Calhoun student, Jack Parr, for NYS Music Association - All Eastern Division. The Board accepted \$150,000 in CARES Act funding from the Town of Hempstead for COVID-19 relief. The Board accepted a donation of \$1,000 from Long Island Cares, Inc. for the Community Cupboard, as well as a \$100 donation to the Robotics Club from a former Calhoun graduate. The Board adopted the 2021-22 school calendar. The next meeting will be held on March 3.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of January 2021.

Mrs. Erhard moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated February 11, 2021. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa provided the following updates:

Technology: As part of our iPad initiative, we are in the process of ordering iPads for grade 2. These devices have become an integral part of how we deliver instruction and especially beneficial in our virtual environment. Adding second grade is part of our plan to add a grade level per year. Next year we will be purchasing iPads for grades K-1. This purchase is partially funded by SSBA. The remainder will be financed through BOCES which will give us a 66% return in state aid.

Security: Security upgrades have been scheduled district-wide. We are upgrading our end of life software. The software requires a new server and the replacement of 30 of our oldest cameras, which will not be compatible with new software. This entire purchase was split between a Security Enhancement Grant that we applied for and funds that were set aside in Safe Schools Bond Act for this purpose.

Attendance Mandates: Mr. Fischetti and his Department are working to implement the new State mandates for student attendance during COVID-19. We are making adjustments to our records to accurately define quarantine due to exposure versus positive and COVID absences for in-person learners versus virtual learners.

Building and Grounds: Lead water testing is completed in each school as required by the NYS Education Department. As soon as we receive the report, it will be shared on our website along with any recommendations.

The Building Condition Survey, which typically takes place every five years, will occur between July 2021 and June 2022. We will be looking at all our buildings. Last year voters approved to set up a capital fund. The projects which we will fund this year include: fencing, installation of new ceilings and blacktop improvements. Long term, we are looking to set up additional capital funds to include blacktop at all schools and air conditioning systems.

Mrs. Testa thanked the faculty, staff and families for their united effort in adhering to the health and safety protocols. Because of everyone's strict adherence, we

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

have had very little spread in the schools. Mrs. Testa thanked the teachers for delivering in-person and remote instruction and taking good care of our students. She thanked Mr. Russo and the custodial team who disinfect the buildings throughout the day and nightly, keeping the teachers, staff and faculty safe in these challenging times.

Mrs. Testa reported that she has received correspondence from parents asking about the possibility of quarantining only those students/staff who were six feet or less to the person who tested positive for COVID, instead of quarantining a whole class. After reviewing the data we have collected, Mrs. Testa stated that the Board continues to support quarantining the whole class. Unlike middle and high school students, our students are in the same class all day and play at recess together. We will continue to monitor the safety of the classes closely in an effort to keep one another safe. Mrs. Testa thanked the principals, Mrs. Pollitt, Mrs. McNamara and the teachers for supporting the students by providing plans for instruction as the students go in and out of quarantine individually and in groups.

Budget: The administrative team is meeting daily to review the budget. We are examining each of the programs that were put on pause and reviewing current regulations and spacing requirements. One of our main concerns is keeping students safe in their cohorts. We are awaiting updates on regulations from the Governor and NYSED to learn if there are any changes. We will provide options for the Board to consider as we go into the next budget year. The first budget workshop is on March 4.

Remote Learning: The NYS Education Department has not yet provided districts with requirements relative to remote learning. As such, while we wait to hear whether we are required to provide remote learning, we are faced with building a budget that includes a remote instructional model. Our Board has decided that, if remote learning is required in 2021-22, we will implement the current model being offered in the 2020-21 school year. We will not implement a livestream model next year. We will maintain our current model. It is important to note that if remote learning is required in the 2022-23 school year, the current model is not sustainable and, therefore, other models such as livestream will be considered.

Mrs. Testa stated that she is extraordinarily proud to work with the Board of Education for doing what is best for the children instructionally.

Mrs. Corless encouraged the community to partake in the budget workshops. Mrs. Corless thanked the staff, faculty, teachers for being so diligent with the COVID protocols, as it has allowed us to continue to provide in-person learning. Mrs. Corless also thanked Mr. Russo and his team for keeping the staff and faculty safe, in addition to all their recent snow removal efforts.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated February 11, 2021. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

- A. Appointments
- B. Change of Status
- C. Leave Requests

- D. Resignations/Retirement
- E. Terminations

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT
REPORT**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated February 11, 2021. Mrs. Erhard seconded the motion was carried 5-0.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mrs. Rehak reported on the following:

2021-2022 Budget: Our annual budget workshop is scheduled for March 4 at 7 p.m. This will be a virtual workshop. The link and budget calendar will be posted on the District website.

As previously reported, the tax base growth factor for North Bellmore is 1.0018% and the allowable tax levy growth factor is 1.23%. With the District's exclusions, we are currently reflecting a 1.54% tax levy increase, which is lower than it has been in the past.

Right now our budget to budget increase is approximately 2.60%. This is preliminary as we are still waiting for more updates with regards to State Aid and other regulatory requirements.

State Aid and Governor's Budget: The Governor's office announced that they will no longer withhold 20% of districts' Aid for the current year. However, they are looking at a permanent cut of 5% for the current year. This is still preliminary and we should receive a final update in March.

NYS Executive Budget Proposal: The Department of the Budget created two versions of the budget. One version includes \$6B in additional federal stimulus, and the other version includes \$15B in additional federal stimulus.

The version 1 budget, which includes \$6B in additional stimulus, is the basis that was used for the school aid runs and budget bills. Foundation Aid remains flat for the second year in a row, and there are overall cuts to school districts.

Under the version 2 budget, which includes \$15B in additional stimulus, there would be no cuts and actually additional aid to school districts. Governor Cuomo has been advocating for this version.

NYS has not received any additional funding as of yet, and these versions can change based on new federal legislation.

Some of the differences in the school aid runs this year include rolling several expense-based aids into one group called "services aid", including STAR funds within the state aid runs, a new line item called Local District Funding Adjustment, and a new line items called the COVID-19 Supplemental Stimulus.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Services Aid: The consolidation of expense based aids is not a new proposal by the state. This is something they have proposed in years past, but it has not gone through the state legislature. This would include putting districts' BOCES Aid, Textbook Aid, Software Aid, Library Materials, Computer Hardware and Technology, Supplemental Excess Cost, Transportation Aid, and high Tax Aid, to name a few, into one block grant, called Services Aid. Once in this block grant, increases in this aid would be based on some convoluted formula, similar to foundation aid, rather than based on what is actually expended.

This would be detrimental to BOCES. It would also greatly hurt the school districts, especially with everything that has gone on with the pandemic. Transportation costs have been on the rise. The bus companies lost a lot of money during the closure and suffered financially. To change the aid at this point in time away from being expense based will financially impair districts.

Another change in the state aid runs is the inclusion of STAR Funds – this came as a surprising addition to the runs. STAR is not something that is associated with State Aid districts receive. It hasn't been. It was a completely separate program. However, it seems this is something the State used to determine the Local District Funding Adjustment.

Local District Funding Adjustment: This is a new item included in the executive budget. This adjustment would reduce the STAR reimbursements to school districts. This reduction would not exceed any school district's Federal COVID-19 Supplemental Stimulus allocation in 2021/22.

Important to note, the Executive Budget plan indicates this adjustment will be a recurring item.

There will be a reduction in State Aid to schools districts. The amount of the reduction is determined by STAR, and in the next fiscal year 2021/22, the reduction will be funded with federal stimulus.

One-shot funding creates long-term problems.

Federal dollars appropriated to support school districts with the many additional costs driven from the pandemic have been instead used to backfill reductions in state spending.

While the federal dollars for funding are temporary, the reductions through both the Services Aid proposal and the Local District Funding Adjustment would continue into the future.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Future attempts to maintain even level funding for districts would require the state to increase expenditures significantly from 2021/22 levels. This would be very difficult for the State with its decrease in revenues.

This is all setting school districts up for another Gap Elimination Adjustment.

In 2009-2010 state aid was cut to school districts through the Deficit Reduction Assessment. They were mitigated by availability of federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In 2010-2011 the state aid cuts continued through the GEA, and again this was mitigated through the use of federal funds.

2011/12 through 2015/16, 5 years, the GEA cuts continued, and there was no federal funding. The loss to school districts was immense.

It was during this time, the district was on the fiscal stress list, and a lot of concessions needed to be made.

We have been working feverishly on a long range financial plan. We can plan to exceed 4% in unappropriated during the years we have federal funding to mitigate the losses in the following years, and leave those funds available.

We continue to be fiscally responsible in our spending, and monitor the balance and use of our reserves.

Currently, the District is in a good financial position. With the Board's approval, the District has made many changes in the current year to keep the financial health of the district where it was prior to the pandemic.

While we made some difficult decisions at the start of the year, it is those adjustments that will keep us on the path we planned to be on. It is what will keep us in good financial standing through the years ahead while going through the pandemic and dealing with the aftermath of it.

Capital Projects: Some of the plans that were being discussed this time last year were capital improvements to district parking lots and pavement, and the ceilings in the classroom. We put a proposition on last year's ballot for voters to approve a capital reserve to do these improvements.

This reserve enables us to take any funds leftover at the end of the year and apply it towards these projects without increasing tax levy or borrowing to fund the project.

Due to the pandemic and all the uncertainties last year, we refrained from funding the reserve. Rather we left the funds available in unappropriated fund balance in case we saw drastic cuts in state aid as was being discussed, and to fund the major

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

added expenses related to the pandemic for PPE, virtual learning, technology needs, etc. We do plan on starting to fund the reserve by the end of the current year.

After projecting out in our long range financial plan, we believe we will be able to fund more than half of the reserve over the next two years.

We are working with the district's architect to get plans done, estimates, and voter propositions for spending of the reserve. Following that we will move forward to get SED approval for the projects prior to beginning any work.

There is a lot that goes into these projects, and a lot of formalities. First comes the funding, which happens over years, then voter approval for spending, then SED approval, and then going out to bid prior to any work commencing.

Internal Audit: Our annual internal audit is scheduled to begin the week of February 22, and the audit will cover the District's STACing process. (System to Track and Account for Children). This includes is the process of submitting and receiving requests for reimbursement from the State for the costs of providing services to preschool and school-age students placed in special education programs. It also includes reimbursements for students who have been determined to be homeless or runaway youth.

The District Special Education Department has been doing a tremendous amount of work to prepare for this audit, by gathering all the paperwork needed for testing, and responding to all the auditor's preliminary questions.

Kindergarten Registration: Kindergarten registration for the 2021/2022 school year is moving along nicely. We currently have 227 kindergarten students fully registered, and we have appointments set up for another 20 students over the next week. There are an additional 35 pre-registered students in our system. If they were to all come in and register, we have a potential total of 282 students in Kindergarten next year. In the current year we have 269 students. It looks like the enrollment for kindergarten will increase slightly from the current year. Mrs. Rehak thanked Laurice Gunnels for all her assistance with registration process. We will keep a close eye on these numbers and adjust the 2021/2022 proposed budget accordingly.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt provided the following updates:

Third Trimester Virtual Update: The third trimester intent forms are due this Sunday. To date, we have received 219 responses: 189/300 virtual students are remaining virtual, 29 students moving to in-person, and 1 student moving from in person to virtual. We are awaiting approximately 70 more forms.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

NYSED requested a waiver to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for the administration of the 2021 State assessments. Comments were due to NYSED by February 5, and we are awaiting more information so that the district and parents can plan. As of now, the NYSSLAT exam (End of year assessment for English Language Learners) is still scheduled. The results of this exam lets us know whether students are exiting the following year and or which level they are at so we know how to best serve them.

OLSAT Testing (Otis Lennon School Ability Test): In March we will be administering this test with our 2nd and 3rd graders, which measures cognition. Parents of students in our virtual 2nd and 3rd grade classes will also have opportunity to bring their children to school for testing. Information will be sent after the break. This is one of the measures that are incorporated into our ALPHA screening processing. We are moving ahead with our screening process. We are in the very beginning stages of discussing potential models for our Alpha program for next year, which will include third grade. We are waiting to hear more about health and safety protocols.

Mid-Year Assessments: Grade 3-6 teachers administered the Winter i-Ready Diagnostic in both Math and Reading to all students this month. In years' prior, we administered only to the students who receive academic intervention services. Due to the anticipated learning gaps based on the effects of the pandemic on instruction, we decided to assess all students to have an additional data point to monitor progress and inform instructional decisions. We are looking towards the potential administration of the diagnostic with our 2nd graders in March.

GAP Surveys: This week's after school PD was devoted to reflection, analysis, and conversation. At this mid-point in the year, we are taking stock of where the children are academically as well as socially and emotionally. Teachers completed insight surveys regarding the social-emotional and academic needs of our students; and provided feedback as it relates to future Professional Development.

Mrs. Pollitt and Mrs. McNamara are analyzing the mid-year assessment data along with the survey responses to get a picture of where we are at this point in time. As always, our goal is to meet the children where they are, and work from strengths to bring them forward.

TC Grant and Courses: Our Teacher Center Grant funding was formally awarded. We have a class starting in a few weeks. Krista Zucker will teach a course on Reading Conferences: Partnerships That Grow Readers.

Parent EDU: This year we are partnering with Nassau BOCES to provide parent workshops. The spring catalogue was sent out and will also be posted on our website. We will be offering a variety of courses on subject areas and social emotional learning.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Virtual Spanish Enrichment Experience for 6th Graders: We are going to offer eight week after school sessions from 3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. led by our ENL teacher, Samantha Sand. Registration information will be sent out after the break. We are looking into the possibility of coordinating with BMCSHD to see if we can offer enrichment sessions in Italian, French and Mandarin.

Policy Committee: The Policy Committee met at the end of January and have brought forward the policies on this evening's agenda. In addition to considering the updates issued by NYSSBA, we are strategically reviewing all Board policies—particularly those with an older adoption date with the purposes of readopting to keep current.

Mental Health & Wellness Committee: The Committee will meet on Monday, February 22 and Mrs. Pollitt added that she is looking forward to working with everyone on the team.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
REPORT**

Ms. Eskew gave the following updates:

Internal Audit: As Mrs. Rehak mentioned, the Special Education Department is in the process of undergoing a STAC audit. In addition to this audit, we were informed by Nassau BOCES District-wide and School Based Support Solutions NYS Trusted Agent that they are also going to join in the audit of STAC. This year they are doing a mini audit on the CSE STAC process. A meeting is set up tomorrow with, Maureen Pretter, the new NYS Trusted Agent, to tell us what the audit will entail and the types of documents they want to see. This audit will be ongoing. The special education department has been on top of the STACs over the years and in the past we have received complimentary emails from the STAC Unit on the timeliness on the processing of STAC submissions.

Random Moment Time Study for Medicaid Survey: District speech and occupational therapists are participating in a state Medicaid survey. The state randomly selects clinicians from across the state to participate to see what they are doing on any given day. They need to indicate whether or not they were providing direct services at a specified time on the preceding day. Each district is required to maintain a 90% response rate. If the provider does not respond to the survey within required time frame, he/she is coded as a Non-Response, which affects the District overall Response Rate. North Bellmore has been achieving a 100% Response Rate since the RMTS survey process started.

At this time of year, the psychologists and special educators are very busy doing annual reviews. We are receiving a number of initial referrals to the CSE. We have been very carefully monitoring those. With COVID closure, we did have some children coming back to school being a little bit behind, however, special education regulations are very specific about lack of exposure not being a criteria for eligibility for special education.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
REPORT**

Staffing: We are in the process of analyzing our staffing needs for the 2021-22 school year. We are meeting with the building teams and projecting student placement -- whether a student is moving to a less or more restrictive environment or staying the same in terms of programming so that we can determine what kinds of needs we are going to have in terms of teachers and clinicians.

We will be posting to fill our staffing needs for our special education summer program. We are doing this earlier than normal this year due to the shortage of available personnel and the potential need to recruit from outside the district.

Immunization extension: NYSED has extended the deadline for students to complete their full immunizations to March 11, 2021. At this time, we have only one student in the district who is in the process of completing required immunizations.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated February 4, 2020. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote and carried 5-0 for the following consent agenda items: Nos. 14.1 – 14.10.

**NEW BUSINESS
CONTRACTS**

14.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2020-21 school year:

- Family Pediatric Home Care 2020/21
- Freeport UFSD (Health and Welfare Services)
- Network Adjusters, Inc. (Residency Verification Services)
- Plainedge UFSD (Health and Welfare Services)
- Lindsay Plunkett
- Uniondale UFSD (Health and Welfare Services)

**TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACT**

14.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a transportation contract with Dell Transportation, Inc. for the 2020-21 school year.

DONATION

14.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the John G. Dinkelmeyer School PTA of a Generation Genius Online Subscription to benefit all of the Dinkelmeyer virtual and in person learners, teachers and families. (Approx. value: \$500).

**2021-2022 SCHOOL
CALENDAR**

14.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the 2021 -2022 school year calendar.

POLICIES – FIRST READING

14.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following policies for a first reading:

- Policy No. 6705 – Federal Funds Purchasing
- Policy No. 2520 – Board Member Training

**POLICIES – SECOND
READING AND ADOPTION**

14.6 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following revised policies for a second reading and adoption:
Policy No. 5100 – Student Attendance
Policy No. 5500 – Student Records
Policy No. 6700 – Purchasing

**NBTBA – RETIREMENT
INCENTIVE**

14.7 **NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District approves and authorizes the School District to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the North Bellmore Teacher’s Association with regard to a retirement incentive; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute this Memorandum of Agreement on the Board of Education’s behalf.

**CSEA/CERICAL –
RETIREMENT INCENTIVE**

14.8 **NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District approves and authorizes the School District to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the North Bellmore UFSD Clerical/Cafeteria Unit with regard to a retirement incentive; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute this Memorandum of Agreement on the Board of Education’s behalf.

**CSEA/CUSTODIAL BUS
DRIVER UNIT –RETIREMENT
INCENTIVE**

14.9 **NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District approves and authorizes the School District to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the North Bellmore UFSD Custodial/Bus Driver Unit with regard to a retirement incentive; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute this Memorandum of Agreement on the Board of Education’s behalf.

**MOA – PRINCIPALS’
ASSOCIATION**

14.10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District hereby approves the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with the North Bellmore Principals’ Association for a successor collective bargaining agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute a formal Collective Bargaining Agreement consistent with such Memorandum of Agreement on the Board of Education’s behalf.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Cmar-Grote asked for an update on the district’s evening security program. Mrs. Testa stated that Allied Security provides a van that travels around the district between 4 – 11 p.m. The security guard is in direct contact with Mrs. Testa and Mr. Russo and, if necessary, the police department. We are immediately notified if anything occurs. The security van has been a phenomenal asset to our

OLD BUSINESS

security protocols, as well as our building security guards, in keeping our neighborhood and schools safe

Mrs. Cmar-Grote asked Mrs. Testa to review the notification protocols when a student tests COVID positive. Mrs. Testa stated that when there is a positive case in a school, the principal notifies the class/staff involved and then she sends a health and safety update to the community. Mrs. Testa stated that previously she notified the entire community on a daily basis of positive cases in the district, however, based on parent feedback, she now updates the community about positive cases every few days. Mrs. Testa indicated if the public prefers to receive the notification on a daily basis, she would go back to daily reporting. In addition, Mrs. Testa stated she reports to the Department of Health on a daily basis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The community asked the following questions:

1. Will the Covid vaccine be a required immunization for in person learning in September? Mrs. Eskew stated that it is not going to be a requirement.
2. Mrs. Holmes asked if any of our schools are Title 1 schools. Mrs. Pollitt stated that we do receive Title I funds. They are split between Dinkelmeyer and Newbridge Road schools. We receive approximately \$63,000 and it based on our free and reduced lunch counts. These two schools exceed our districtwide average of 12%. The funds are put towards reading teachers' salaries, additional reading support and reading supplies.
3. A question was posed on Coding. Mrs. Pollitt stated that she is working with Mr. Fischetti to determine how we can ensure that are students, especially at sixth grade level, are still get coding experience in a safe manner, now that we are in a cohort model. In the past students received push-in services or traveled from room to room. We are very excited about the iPads and the 1:1 initiative should help with that. We are looking towards the spring to see what we can do to elevate the services and we understand how important it is to the students.
4. Mrs. OHea (Janet Ave.) asked if there is any decision made on offering Orchestra and Band next year. Mrs. Testa stated that the Board is committed to looking into how we can bring the programs back safely. We are actively pursuing updates on state regulations regarding barriers, and spacing requirements, etc. The regulations differ from the CDC and the State. We will keep the community apprised.
5. Are there any updates on the status of the morning and after school care program for next school year? Mrs. Testa stated that she is meeting with Mrs. Smith, Program Director, to discuss regulations and options for next year regarding the Bellmore Merrick Childcare Program. We will get back to the Board with any options we have before the March board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. Mrs. Carroll asked if there a parent committee associated with Mrs. Fisher as Music Liaison. Mrs. Testa stated that Mrs. Fischer is the music department liaison from the principal team to the central administration and the principal team to the music department. The liaison analyzes programming, delivery of instruction, caseloads, procedures, protocols, planning events and relays information to central administration. It is not a committee position.
7. Mrs. Wilson asked if there is any chance that any of the COVID-19 cases that are spreading in the district are the UK strain, which is more contagious. Mrs. Testa stated we are waiting to hear back from the Department of Health.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci seconded by Mrs. Erhard to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel at 9:23 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded by Mrs. Erhard and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 11:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan
District Clerk