



NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – MARCH 5, 2020

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, March 5, 2020, 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:

Nina Lanci, President
John Ferrara, Vice President
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Rosemarie Corless
Jo-Ann Erhard

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
Jason Fischetti, Executive Director of Technology, Data and Information Services
Christopher Powers, District Counsel (Executive Session only)
Jeanne Canavan, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel matters. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mrs. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Cmar-Grote read the District’s mission statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the business meeting of February 6, 2020. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION
FESTIVAL CHORUS**

Mrs. Fisher announced that “March is Music in our Schools Month!” Mrs. Fisher stated that the students and staff are grateful to the Board of Education that the North Bellmore music program continues to grow. Mrs. Fisher introduced Mrs. Ng, Mrs. Yencharis and Mrs. Messana who introduced the Festival Chorus students. The students sang two songs for the Board of Education, “*Where is the Light*” and “*When I Grow Up*.” Mrs. Testa stated how proud she was of the students. The Festival Band and Chorus will perform on April 7 at 6 p.m. at Brookside.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs. Testa welcomed the sixth grade Board of Education representatives from Ms. DiMonda’s class at Park Avenue School: Aiden Callahan, Emma Gallagher, Rebecca Snyder and Kaitlyn Tansey. The students shared how much they enjoyed learning about microscopes and how to use them. The students talked about how they liked the hands on experience. They looked at structures, live specimens and learned to compare plant and animal cells. Mrs. Testa presented each of the students with a certificate and thanked them for their presentation—*Sixth Grade Goes Mad for Microscopes!*

**EAGLE SCOUT
PRESENTATION**

Former Martin Avenue student, Christopher Dubon, of Boy Scout Troop 192, presented his Eagle Scout project proposal to the Board of Education. He proposed to create a reading area on the land in front of Martin Avenue School, including a patio and a walkway, a small lending library, two benches and replanting new flowers in the existing planter box underneath the Martin Avenue School sign. Mrs. Testa thanked Christopher for choosing Martin Avenue for his Eagle Scout project and stated how proud she was of him.

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve Christopher Dubon’s Eagle Scout Project. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no agenda item related questions.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Lanci advised that correspondence was received from a Korean War Veteran requesting the Board to consider granting a Veterans’ discount off their school taxes. Mrs. Lanci stated that North Bellmore School District already does offer a tax exemption for Korean War Veterans.

**TREASURER’S
REPORT**

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s report for the month ended January 31, 2020. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

**HIGH SCHOOL
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci reported that the High School District is closely monitoring the Corona Virus and following all safety protocols. The district is taking the situation very seriously. Mephram High School will host the annual St.

Baldrick's Chop Your Lock's for Charity event for the entire district on Wednesday, March 18. The next meeting will be held on April 1.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of February 2020.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated March 5, 2020. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

- A. Appointments
- B. Leave Requests
- C. Resignations/Retirements
- D. Terminations

**STAFF
DEVELOPMENT**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated March 5, 2020, as presented. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa reported that the district is moving forward with the security vestibules project. Mr. Grillo will present the plans to the Board in May or June. The project could take up to a year to complete.

Mrs. Testa stated that the administration is looking at the possibility of establishing a Capital Reserve fund for the community's approval in May to do some district projects, such as asphalt work and LED upgrades.

The District continues to engage in preventative measures to reduce the chance of exposure to the Corona Virus. The district has implemented rigorous flu season and cleaning protocols. The District-Wide Safety Plan includes a Pandemic Planning which provides plans for emergency management (Prevention/Mitigation; Preparedness; Response and Recovery). The District will continue to be in direct communication with the New York State Health and Safety Department and the Nassau County Department of Health to closely monitor the situation.

Mrs. Testa reported that the first budget workshop will take place on March 11 at 7 PM at Martin Avenue School. We are putting forth a budget that we are very confident about and proud of. We are keeping a close eye on the enrollment. Mrs. Testa stated that she is recommending two deconsolidations to the Board for their consideration—the current grade 4 at Park Avenue, and the current grade 3 at Saw Mill, which would increase the number of class sections from 95 to 97 sections for 2020-21. We will be keeping all our district programs in place.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT Our new lunch director, Mrs. McKenna, has updated the lunch menu and we are getting great feedback from the students and increasing meal counts. Mrs. McKenna will be meeting with the administrative team next week and will discuss changes that have been implemented as well as plans for the future.

Mrs. Giovino is currently training with Mrs. Gunnels on our transportation services and is doing a great job. Currently, we are looking into consolidating some of our big busses, as a few of them are not being used to capacity. At this time we are working on a potential consolidation of the Park busses.

ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act): This is the first year of the new financial reporting requirement about per pupil expenditures, as well as expenditures by programs, including special education, ELL, BOCES, and Pupil Service. The report was due on March 1 and was submitted the prior to the due date. On June 1, 2020, NYSED will publish all the 2018-19 school year ESSA Financial Transparency reports for all school districts.

The Budget Workshop is scheduled for March 11th at 7:00 PM in Martin Avenue School. The Proposed Budget is scheduled to be presented at the April 2 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM in Martin Ave School for adoption by the Board. A presentation to the PTA Coordinating Council will be held on April 27. District residents are invited to each of these presentations.

We filed the tax cap levy calculation that was due on March 1. The cap came out to 2.71%, which is just slightly lower than what was reported last month (2.80%). Last year's tax cap was 2.81%.

The currently projected overall budget-to- budget increase is expected to be approximately 1.72%. This is higher than last month's reported projection, and it all relates to State Aid.

We have been keeping an eye on the enrollment. There may be changes in the number of sections due to differences in the numbers of incoming kindergarten students compared to the number of outgoing sixth graders.

This budget includes three contingencies in general education, which will cover the two deconsolidations. It also includes one special education contingency. These are important areas for the Board to consider for the March 11 Budget workshop.

In the preliminary budget, we are still appropriating \$1.5M from the current year to balance the budget. Last year we appropriated over \$1.8M. We are

BUISSNESS OFFICE REPORT

going to try and slowly reduce this amount each year so we are not relying on current year funds to cover subsequent year budgets.

We are looking to establish a capital reserve in the amount of \$10M to fund over 10 years. We have been going through the Building Condition Survey, prepared by John Grillo, to analyze and determine projects by priority and determine what can reasonably be covered by this reserve. Larger projects that cannot be covered by this reserve we hope to include in a larger bond project down the road. As we have debt rolling off the books in 2024, it may be a good time to start a new bond project for these larger items.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt reported that Superintendent's Conference day will be held next Friday. The theme is Book Love with a key note presentation, "Why Read?" by Charles R. Smith, Jr. Over 35 workshops will be offered by our faculty and outside consultants. At the NB Reads Aloud workshop, spearheaded by our instructional coaches, fifty teachers signed up to video themselves reading aloud so that students can watch these at their leisure, to help instill a community of readers.

The APPR Committee met this week and reviewed the changes to the State regulations. We need to have our new plan approved by NYSED by March 1, 2021.

Mrs. Pollitt stated that NYSED has designated North Bellmore as a Target District based on grades 3-6 NYS ELA and Mathematics Assessment data relating to subgroups of students at the Martin Avenue and Park Avenue schools. Mrs. Pollitt attended a two-day orientation in Albany for Target Districts to learn the steps that we now need to take by State regulation. A Needs Assessment and Development of Plan must be completed by the end of the year with plans to be implemented effective September. Mrs. Pollitt indicated that she will be working closely with Ms. Speidel and Mrs. Malone. Mrs. Pollitt reported that these designations are invalid due to the District's high state assessment refusal rate and the minimal sample size that comprise the two groups. She added that this does not illustrate the performance of the overall population of the North Bellmore School District, nor does it accurately reflect the performance of the students in the identified subgroups. If there is not a change in NYSED's accountability status formulas, districts across the state with high opt-out rates and small subgroup sample sizes will continue to be inaccurately identified as needing improvement.

Mrs. Pollitt indicated that North Bellmore will be highlighted at an upcoming Nassau BOCES Board meeting as a model for best practices in our health and wellness efforts in terms of the Climate Survey and professional development.

Mrs. Pollitt reminded the community that the deadline for completing the UPK applications is March 13. The lottery will be held on March 23. Parents will be notified by letter of their child's acceptance.

**TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mr. Fischetti gave the following updates:

Heat Maps are being installed in all buildings to balance the Wi-Fi signal throughout the buildings.

Mr. Fischetti and Mrs. DiChiara will be presenting to all of the Nassau County Technology Directors at the NASTECH meeting on March 19 about our Assistive Technology Program, how it was created, describe our workflow, and our team approach to providing assistive technology plans to our students. We are currently the only district in Nassau with an in-house person providing this service and is way ahead of what any outside service could provide.

LEGO WE DO, purchased by the Curriculum Department, is already in use with grade 5. Mr. Bevilacqua cannot say enough great things about these kits in terms of design and engineering experience that the students are receiving.

Mr. Fischetti observed a coding lesson with kindergarten students. The students learned the basics of how robots require commands and how to code the robot with those commands. We are very happy to bring the robotics into kindergarten as the bee bot robots bridge the gap between hands on learning and 21st century skills. We recently removed PCs from kindergarten classrooms, as requested, in order to make room for more hands on learning. It has always been our belief that kindergarten students need more hands on experiential activities, not more time on computers.

Mr. Fischetti indicated that he will be attending two workshops this month related to developing our new Parents Bill of Rights which will contain all of the privacy policies of all of our vendors with whom we share sensitive student/teacher or administrator data.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
CSE/CSE REPORTS**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated February 27, 2020. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
REPORT**

Ms. Eskew reported that she has been working with the CSEA regarding contract negotiations.

Ms. Eskew stated her appreciation to the school nurses for their assistance with the immunization processes, as well as the handling of the flu cases. The nurses also attended a conference and webinars on the Corona Virus.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
REPORT**

Mrs. Eskew reported that the North Bellmore Anaphylaxis Plan has been distributed to all school personnel to help staff identify the signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction. Each employee is required to acknowledge having received and read the Plan.

Ms. Eskew reported that there is a state level cap on the total number of students with severe disabilities who are assessed with an alternate assessment to one percent of the total number of students in the state who are assessed in the subject. If a district exceeds the one percent participation cap, they are required to submit the rationale for justifying the need to exceed the one percent threshold. All staff has completed Alternate Assessment Training.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Erhard and passed 5-0 for the following consent agenda items: 16.1 – 16.5.

**NEW BUSINESS
CONTRACTS**

16.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2019/20 school year:

- Hicksville School District (Health & Welfare)
- Laura Lustbaer
- Plainedge UFSD (Health & Welfare)
- Syosset CSD (Health & Welfare)
- Uniondale UFSD (Health & Welfare)
- Mary Watros

EXCESS OF EQUIPMENT

16.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education excess the following instruments from the Martin Avenue School inventory, as they are broken and beyond repair:

- a. Clarinet MA22 680678 Bundy – purchased in 1972
- b. Clarinet MA14 D10722 Martin Frere purchased prior to 1970

DONATION

16.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Kimco Realty of 20 laptops, 24 PCs and 36 printers to be used by students and staff districtwide (approximate value \$18,000).

**MOA –
CLERICAL/CAFETERIA
UNIT**

16.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a Memorandum of Agreement between North Bellmore Union Free School District and CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO North Bellmore UFSD Clerical/Cafeteria Unit Nassau County Education Local 865 for the term: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2023.

MOA - NBTA

16.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the North Bellmore Union Free School District and the North Bellmore Teachers' Association dated March 5, 2020 regarding Employer Non-Elective Contribution to 403(b) Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

On behalf of the Saw Mill Road community, Mrs. Gaskin (Horseshoe Dr.) thanked the Board for listening to their concerns regarding the third grade class size and for their future planning efforts for class sizes.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Corless seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan
District Clerk