



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES – FEBRUARY 6, 2020**

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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 6, 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

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

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 Venator, District Counsel  
Jeanne Canavan, District Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Corless to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel matters. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:53 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**

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the business meeting of January 13, 2020 and the special meeting of January 27, 2020. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION  
  
STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs. Testa welcomed the sixth grade Board of Education representatives from John G. Dinkelmeyer School: Brandon Catalina, Jocelyn Murphy, Madison Rut, Alexis Skreckoski and Jake Wilson.

The students shared all the amazing things happening in each grade at Dinkelmeyer School. Each student spoke of what they were learning in sixth grade in subject areas, as well as learning about choosing a career to match their personalities. The students worked with Mr. Duffy, the school counselor, and took a personality quiz that made them think about their interests, talents, strengths and weaknesses. The students received their individual career personalities and explored careers that would be a good fit to help them be successful and happy when they are adults. They shared that the Board of Education would fit into the Social Category of career personalities, because as Board members, they value helping people, solving problems, they are friendly, responsible and trustworthy. The students thanked the Board of Education for everything that they do for them. Mrs. Testa congratulated the sixth grade district leaders and presented them with a leadership award. Mrs. Lanci thanked the students for their inspiring presentation and for recognizing a Board member as a profession.

Mrs. Testa introduced Life Scout Gus Bresnaider, a Junior at Mephram High School and former Park Avenue graduate, who presented his proposed Eagle Scout project to the Board of Education. He explained that he would like to enhance and beautify the Park Avenue garden, as well as raising one of the beds in order to make it handicapped accessible.

Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 4-0, to approve the Eagle Scout project.

Mrs. Testa announced that we are celebrating the retirement of two district employees tonight: Ana Julia Pallotta, full time Cook, and Linda Van Name, account clerk in the Business Office.

Mrs. Testa thanked and congratulated Mrs. Pallotta for 26 years of service in the Lunch Program as a food service helper and a Cook and Mrs. Van Name for her 19 years of service to the district as a building secretary and account clerk in the Transportation Office. Mrs. Rehak, on behalf of the Administrators' Unit, Mr. Rosof, on behalf of the Principals' Association, Mrs. Elhilow, on behalf of the Teachers' Association, Mrs. Agoglia, on behalf of the CSEA Clerical/Cafeteria Unit, Mrs. Wessel, on behalf of the

Coordinating Council, Mrs. Obey, on behalf of Park Avenue School, all added their congratulations and best wishes to the retirees. The meeting adjourned for a “cake break” at 8:45 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no agenda item related questions.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Lanci advised that correspondence was received and will be addressed by the Board.

**TREASURER’S  
REPORT**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s report for the month ended December 31, 2019. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion and was carried 4-0.

**HIGH SCHOOL  
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci reported that the Board honored three Regeneron Science Talent Search Finalists and Scholars from Kennedy High School. Over \$3,000 was raised for the Community Cupboard from the proceeds of the Faculty Follies. They announced the retirement of Mephram teachers, Mr. Dircks, social studies and Mr. Leacock, science. The next meeting will take place on March 4.

**FINANCE**

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

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated February 6, 2020. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

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

**STAFF  
DEVELOPMENT**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated February 6, 2020, as presented. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S  
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa announced that World Read Aloud Day and Global Play Day were a huge success.

Mrs. Testa thanked Principal Brugge and the members of the Dinkelmeyer Safety Team who responded to the playground incident where a student was transported by helicopter to Cohen Children’s Hospital. The safety team responded in accordance with the Project SAVE Building Level Safety Plan which enabled them to respond instantaneously and provide proper

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

medical care. Safety and security of our students and employees will always be our number one concern.

Mrs. Testa stated that the administration is preparing for the 2020-21 budget and assessing enrollment, out of district placements, and our special education and general education programs. We are preparing a budget that supports initiatives while meeting fiduciary responsibilities.

Mrs. Testa reported that the district is changing transportation protocols that states in the event a driver arrives at the bus stop with a K-3 child and no parent or designee is at the bus stop to meet the child, the bus driver is required to keep the child on the bus until the route is completed. After that, the driver is required to return the child back to the home school. Mrs. Testa thanked Mrs. Rehak for implementing the new K-3 drop off protocol.

Mrs. Testa indicated that she is writing a letter to the Nassau County Board of Elections to request that they move the polling out of our school district and hold it elsewhere.

Mrs. Testa reported that she and Mrs. Pollitt have submitted an application to present at the New York State School Boards Association Annual Convention on our Climate Survey and how it was presented.

Mrs. Testa thanked the Verdi Family for their donation in the name of John Verdi, former principal of Dinkelmeyer School from 1977 – 1981, who passed away in 2010 at 83 years old.

**BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT** Mrs. Rehak reported on the following:

Central registration continues. At this time, we are looking at a projected enrollment of 270 students for kindergarten for September.

The new Food Services Manager, Mrs. Helena McKenna, started with the District a couple of weeks ago and has met with all the food service employees. She will be attending the Long Island Food Service Cooperative meeting on behalf of North Bellmore School District to fulfill our required attendance.

The budget calendar is finalized. The budget workshop will be held on March 11 at Martin Avenue School at 7:00 PM. The proposed budget will be presented at the April 2 Board of Education meeting at 7:30 PM at Martin Avenue for adoption by the Board. There is also a presentation to the PTA Coordinating Council on April 27 at 7:30 PM. District residents are invited to attend each of these presentations.

**BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT** The current tax levy cap is projected to be approximately 2.81 percent. Last year the tax levy cap was 2.80 percent for the District. The currently projected overall budget-to-budget increase is expected to be about 1.08 percent. Work will continue on the budget over the coming weeks.

We are keeping a close eye on enrollment as 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. There may also be potential for consolidations in some sections, as well as deconsolidations. These are important areas for the Board to consider for the March 11 Budget Workshop.

We have built in contingencies for three additional sections in the currently proposed budget which will be dependent on the Board's decisions related to these sections and where enrollment is as we get closer to the budget adoption date.

The tax cap calculation is due to the State Comptroller by March 1. In the preliminary budget we are appropriating \$1.5M from the current year to balance the budget. Last year we appropriated over \$1.8M. We are going to try and slowly reduce this amount each year so we are not relying on current year funds to cover subsequent year budgets.

**CURRICULUM &  
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt gave the following report:

Mrs. Pollitt talked about the shared reading experiences throughout the district and community. In recognition of World Read Aloud Day, members of the administration team created a special read aloud video for our students and staff on the book, Be You! The team had such fun creating this video on the book and hoped that everyone enjoyed the beautiful message and illustrations.

Mrs. Malone is leading a book club for North Bellmore administrators who are meeting monthly to discuss, Dare to Lead, and Brene Brown's work in the area of leading with courage, empathy, connection and vulnerability.

The Nassau County Elementary School Principals' Association has organized a "*One Book, One County*" initiative. All across Nassau County, teachers, administrators, parents and students (middle grades if reading independently) are encouraged to read the same book. Currently, they are reading, Shouting at the Rain, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. It culminates in a Twitter Chat on February 29 where interested participants can discuss the book through a series of guided questions.

**CURRICULUM &  
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

The Winter issue of The Beacon will focus on Mental Health and Wellness and will be mailed in the next week.

The Mental Health and Wellness Committee met on January 22 and discussed professional development and resources. The next meeting will be held on March 23 to plan for May Mental Health Awareness month.

Part two of our winter after school Professional Development Series, which focuses on Mental Health and Wellness, will take place next week.

Park Avenue and Martin Avenue Schools are piloting *Project Wisdom*. Each school will broadcast a collection of uplifting, thought-provoking loudspeaker messages that encourage everyone in school community to do and be their very best every day.

The APPR Committee will reconvene to revise our district's plan regarding student achievement measure. Specifically, grade 4 assessment. Next year there will be no grade 4 assessment. We are in the process of exploring our other options.

Mrs. McNamara and the literacy coaches are planning for the spring professional development on Superintendent's Conference Day.

**TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Fischetti gave the following updates:

The technology teachers are teaching courses at the Teachers Center. It's been a great experience for the teachers.

Smart Schools Bond Act: We are in the final round of instructional iPad purchases which includes: iPads for all reading teachers, sets of iPads for each library and charging/storage carts for each library.

The response to using the iPads for instructional purposes, especially in reading, ENL, and speech, has been overwhelmingly positive. As we had hoped, the devices allow the students to learn in new, different, engaging ways that weren't possible prior to the devices being put in place. There is \$150,000 remaining on the SSBA which will be used for additional security cameras, some camera replacements and network upgrades.

Ed Law Section 2d: Mr. Fischetti is in the process of compiling a list of all software titles, apps and online subscriptions to run them through the DPSS tool for Ed Law 2d compliance. Once all of our subscriptions are compiled and run through the compliance tool, we will be creating a new Parent Bill of Rights that will be posted on the website. The Bill of Rights lists all of our vendors with supporting compliance documentation, privacy policies etc.

PC Upgrades: We are almost done upgrading computers for all administrators and secretarial staff with machines we purchased last summer. The purpose of this is to move completely off of Windows 7 and

**TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT**

get all users on Windows 10, which provides far more security features, and the machines, in general, will run much faster.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
CSE/CSE REPORTS**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated January 30, 2020. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
REPORT**

Ms. Eskew gave the following updates:

We have received information from the Department of Health and the CDC regarding the Coronavirus and have sent this to the community. Both organizations have indicated that at this time there is no cause for concern on Long Island or in New York. It is suggested that the protocols established for the flu, relative to disinfecting surfaces, handling children who come to school with a fever, covering coughs and frequent handwashing are also effective means by which to prevent the spread of any virus. Mrs. Corless indicated that the strain of Coronavirus in New York is benign.

We have completed our visitations with students in out-of-district placements to assess whether the needs of these students can be met in a less restrictive setting. At this time, we anticipate that four students meet this criteria at this time and the Parents and CSE will consider the change of placement at the student's annual review meeting.

Over the summer, all nurses and physical education teachers were re-certified in the areas of AED and CPR. We are now planning for the certification of additional personnel across the district.

We have received several requests for early entry to kindergarten. Ms. Eskew will be reaching out to these parents to explain our practice in this regard. After assessments are performed, the team will make a recommendation to the Superintendent, who will make the final decision.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless and passed 4-0 for the following consent agenda items: 16.1 – 16.6.

**NEW BUSINESS  
CONTRACTS**

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

- Nassau County Dept. of Human Services Office of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency & Developmental Disabilities Services
- Rockville Centre UFSD
- Charles R. Smith, Jr.
- Henry Viscardi School

**DONATIONS**

16.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Mark Verdi, Verdi Family Trust, of a check in the amount of \$300 to be used to pay off outstanding lunch accounts at John G. Dinkelmeyer School in memory of former principal, John Verdi.

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

16.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve an Employment Agreement between North Bellmore Board of Education and Helena McKenna for the 2019-20 school year.

**IMA FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION RELATED SERVICES RFP**

16.4 WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals for Special Education Related Services to commence in the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the North Bellmore School District desires to participate with these school districts for the joint solicitation of proposals for Special Education Related Services as authorized by General Municipal Law Section 119-o, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the attached Inter-Municipal Cooperative Agreement (“IMA”) among the participating school districts; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it would be in its best financial interest to solicit proposals for Special Education Related Services on a cooperative basis;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the School District to participate with other Nassau County public school districts for the solicitation of proposals for Special Education Related Services on a cooperative basis, subject to the terms and conditions of the IMA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts and approves the appointment of Roslyn Union Free School District as the Lead Participant for purposes of facilitating and coordinating the solicitation of proposals in accordance with the IMA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the attached IMA and authorizes the Board President to execute the IMA on behalf of the Board of Education.

**DONATION**

16.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Saw Mill Road School PTA of a check in the amount of \$1191.97 to be used to purchase a water bottle refilling station for the students in the upstairs classrooms at Saw Mill Road School. (The acceptance of the bottle

filling station was previously approved at the November 14, 2019 Board meeting.

**NBTA 2019-20  
RETIREMENT INCENTIVE**

16.6 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a Memorandum of Agreement By and Between North Bellmore Union Free School District and the North Bellmore Teachers' Association Regarding a 2019-20 Retirement Incentive.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Shuart (Sherman Ave.) asked the Board if they considered sending a letter to Governor Cuomo opposing mandatory HPV vaccine to attend school.

Mrs. Testa stated that the component and Southeast Quadrant superintendents are discussing the issue and working on the possibility of drafting a letter to be given to the Board to look at for their consideration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Corless seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 4-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan  
District Clerk