



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES – MARCH 11, 2021  
Via Zoom Video Conference**

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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, March 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  
Jason Fischetti, Executive Director of Technology, Data and Information Services  
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. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Lanci to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session at 6:41 PM. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:56 PM.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Mrs. Corless led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Mrs. Lanci read the District’s mission statement.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Business meeting of February 11, 2021. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.
- 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 January 31, 2021. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**HIGH SCHOOL  
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci reported that the Board met last on March 3. The Board recognized the National Merit Scholarship Finalists from Calhoun, Mephram and Kennedy High Schools via zoom. The Board approved the 2021 Registration and Voting information, the district's Reserve Plan and the establishment of a scholarship in memory of science teacher, Jason Vitale. The Board adopted the School Safety Plan. The next meeting will be held on April 7.

**FINANCE**

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

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa reported that she has been speaking with students around the district to gather some data on how they are handling things being different in school this year. Many students said that they are not bothered by wearing the masks any more. One student said that he would like more art. They mentioned that the barriers on the desk are challenging as they are difficult to look through at times. They appreciate going outside more often, and they didn't think that the specials changed too much. They appreciate the different ways that their music teachers are making music fun in the classroom. Overall, most were not aware of the trauma that they have experienced in the pandemic. However, the administration is concerned about any academic gaps there might be, services that were missed and how the remote children are feeling.

Mrs. Testa stated that she and the Board recognize that we are looking at multiple priorities in the budget. We value all the programs that we have built over time. Unfortunately, we have placed several programs and initiatives on pause and reimagined successfully language instruction, Alpha and Instrumental Music. We worked strategically over nearly 71/2 years to build our finances so that we can move forward with our capital reserve plan. It hurts very much when we have to put programs on pause, but we have to wait for guidance from the state regarding reopening guidelines. We have to think about how the children can continue to thrive as we move forward.

With the trauma of COVID-19, there has been an increase in anxiety and depression among students. Mrs. Testa stated that the District recognizes that our Mental Health and Wellness programs must be priority at this time. The pandemic has had a major impact on education and health. Students have faced many challenges: difficulty with remote learning, isolation, attention span difficulty, social distancing, lack of engagement and socialization, having to wearing masks, sitting behind barriers and disruptions in routine. Mental Health is a prerequisite for learning and for life. It is vital to keep our eye on social emotional learning with our students, faculty and staff. Our social workers and prevention specialists are fully trained to deliver the social and emotional learning (SEL) that is required and are familiar with the passive framework which helps students in the classroom learn how to establish and maintain relationships, make responsible decisions, self-management and social awareness skills. Mrs. Testa added that she is very proud of the district's SEL program that we have been implementing for more than

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

25 years. Over the years, Mrs. Pollitt and Mrs. Signorelli have been asked to speak about our program in different venues. As we move forward, we look to the Board and we wait for the NYS regulations to come through, to evaluate all our programs, what we do, what we look to build, what is our why, and who are we in North Bellmore.

Mrs. Testa advised that Gov. Cuomo announced today that domestic travelers will no longer be required to quarantine after entering New York from another U.S. State or U.S. Territory starting April 1. While no longer required, the NYS Department of Health still recommends quarantine after domestic travel as an added precaution. Mandatory quarantine is still required for International travelers. Mrs. Testa added that she will be sending further guidance to families once she receives it.

Mrs. Testa reported that we have received approximately 180 applications for the assistant principalship and over 75 applications for principalship. Two teams of administrators are reviewing the resumes. Moving forward, we will form a committee of parents, faculty, staff, as well as our students at Saw Mill Road and Park Avenue, to learn about what qualities they would like to see in their next principal and assistant principal. We look forward to moving forward with the search.

Mrs. Testa stated the Board is aware of the different COVID cases in the district, especially at Saw Mill Road School recently. Fortunately, the number of positive cases are diminishing. We are seeing minimal in-class transmission due to the fact that more families are taking their children for testing, more adults are testing, and a heavy emphasis is placed on contact tracing, rigorous daily cleaning and disinfection of the classrooms. Unfortunately, when an adult tests positive in a classroom, many times COVID spreads more readily as many cases are asymptomatic. In several classes there were post-quarantine positives. Our data indicates that lower than two percent of student body, faculty and staff at Saw Mill were infected, indicating that it is not a spread in the school. We are looking forward to welcoming back the recently quarantined classes at Saw Mill classes on March 15 and 16.

Mrs. Testa thanked BMCHSD for graciously inviting the component district staff and faculty to their on-site COVID-19 testing at Brookside.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S  
MONTH RECOGNITION**

In recognition of International Women's Month, Mrs. Testa congratulated Mrs. Erhard who was featured in Home Business Magazine for all her work with start-up companies that are run by women by getting them funding. Syntax Communications will be featuring an article on our board of successful women leaders and plans to feature the piece on our website and release the article as a press release to the Bellmore Herald. Mrs. Testa thanked all the women on the Board for being terrific role models. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Corless also congratulated Jo-Ann Erhard.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT  
BUDGET PRESENTATION**

(See attached budget presentation.)

Mrs. Testa provided an overview of District programs and fully explained the status of all the reimagined programs. In addition, Mrs. Testa explained that the NYS health and instructional COVID-19 regulations have not yet been issued. We are waiting to hear if remote learning is required. We are waiting to hear about health and safety requirements.

In Summary, Mrs. Rehak stated that she is presenting a budget that is within the tax cap (increase of 1.54 percent) and represents a budget-to-budget increase of 1.90 percent. There will be two additional propositions on the ballot this year, if approved by the Board: Proposition Two: To fund the security vestibules through unappropriated fund balance, Proposition Three: To fund the Capital Reserve originally approved by voters in June 2020.

Upcoming dates:

April 8 – Board of Education Meeting – Budget Adoption at 7:30 PM

April 19 – Budget presentation to the PTA Coordinating Council at 7:30 PM

May 10 - Board of Education Meeting – Budget Presentation at 7:30 PM

May 18 - Budget Vote and Annual Trustee Election –

Newbridge Road School 6 AM – 9 PM. (We expect it to be in person at this time.)

**Questions from the Board  
of Education**

The following questions were raised on the budget presentation:

Mrs. Corless asked a question about the Federal Aid that we are looking to receive. In the past, if we received Lottery money, they would take that amount of state aid away and replace it with the Lottery money. We still got the same exact amount of aid-- just funded differently. Do we know if this will this happen with this Federal money? Will it be in addition to state aid, or will it be in replace of state aid?

**Questions from the Board of Education**

Mrs. Rehak stated that the Governor's original budget in January showed a local funding negative adjustment to our state aid that is being backfilled with federal dollars. Those federal monies are from federal funding that was approved in December (\$4 billion). They are backfilling the cut in state aid with Federal money. In the initial budget that was proposed in January, that is happening. Hopefully, we will have a clearer picture on April 1. Many groups are advocating to not put us in this position.

Mrs. Cmar-Grote asked a question regarding adding programs back in when the district is able to do so. Are there any STEAM programs that the district is looking to research further when the pandemic settles down?

Mrs. Testa stated that the administration and Technology team has been researching the best programs in the area. Mrs. Testa recently overviewed Baldwin's STEAM program where there are science rooms, science stations, and STEAM stations. Mrs. Testa added that over the years she has been working with Mr. Fischetti, Mr. Bevilacqua, Mrs. DiChiara and Mrs. MacTiernan to create a STEAM location at Gunther School that we could bring our classes over as a field a field trip environment.

Mrs. Testa added that she has spoken with Mr. DeTommaso at BMCHSD to learn what STEAM activities they doing at the middle and high schools that we could bring forward.

Mrs. Testa stated that is a very challenging time for the Board and the District as we look at every valuable program we can bring forward and look into other program considerations we can build for the future as we await the NYS regulations. Spacing regulations are a big factor. It is a time to rebuild, retool and move forward in North Bellmore.

Mrs. Erhard commented that there were many positive impacts of COVID-19, such as the Language Enrichment Program. In addition to Spanish, we were able to offer French and Italian this year, and Mrs. Pollitt is trying to bring in Mandarin. Perhaps we can look to bring this program forward next year and also as a continuing program. Aren't there a lot of positives we found in COVID?

Mrs. Testa agreed that there have been many positive impacts of the pandemic. In addition to the Virtual Language Enrichment Program, the District has also successfully delivered a fifth and sixth grade Virtual Instrumental Music Program.

Although the traditional model of our Alpha Program was put on pause, we were able to create a new Alpha Afterschool Virtual Enrichment program for students in grades 4-6, who were already participating in the Alpha Program.

The principals report a reduction in the number of cases of teasing and bullying at recess and lunch. The children report enjoying lunch in their classroom as they

**Questions from the Board of Education**

have more time to eat and digest their food. Stronger friendships are coming out of cohorts.

Teachers report the positive results of adding the Health and Wellness block in helping children with their social emotional needs.

There has been a cross pollination of talent and sharing of ideas through zoom meetings. Teachers are zooming into other teacher's classrooms and into other school districts.

We are hoping to be able to get our programs back as well as finding different ways to offer more opportunities to the students in the post-pandemic landscape. We are very grateful to all parents for their flexibility and understanding.

Mrs. Corless commented that something good needs to come out of the pandemic. If we can recreate things and reimagine, and if people have suggestions, we are more than willing to listen.

Mrs. Erhard asked a question on the capital improvement projects. If we do our Building and Survey next school year and it shows a more urgent problem than black top or ceiling tiles, are we able to make shifts to the current capital project that we built in to fix the problem, or must it be used specifically for those two items?

Mrs. Rehak said that it is specifically for those two items. If something bigger were to come up in the report, we would have to look at establishing an additional capital reserve, putting a capital project through the budget, or doing a bond project.

**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt provided the following updates:

**Language Enrichment Experience for 6<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Mrs. Pollitt also agreed that the Language Enrichment experience has been a positive outcome of COVID. We are running an eight week virtual after school zoom sessions: two cohorts in Spanish (one in March and one in April), one cohort each of French and one Italian. Mrs. Pollitt added that she just spoke with to a person who may potentially be able to deliver a class in Mandarin. Mrs. Pollitt stated that she was looking forward to getting both parent and student feedback on their experience.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Final Counts:** 244 are students remaining virtual. We are-keeping all 15 virtual classes open. 35 students moving to in-person, 1 student is moving into virtual. Parent letters with class placements were mailed on Monday. Virtual and in-person teachers are communicating with one another as well as specialists and support staff to prepare for the transition which begins March 19.

**CURRICULUM &  
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

**NYSED Testing update:** As reported last month, NYSED submitted a waiver to US Department Of Education to eliminate testing for 20-21. On February 22, the USDOE issued a memo that states must administer assessments. It was noted that flexibility will be given to states to shorten tests, delay them and apply for waivers on accountability designations based on them. We are waiting to hear information and then will inform the public as soon as possible so they can make informed decisions regarding their children and testing.

This week, NYSED issued an *Assessment Strategies Survey* which is due by March 15, which we submitted today. The purpose of survey is to gather information from districts about our local approaches to student assessment. This information will be used to inform NYSED's conversations with the United States Department of Education about the administration of the spring 2021 State assessments. NYSED hopes to showcase the wide range of quality assessment practices that are taking place at the school and district level throughout New York State.

**March OLSAT Testing (Otis Lennon School Ability Test)** As mentioned last month, second and third graders test this year as usual. Parents of students in our virtual second and third grade classes will have opportunity to bring their children to school in a central location for testing. Today, 13 grade 2 virtual students were tested at Newbridge Road School—Auditorium. Everything went very smooth. All health and safety measures were followed, including screening. Next week 18 grade virtual students will test at Newbridge. We now have a protocol in place to safely bring in virtual testing if state testing occurs.

**Governor's Executive Order:** On February 23, there was an Executive Order issued by the Governor regarding the collection of data relative to the number of vaccinated teachers in schools. It was soon after recalled. That order is on pause. We are set and prepared whenever it is required to do so.

**Positive Student Leader Program—6<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Every spring the middle school students visit our sixth grade classes. Mrs. Signorelli coordinated this with the BMHSD and it will take place virtually this year via zoom.

Mrs. Erhard commented that since there were still openings available in the French and Italian Virtual Enrichment classes, according to the email that was sent out today, can we consider opening up the classes to fifth graders. Mrs. Pollitt thanked Mrs. Erhard for the suggestion and said that she would look into that possibility.

**TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

As a follow up to Mrs. Erhard's question at last month's meeting regarding the need to support families with Wi-Fi if they needed it for virtual learning, we received two requests for assistance with Wi-Fi from parents this week. We are going to be purchasing 10 Wi-Fi units through BOCES so that we can support those virtual families and have a few spares should we receive additional requests.

**TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

**Security Updates:** We have completed surveying the buildings for a complete security and surveillance upgrade. We are happy to have reached this stage in our scaffolded plan which is now available to us because of the server and software upgrade that is currently underway.

As part of the upgrade, Mrs. Testa recommended that we heed the recommendation by Homeland Security to place three camera viewing stations in designated locations. The viewing stations will provide immediate access to all cameras across the district to law enforcement or authorities in the case of an emergency.

**Data Reporting:** The Technology Department is very busy working to meet the new data reporting requirements due to COVID regarding attendance and teacher certifications. The teachers and nurses have been really great about keeping accurate attendance records and newly required coding due to quarantine vs. virtual, and remote present vs. absent. We just completed an audit of teacher certification and placement. Teachers used to manage their own records with the state in a portal, but now the district is required to handle it, and any discrepancies will be handled at the district level.

**iPads:** iPads for grade 2 are expected to arrive the week of March 22. We have received carts and cases for all of grade two on a one to one basis. We have been piloting iPads in some grade 2 classes in order to gauge the readiness of the students and plan for the instructional support when the devices do roll out.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT**

Ms. Eskew gave the following updates:

With input from Mrs. Malone, Mrs. Fisher and our music teachers, we have ordered adaptive recorders for our ILP students in grades 3 and 4. The recorder adaptation includes the addition of silicone key flaps that make it easier for children to completely cover the tone holes, particularly for students with fine motor or coordination issues.

We are in the process of reviewing applications for teaching positions, as well as the principal position for the Extended School Year program. It appears that we will have enough teachers to cover the classes. Mrs. Eskew is working with Mrs. Malone to get the summer school program up and running. We have accepted one tuition paying student so far. Applicants will be carefully screened to make sure that they are a good fit for our program.

Mrs. Eskew is working with Ms. Hartnett reviewing our anticipated enrollment in ICT and ILP classes for the 2021-22 school year in order to determine our staffing needs.

**CPSE/CSE REPORTS**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated March 4, 2021. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.



- CONSENT AGENDA** Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Erhard and carried 5-0 for the following consent agenda items: Nos. 15.1 – 15.9.
- NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS** 15.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2020-21 school year:  
 -Christine Baudin, M.S., CC-SLP  
 -Beyond Boundaries Therapeutic Services  
 -Hicksville School District (Health & Welfare)  
 -North Merrick UFSD (Health & Welfare)  
 -Edward M. Petrosky, Psy.D., ABPP
- POLICIES 2<sup>ND</sup> READNG AND ADOPTION** 15.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following policies for a second reading and adoption:  
 Policy No. 6705 – Federal Funds Purchasing  
 Policy No. 2520 – Board Member Training
- NB DISTRICT-WIDE SAFETY PLAN** 15.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education adopts the January 14, 2021 revised district-wide safety plan, to be in compliance with the NYSED regulations and directs that the district-wide plan be filed with the Commissioner of Education within 30 days of the adoption of this Resolution.
- MEMORANDUM OF EMPLOYMENT** 15.4 **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 an Amendment to the Memorandum of Employment between the School District and Jeanne Canavan; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute this Amendment to the Memorandum of Employment on the Board of Education’s behalf.
- TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT** 15.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a new transportation contract for the 2020-21 school year with We Transport, Inc. for the transport of a student to the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf.
- CONSULTANT AGREEMENT** 15.6 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a consultant contract with Dr. Thomas Caramore for the 2020-21 school year.
- 15.7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education shall present to the qualified voters of the North Bellmore Union Free School District at the annual meeting to be held on May 18, 2021 the following proposition in substantially the following form:

**PROPOSITION #2**  
**CAPITAL PROJECTS PROPOSITION**

SHALL the Board of Education be authorized to install security vestibules at each of the District’s schools, including incidental and necessary improvements and expenses in connection therewith at a cost of \$350,000, to be funded from current funds available within the general fund, which funds are to be transferred from

surplus monies remaining in the 2020/2021 general fund to the capital fund in the budget?

**PROPOSITION #3  
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

15.8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education shall present to the qualified voters of the North Bellmore Union Free School District at the annual meeting to be held on May 18, 2021 the following proposition in substantially the following form:

**PROPOSITION #3**

SHALL the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District be authorized to fund the Capital Reserve Fund established on June 16, 2020 as follows: (a) up to \$7,500,000 from 2020-2021 unexpended fund balance; and (b) up to \$3,500,000 each year thereafter from unexpended fund balance?

**SEQRA – SECURITY  
VESITBULES**

15.9

**SEQRA RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvements at the District’s facilities: (1) security vestibules at all district schools, including Martin Avenue Elementary School, John G. Dinkelmeyer Elementary School, Newbridge Road Elementary School, Park Avenue Elementary School and Saw Mill Road Elementary School; (hereinafter the “Projects”); and

**WHEREAS**, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

**WHEREAS**, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

**WHEREAS**, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2)); and

**WHEREAS**, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(10));

**WHEREAS**, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that

**SEQRA – SECURITY  
VESITBULES**

the Projects are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1), (2) and (10) of the SEQR Regulations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Projects are Type II Actions, which require no further review under SEQR; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mrs. Testa reminded the public that the budget vote and annual trustee election is on May 18. There are two open seats on the Board of Education. Petitions are available for anyone interested at the district office.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Do you plan to allow the Bellmore Merrick Childcare Program to operate in the 2021-22 school year? Mrs. Testa said she cannot answer the question yet and that the District is working with the Bellmore Merrick Childcare Program regarding the 2021-22 program.

If the regulations go back to the way they were for instrumental music and chorus, we will be able to provide our students with an in-person instrumental music and chorus program and bring back the Bellmore-Merrick Childcare Program.

If the social distance protocols for music stay the same (6 and 12 ft. apart), we will need to utilize the cafeteria and gym in the morning and afternoon, which are the same areas that the childcare program is permitted to use. Or, we may have to decide to offer a remote instrumental music program only.

We are looking at all the options. If there a way to have both programs, we will. We will set up another meeting with Mrs. Smith and try to develop a plan.

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Corless stated they recognize that all programs are important and will look at all the options.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

2. Will parents be the ones to decide if their child wears a mask in school next year? Mrs. Testa stated that districts are waiting for the state to inform us of what the requirements will be for next year. Under the present regulations, schools must utilize physical barriers and follow mask mandates.

In order for North Bellmore to ensure a six foot distance in classrooms, we would have to utilize every available space in the cafeteria, gyms, auditorium, stages, office spaces and libraries, and we would most likely have to go a hybrid model. At this time, we plan on following the current regulations until we hear otherwise.

3. Ms. Aglio asked the following questions:
  - a) Is the UPK program still expected to be funded and when will the drawing take place? Mrs. Pollitt stated that is expected to be funded, however, we will not be informed until after the lottery and after the school year ends. UPK applications are due tomorrow and the lottery will be held on March 19. We will let families know as soon as possible.
  - b) Will shields need to be repurchased next year or can they be reused, if the regulations still require. Mrs. Rehak stated, if regulations still require them, we may be able to reuse some of them, however, we may need to replace them as time goes on. We have replaced some this year and it is included in the budget. The shields we purchased are very durable, but they are not meant to last long term.
  - c) If guidelines stay the same and a large number of virtual students want to return to in person, will the district be able to fit all the students and maintain a full time status. Mrs. Testa said that she will place the students as they return and will amend our reopening plan. We will plan to follow the regulations with masks and barriers as we did this year and wait to learn if there will be any changes in regulations.
4. Mrs. Licata asked a question regarding the spreading situation at Saw Mill recently and have there been any lessons learned that can be taken from the situation to prevent this from happening again. Mrs. Testa stated that there is not one thing we could have done differently. The Department of Health advised us every step of the way and analyzed our contact tracing data. We followed all DOH recommendations. We went back to a 14-day quarantine. We worked with the High School District to ensure that siblings were quarantining and not going to school in the middle and high

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

schools. Our immediate quarantining of the class upon the first initial case is what prevented the spread. There was not a spread in the school. Only two percent of less of the 722 students were positive. After much contract tracing and interviewing, our data shows that several of the initial positives were due to interactions that took place outside of the school, such as play dates, sporting events, dining out and family gatherings. This was not an in-school spread. We are very proactive following deep cleaning and disinfecting protocols at the schools.

Mrs. Corless thanked everyone for their questions. The next Board meeting and budget adoption will take place on April 8.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Mrs. Erhard, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 5-0 to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel at 10:16 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Erhard, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan  
District Clerk