



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – August 12, 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, August 12, 2021, in the All Purpose Room of the Martin Avenue School at 2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, New York, and via Zoom Video Conference.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

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

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

- Rosemarie Corless, President

Also present:

- Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
- Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Jacqueline Rehak, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Jason Fischetti, Executive Director of Technology, Data and Information Services
- Leyna Malone, Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education
- Steven A. Goodstadt, District Counsel
- Laurice Gunnels, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. Erhard, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

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

Mrs. Malloy read the District’s Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Reorganization/Business meeting July 8, 2021, and Business Meetings of December 10, 2020, and January 2021. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Erhard advised that the Board received correspondence and it was discussed in Executive Session.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s report for the month ended June 30, 2021. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS

Mrs. Lanci reported that the Board met on Wednesday, August 4th. Orientation for Grades 7 and 9 were announced for August 24th. School will open on September 1st. Policies were revised on Capital Assets. Items were approved including contracts with BOCES, the APPR Plan, the Professional Development Plan, Tax Allocation, and CPSE and CSE reports. The next meeting will be held on September 1, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0 for the following consent agenda items: Nos. 9.1-9.4.

FINANCE

9.1 The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for June 29-30, 2021, and the month of July 2021.

9.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, THAT THE Board of Education approve the budgetary transfers dated August 12, 2021.

9.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following budget (Gross Amount) of the necessary claims and expenditures in North Bellmore UFSD (#4) in the Town of Hempstead School year 2021 – 2022, amounting to

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| \$ 110,754,915 | School Purpose |
| <u>3,665,324</u> | Library Purpose |
| TOTAL \$ 114,420,239 | be and the same is hereby |

accepted.

RESOLVED that the sum of \$ 78,594,165 School Purpose

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|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>3,665,324</u> | Library Purpose |
| TOTAL \$ 82,259,489 | be the remainder of budget |

adopted as above and the amount which must be RAISED BY TAXATION (NET AMOUNT) for North Bellmore UFSD (#4) of the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York for the year 2021–22 be levied upon the taxable property of the said school district as said property has been certified to by the Assessor for the school year 2021-22.

RESOLVED, that the District Clerk of this School District is hereby authorized and directed, pursuant to Section 6–20.0 and amendments thereto of the Nassau County Administrative Code, to file a certified copy of these resolutions with the Nassau County Legislature and the Department of Assessment, Mineola, New York on or before August 16, 2021.

FINANCE
(continued)

9.4 WHEREAS, the Board established a capital reserve fund known as the “Capital Reserve Fund” pursuant to Education Law, section 3651 in June of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the School District authorized the transfer of up to \$7,500,000 in unexpended fund balance to the Capital Reserve fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the transfer of \$7,500,000 from unexpended fund balance from the 2020-2021 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools or her designee to effectuate said transfer in accordance with law.**

The Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of all resolutions including 10.1 through 15.7.

SUPERINTENDENT’S
REPORT

Mrs. Testa spoke to the new hires this year. She began first by congratulating Mrs. Fisher, Director of Personnel, and Mrs. Amanda Licci, now the Interim Principal of Newbridge Road School. She expressed her gratitude to both Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Licci for their hard work in facilitating a smooth transition.

Mrs. Testa also welcomed the following new teachers to North Bellmore:

- Ms. Melissa Halaris, Probationary Teacher K-6
- Ms. Leslie Rentz, Probationary Music Teacher
- Ms. Alexa Rossi, Probationary Teacher 1-6
- Mr. Jordan Sabinsky, Probationary Teacher K-6
- Ms. Catherine Schlaich, Probationary Teacher K-6 - Technology

She further expressed her gratitude to all the Building Administrators for their participation in the interview process.

Mrs. Testa announced that schools will reopen *fully* for all students beginning Wednesday, September 1, 2021. While remote learning is not an option this year, the District will be prepared to provide remote instruction upon a public school emergency or health emergency closures. This has been in discussion in the event the need arises for the District to pivot immediately.

Mrs. Testa then moved onto the Reopening Plan for the 2021-22 school year. First, she thanked the Board and the NBRT for the development of a survey for the Parents, Staff, and Faculty to submit, and expressed her gratitude to all that participated. Mrs. Testa then presented the Board a detailed presentation (outline attached) for consideration when developing the Reopening Plan for the 2021-22 school year. The outline was presented via video screen for the community to view while the Administrators reviewed it detail by detail. This presentation included the following:

1) A detailed timeline of recommendations and guidance received by the District to date.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(continued)**

2) Health, Safety, and Prevention Guidelines from all the various Agencies to date including the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and NYSED.

3) Detailed results of the survey conducted on topics including temperature checks, mask options, health screenings, quarantine protocols, and contact tracing.

4) Social distancing of the 3 feet versus 6 feet in the cafeterias, classrooms, restrooms, and hallways, and the implication that this may have on quarantine protocols coupled with the mask options.

5) School Transportation – students riding the school buses must wear a mask. This is mandated under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act where passengers and drivers **must** wear a mask on school buses including those buses operated by public and private schools regardless of vaccination status.

Mrs. Testa continued to state that these are recommendations and information to assist the Board in making an informed decision on the Reopening Plan. The District will continue to be transparent by updating the Board and the Community on all facts received. All of the information will be utilized to formulate and issue the 2021-2022 Reopening Plan.

Mrs. Testa concluded by again thanking the North Bellmore Reopening Team and the Community for sharing their voices. Mrs. Testa then inquired of the Board if they had any questions.

BOE QUESTIONS

Mrs. Cmar-Grote – Is the equipment ready for live streaming and how will you ensure the privacy of our children? Mrs. Pollitt responded that the wiring and cabling were just completed. The machines that are hooked up to the Smart Boards are hardwired which will help with connectivity and no longer rely on Wifi. Mr. Fischetti did purchase webcams and they were tested for viewing and sound. The District's priority is to ensure the privacy of the children. Experimentation with regard to location was done to limit the viewable area so other students sitting in the classroom are not visible. Confidentiality is a priority and we will continue to work on this.

Mrs. Malloy inquired about mainstreaming the Special Education students. Do we have a plan in place for it regardless of masks options to get that option on their IEP's for their involvement with the General Education classes? Mrs. Testa responded that Mrs. Malone has been working on that. Those students will have both cohorts and will be mainstreaming.

Mrs. Erhard – With the various layering options that you have at our disposal, how is that going to work with our cleaning services, mixing cohorts at recess in the lunchroom, the specials and the resource room? Are we going to have full snacks at lunch next year? Mrs. Testa responded to the latter first ... yes, ala carte is back and Mrs. Rehak added syrup will be back as well. Mrs. Testa continued

**BOE QUESTIONS
(continued)**

with the layering point ... we are going to prepare different plans for the various layering options (masks, no masks, mask optional). The District is keeping all the extra custodial cleaners that were hired during COVID. Mrs. Testa praised their work. All classrooms will be supplied with sanitizing wipes. Buildings and Grounds at recess will maintain the playgrounds. As to the specials, the District is working on a plan to put the teachers back into their classrooms (no longer on carts), and have the children travel with protocols in place for cleaning. Also, we are currently looking at options for the usage of supplies, ie. sharing supplies, private supply kits, and/or cleaning options for the supplies.

Mrs. Malloy raised another question ... assemblies such as Character Spotlights, do we have a plan in place to bring back assembly options so the children can enjoy some normalcy that they had prior? Mrs. Testa responded that the entire Administration team agree that we should try to bring back as much normalcy as possible and have assemblies where the children are together. Mrs. Testa expressed that this started at the end of the last school year with the outdoor picnics and the Administrators will continue to assess options to bring the children together going forward when feasible.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0 for the following consent agenda items: Nos. 10.1-10.2.

PERSONNEL REPORT

10.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated August 12, 2021.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

10.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, THAT THE Board Of Education approve the Staff Development dated August 12, 2021.

BUSINESS REPORT

Mrs. Rehak reported that the audit is well underway. The Auditors were at the District Office last week and completed their field work. The work on the part of the District has begun to prepare the Financial Statements for review in addition to the annual Transparency and State Aide Reporting.

Mrs. Rehak was also happy to share that the CRRSA grant was approved last week for just over \$1 million. This grant is directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The District can now move forward with expending those funds to hire additional personnel and conduct professional development to assist in addressing learning loss and any other repercussions directly impacted by the pandemic.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt began by reporting that some of the District's full time reading teachers are participating and will complete tomorrow a 30-hour class called the Orton Gillingham Approach. Mrs. Pollitt explained the program features a multi-sensory approach to literacy and is especially beneficial for those students with Dyslexia. This training is another learning strategy that the District provides their reading teachers. Mrs. Pollitt added that for those reading teachers who could not attend over the summer training will be provided in the fall.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT
(continued)**

Mrs. Pollitt shared that Orientation for the new faculty and staff will be held on Thursday, August 26th. Superintendent's Conference Day and Staff Development Workshops are in the planning stages and information will be forthcoming in the upcoming weeks.

And as a final update, Mrs. Pollitt expressed that all placements for UPK have been filled.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Mr. Fischetti reported on the status of the technology upgrades being performed District wide:

- ICAS has been on site installing network cables to support live streaming if necessary.
- Security upgrades are ongoing throughout the District.
- The equipment for the new Tech Labs has begun to arrive and preparation to distribute is underway.
- Tech Equipment is installing Smart Boards District wide in Grades 5-6 classrooms. Professional Development for teachers in the usage of this equipment is being arranged.

In addition, Mr. Fischetti announced that the Technology Department hired a new Technology Teacher this week for Grades 4-6 Coding and Robotics.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
REPORT**

Mrs. Malone began with an update on the SE Extended School Year Program. The children participated in SE Summer Games (Olympics), walking trips, and overall learning with fun this summer. With the program concluding tomorrow, Mrs. Malone extended her gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Kaminska, Ms. Egan, Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Kropp, Ms. Leroux, and all the teachers and paraprofessionals for their hard work in making the program a success.

Mrs. Malone informed the Board that 22 percent of the new registrants from July 1st to date have IEP's. She advised that staffing implications due to this were reviewed, minor adjustments were made, and reported that there is sufficient coverage for the start of the new school year.

Mrs. Malone lastly reported that she has been working closely with SEPTA's Executive Board, Mrs. Rolston and Mrs. Gallagher, on conducting a needs assessment across the District and a survey is being created for District wide participation. She expressed that SEPTA is not only for parents who are members of the Special Ed PTA, but rather the entire Community. There are a wide variety of topics beneficial to all children and families including positive parenting techniques, anxiety in children, reading disorders, and gifted education. Mrs. Malone encouraged all parents to complete the survey.

- CPSE/CSE REPORTS** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated August 4, 2021. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.
- CONSENT AGENDA** Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0 for the following consent agenda items: Nos. 15.1 – 15.7.
- NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS**
- 15.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2021-22 school year:
- Access 7 Services, Inc. (Academic Tutoring)
 - Access 7 Services, Inc. (Related Services)
 - Fontanetta Neuropsychology, PLLC
 - Frances Bacon (Professional Development)
 - Frontier Behavioral Services, LLC (Academic Tutoring)
 - Frontier Behavioral Services, LLC (Related Services)
 - LI Emergency Care Training, LLC
 - Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc. (Related Services)
 - Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc. (Skilled Nursing Services)
 - Merrick
 - Network Adjusters, Inc.
 - Henry Viscardi School (Tuition)
 - Mary Watros (Staff Development)
 - Wee Friends Too Nursery (UPK)
- DISTRICT WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN** 15.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education readopt the District-Wide School Safety Plan (Emergency Plan) for the 2021/22 school year. A copy of the District Emergency Plan will be on file in the District Office.
- EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT** 15.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the hiring of Eileen Speidel on a temporary basis to serve in the capacity of a master scheduler in her position at a per diem rate of \$860.37; not to exceed 15 total days (Effective July 21, 2021).
- DONATIONS**
- 15.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the John G. Dinkelmeyer PTA of a Buddy, the friendly dog, school mascot costume to be worn on school spirit days, for assemblies, and to be placed outside of the gym as a visual symbol of unity and pride (approximate value \$2,500) for the students of John G. Dinkelmeyer School.
- 15.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the John G. Dinkelmeyer PTA of sensory pathway decals to be placed throughout the school hallways and allow for all students to engage in movement throughout the school day (approximate value \$1800).
- NBTA AGREEMENT** 15.6 **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 between North Bellmore UFSD and the North Bellmore Teachers' Association for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 20, 2024.

CUSTODIAL BUS DRIVER AGREEMENT

15.7 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves the execution of an Agreement by and between the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District and CSEA North Bellmore UFSD Custodial Bus Driver Unit, Nassau County Educational Local 865 for the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Cartlidge (Stephen Street) offered a statement that *Masks should be a family decision*. Mrs. Erhard thanked her for her input.

Ms. Pascalli (Briggs Street) – Can COVID funds be used for air purifiers to be put in classrooms? Mrs. Rehak responded that the budget for the COVID funds have already been allocated, submitted for review, and approved. Air purifiers were not a part of those budgets that were submitted. Mrs. Erhard inquired if more grants were available and Mrs. Rehak responded the District always looks for more grants and will continue to do so.

Ms. Zukowski (Oak Street) – The gates around the school are locked during off hours- what time/days are they opened - having those locked has there been less problems on our school grounds? During the school year there was still graffiti and beer cans. How was it over the summer months? Mrs. Testa inquired first and confirmed the inquiry was of the Martin Avenue School building. Mrs. Testa responded that during the weekdays the gates are locked at dusk and reopened in the morning. These efforts have proven beneficial. Mrs. Testa added that the District is currently working on a plan to have the gates unlocked during the daytime hours on the weekends for the residents of the Community.

Ms. Pascalli (Briggs Street) – Why are vaccinated people not quarantined? It has been proven that people vaccinated can get COVID and transmit it. Will the faculty and staff be required to provide proof of vaccination? Mrs. Testa responded that The Department of Health sets the vaccination and quarantine rules. The regulations put forth currently from the Nassau County Department of Health is quarantine is not required for those who are vaccinated. And as to the second part, Mrs. Testa responded that faculty and staff have voluntarily shown their vaccination card when requested during close contact tracing.

Ms. Bosch (Ammel Drive) – Are you requiring your vaccinated staff and teachers to test weekly and if not, why - they can just as easily spread COVID as unvaccinated staff and teachers. Mrs. Testa responded as of now New York State employees are only required to be tested. This mandate, though discussed, currently does not apply to schools.

Mr. Bosch (Ammel Drive) – Mask inquiries ... when determining the reopening plan, how much will be based on survey feedback and CDC recommendations? Mrs. Testa responded the Board will factor in all the information collectively when making their decision. Mr. Bosch followed up ... in making your decision

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(continued)

are you allowed to do it independent of the CDC, NYSED, and DOH, 46 percent of the parents were in favor of parental choice which seems to be the majority. Mrs. Erhard replied that the Board of course will consider the parent surveys, the recommendations and guidance provided by the various Agencies, and analyze all information received.

Ms. Triolo (Coolidge Street) – Why not keep the plastic dividers on desks and let children remove masks while in class? Mrs. Testa replied that before school ended in June, the CDC supplied no research that showed that the barriers were beneficial. It was only the masks. Also, Mrs. Testa added Administrators, teachers, and students provided feedback that the barriers were obstructing the view of the board and the teachers. Therefore, the recommendation was to take the barriers down.

Mr. Milgrim (Bellmore Road) – Masking Policy. Mr. Milgrim gave a statement regarding his overall view of the mask policy. The Board thanked Mr. Milgrim for his statement.

Mr. Bachman (Sanders Place) – 1) Return to “full in person” – what proactive measures are being taken to re-acclimate kids who have been out of school since March of 2020. Mrs. Testa responded that discussions regarding a plan for this particular issue had already begun with Ms. McNamara last spring in preparation for the upcoming school year. Solutions discussed were professional development for the teachers and gathering feedback from the parents of those children experiencing anxiety. Acclimating the children back will be a team effort between the teachers, the parents, and Administrators. Mrs. Pollitt followed up and added that the parents can write to their teachers in advance for planning and preparation purposes. The District hired additional Social Workers and School Counselors as part of the grant funds received and reiterated that the children’s reintroduction into the classroom setting will be a team effort of support every step of the way.

Ms. Goedel (Martin Avenue) – For as long as there are no mandates will you take local COVID case numbers into account when deciding about masks. Mrs. Erhard replied that those figures are supposed to be taken into consideration when formulating a decision.

Ms. Milgram (Bellmore Road) – Can/will all individual open ended responses/ comments from the survey be shared for public review? Mrs. Rehak responded that this will have to be explored further since information may have to be redacted because of the personal nature of it contained therein. We will further investigate and get back to you.

Mr. Renz (Bedford Avenue) – With CDC studies showing that the Delta Variant could be two times more contagious than previous variants, shouldn’t the District not wait on guidance from the State and focus on the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding masks and social distancing? And, the Pediatricians are the medical professionals who are tasked with doing all they

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(continued)

can to keep our children safe from birth to age eighteen. So why would we not fully trust their recommendations? Mrs. Erhard responded we did get guidance from New York State today and the Board is taking all information from all Agencies into consideration.

Ms. Yusef (Coral Court) – With so many parents crossing the boundary last year, harassing the arrival children and parents with signs in front of the school, standing by the entrance with a flag and screaming at the children that are masked, I am very worried that the children will carry such harassing behavior into our schools. What, if anything, are the plans to prevent mask bullying in our schools? Is there anything that will be done to ease the adjustment of the children who were fully virtual last year, particularly as they cope with COVID anxiety or with facing the “mask optional” believers? Mrs. Testa responded that this was an unfortunate occurrence and the Administrators immediately addressed the situations, worked with those families, and the cases were resolved.

Ms. Lopuch (Bellmore Road) – Wouldn't it be prudent to listen to the experts on this in terms of masking (especially the American Academy of Pediatrics) rather than the opinions of parents? Also, hypothetically, if all partitions are gone, and masks are optional, how are our children being kept safe in the classroom? Mrs. Erhard responded that we are reviewing all our protocols for the upcoming school year and taking everything into consideration.

Mr. Forgione (Circle Drive) – If children can eat in a cafeteria three feet apart with no mask, why must they wear a mask in a classroom at 3 feet apart if you are planning to follow the CDC guidelines? Mrs. Testa responded this is why we supplied the slides at the beginning of the meeting so the Board can utilize this information as a whole for their consideration when making a decision. Mrs. Testa thanked Mr. Forgione for recognizing those situations.

Ms. Hirsch (Seaman Drive) – During ESY masks have been optional. There has been only one case reported. Is this being taken into account in your decision making for optional masking as well? Mrs. Malone in response said that many students continued to wear masks and some did not which was the parent's choice. So that should be the main question the Board should consider when making their decision.

Ms. Gaskin (Horseshoe Drive) - Will live streaming apply to services (Speech, PT, OT) as well (or have a Zoom option)? Mrs. Malone responded that while live streaming was not an option last year, this year this is an option we will look to use for those students receiving Special Education Services. In doing so, we must be very cognizant of student confidentiality and their privacy while still providing these services. If services are missed while children are quarantined, make-ups will be scheduled when possible.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(continued)

Mr. Forgione (Circle Drive) – Will there be exemptions for children that suffer with depression and anxiety with masks? Mrs. Testa responded that there are medical exemptions. A letter from the parent and documentation from the treating physician is required. Those will be referred to Mrs. Malone, Director of Pupil Personnel Services. The Medical Director, who is not on site here, will review it, further explore the information provided if necessary, and then provide a directive on how the District should proceed.

Mr. Murdoch (Peapond Road) – During the 2020-21 school year the District reported 221 cases. Most of those cases occurred before the Delta Variant. Is the District concerned that since the Delta Variant is more contagious and severe, and that by having less stringent protocols more students may be hospitalized or worse? What is your contingency plan in the event of rising positivity rates? Mrs. Erhard responded this is the exact reason why we are requesting guidance from the medical professionals so that we can guide our schools accordingly, and formulate and have multiple plans in place when specific situations arise. Mrs. Testa concurred that the Board cannot make an independent decision without the advisement of the local entities for medical and educational guidance. As is visible from the survey and on news reports you have completely different views. So while this is a difficult place for the Board to be in, the Board must take everything under advisement, ie. research, evidence, and parental views, in formulating their decision.

Ms. Abbott (Locust Avenue) – Will parents be allowed in the building this year or perhaps outside to staff outdoors events? Mrs. Testa responded that we ended our last school year with parent participation and picnics outside. Mrs. Testa thanked the Building Administrators in their assistance in facilitating those events. It is the District's goal to maintain that and we will adjust if the need requires.

Ms. Schellberg (Lafayette Street) – wrote a statement thanking the Board and Mrs. Testa for the work they're doing for the students and the Community, their impressive presentations, and willingness to address all parental concerns. Mrs. Testa expressed her gratitude to Ms. Schellberg on behalf of the Administrators and the Board.

Ms. Holmes (Logue Street) – Inquired about the increased enrollment of students with IEP's – has the Board considered educating those students in their home school instead of placing them together with other students in one of the five schools? Mrs. Malone responded that those classroom settings while being offered District wide in every grade level *are not* offered in every building in all grade levels. Therefore, this necessitates the need to move children outside of their home school. If a child requires related services or resource room they will remain in their home school. This is a case by case decision based strictly on a child's individual needs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(continued)

Ms. Tice (Washington Blvd.) – If parental choice is an option for mask wearing, would it be possible to have masked and unmasked classes? Mrs. Testa responded the District would need to take several factors into consideration such as how many children will wear masks, no masks, the optional wearing of masks, and keeping children in their home schools based on numbers. A setting such as this would facilitate the need also to implement a protocol on wearing masks all the time versus no masks.

BOE COMMENTS

Mrs. Malloy followed up with a question related to the mask optional choice, is there a way that we can send a survey to the parents in the District to document their particular choice. Mrs. Testa responded that we can create any survey that the Board requires and send it out together to support the decision making.

Mrs. Erhard thanked the Community on behalf of the Board and Administrators for their feedback and questions. She expressed that the Board and District Administration respect the opinions of the Community members and care deeply for the children, faculty, and staff. The goal of the District is maximum safety, opening fully, and in person. Mrs. Erhard further stated the Board will conduct a thorough assessment of all the information that was presented this evening including the survey results, all guidance from the various agencies, and any other future recommendations. Once completed a Reopening Plan will be shared with the Community. Mrs. Erhard again thanked all for attending the meeting this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk