



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES – DECEMBER 6, 2022**

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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 Tuesday evening, December 6, 2022, 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:

- Melissa Cmar-Grote, President
- Christine Malloy, Vice President
- Rosemarie Corless
- Nina Lanci
- Christopher Nardo

Also present:

- Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
- Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Jacqueline Rehak, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Christopher Powers, District Counsel
- Laurice Gunnels, District Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci and seconded by Mrs. Malloy to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nardo read the District’s Mission Statement.

**PUBLIC HEARING:  
Senior Citizen & Person with  
Disabilities and Limited  
Income Exemptions**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote announced that Item No. 4, Motion to Convene to Public Hearing regarding Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income Exemptions, Item No. 16.1 Board Resolution – Senior Citizen, and 16.2 Board Resolution – Persons with Disabilities, will be tabled for this evening.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Business meeting of November 10, 2022. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:  
Newbridge Road School:  
Sixth Grade Representatives**

Mrs. Testa welcomed the Newbridge Road faculty and students present this evening. She proudly commented upon a recent visit to the school and how student empowerment echoed in the hallways with their voices and illustrations of their work displayed. Mrs. Testa then introduced the Newbridge Road student representatives this evening.

Cate Agers  
Olive Bigay

Jimmy Croce (unable to be present)  
Thomas Maroney

Mrs. Licci, Principal of Newbridge Road School, thanked the BOE for welcoming Newbridge faculty and staff this evening, and invited Thomas Maroney up to speak as the representative voice of the students of Newbridge Road.

Thomas greeted the BOE and all present this evening, and introduced a video created by them to be displayed this evening. He explained the video will depict how wonderful it is to attend Newbridge Road School, a school with students and faculty who are *full of heart*. The video created to music illustrated day-to-day activities, i.e., announcements, classroom lessons, etc., and special events including the Newbridge Lion Balloon Parade where students created balloon *floats* and marched in the hallways, monthly spirit assemblies, and depicted pictures of the hallways decorated with years of history.

At the conclusion of the video, Mrs. Licci proudly spoke to the work of the sixth-grade representatives who took the photos and created the production as displayed this evening. Mrs. Testa added the message echoed throughout the video illustrated the spirit and heart of Newbridge Road School. She offered a great appreciation for the hard work displayed by the sixth-grade leaders and presented them with the BOE leadership award certificates.

**Superintendent's/Business  
Update: Bond Vote**

Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Rehak conducted a comprehensive Bond Vote slideshow reiterating previous power point presentations conducted over the past few months for the upcoming bond vote to be held on Thursday, December 8.

Highlights included:

- A detailed breakdown of the proposed 2022 bond vote projects including the HVAC system, and elevator and playground installation.
- Discussed state aid availability and bond tax impact on the community based on home assess valuations.
- Reminded the community of the availability of detailed information regarding the Bond on the North Bellmore website under Capital Projects/Bond 2022 including the 2021 mandated Building Condition Survey, bond information video, newsletter, FAQ's, tax impact calculator, and copies of power point presentations exhibited at prior meetings. Information pertaining to the upcoming Bond Vote were also found in local publications, i.e., the Bellmore Herald, the Merrick Herald, and Newsday.

**Superintendent’s/Business Update: Bond Vote (continued)**

In conclusion, Mrs. Testa, on behalf of herself and Mrs. Rehak, extended gratitude to multiple community groups for their assistance in communicating and distributing information on behalf of the North Bellmore School District regarding the upcoming bond vote and the projects associated with same.

- Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District
- Mepham PTA
- North Bellmore Chamber of Commerce
- North Bellmore Community Athletic Groups
- North Bellmore Fire Department
- North Bellmore Library
- North Bellmore PTA

Mrs. Testa inquired of the BOE if they had any further inquiry and no questions were presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
*(Agenda Items Only)*

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Cmar-Grote 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 October 31, 2022. Mrs. Corless seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS**

Mrs. Lanci reported the BMCHSD will meet tomorrow evening for their December meeting. She excitedly shared the Winter Concert season will begin at Calhoun and Kennedy tomorrow night with a follow-up performance on December 14, the Middle Schools on December 8 and 15, and Mepham High School on December 14 and 20. She also reported other upcoming events this month include Poetry Out Loud at Calhoun and Mepham, and the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Information Night at Kennedy. She did suggest if interested to check the website calendar to confirm scheduled dates and times.

Mrs. Cmar-Grote offered her gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Lanci for coordinating and hosting the annual Polar Express event this past weekend, and Mrs. Lanci extended her appreciation to the North Bellmore administrators and teachers in partnership with the NBTA for their continued support of the local community children and their families over the holiday season.

**FINANCE**

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of November 2022.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mrs. Malloy moved to approve the Personnel Report dated December 6, 2022. Mrs. Corless seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Mrs. Testa proudly spoke to the importance of hiring new teachers, the overall profession of teaching, and the high standards delineated by the North Bellmore School District. She explained while classification, i.e., elementary, K-6, certified, is one criterion, the job of teaching is to shape the lives of children with knowledge working in partnership with parents and families, and having the ability to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of an individual child in this growth process. Mrs. Testa thanked the BOE for their approval, and congratulated the following teachers in attendance on their appointments.

- Danielle Calapai, Probationary Teacher K-6
- Lauren Fasano, Leave Replacement Teacher K-6

Moving forward, Mrs. Testa addressed an update for the BOE with respect to utilization of Google Classroom. She indicated training for the teachers was completed to transition from See Saw to Google Classroom, and the use of the Google platform was provided to all sixth-grade classes in Computer Science. Mrs. Testa reported Google Classroom will be utilized in a variety of ways to allow the sixth-grade students the experience on this platform in preparation for advancement to the middle and high school levels. She offered her gratitude to Mr. Fischetti in his coordination of this effort.

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Mrs. Lanci moved to approve the Staff Development report dated December 6, 2022. Mrs. Corless seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Mrs. Pollitt reported on the following updates:

- *Computer Based Testing (CBT)* – Currently CBT is an option, but will become mandatory based on an implementation timeline by the Department of Education as follows:

Spring of 2024 – Grades 5 and 8

Spring of 2025 – Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8

Spring of 2026 – Grade 3 and 7

Based on the above timeline, Mrs. Pollitt reported that North Bellmore will begin its own staggered implementation plan to allow students the experience of utilizing CBT prior to the mandatory usage starting with Grades 4 and 6 this spring, and in the spring of 2024 in Grades 3 through 6. She did report paper-based versions will be available especially for students with those accommodations listed on their IEP.

In conclusion, Mrs. Pollitt spoke of onsite training she received at BOCES, and indicated scheduled release training will be conducted in January for teachers in Grades 4 and 6. Further information she indicated will be communicated to the parents prior to the spring assessments.

**CURRICULUM AND  
INSTRUCTION UPDATE  
(continued)**

- *Opioid Grant Proposal* - North Bellmore in conjunction with the five component districts and TEMPO, a non-profit organization in Merrick who provide counseling services, etc., filed paperwork with respect to the Opioid Grant Proposal on November 30. Mrs. Pollitt shared as background that Nassau County, as a result of a lawsuit with respect to the misuse of highly addictive prescription painkiller drugs, received \$50 million to be distributed to various agencies on a grant proposal basis.

Mrs. Pollitt explained if approved TEMPO will be the lead Agency who would be the recipient of the grant funds and the students of the five component districts will be recipient of the services. The grant proposal she indicated totals \$1.2 million across four years to be used in purchasing additional preventive programs such as *Too Good for Drugs*, *Active Parenting* workshops, the training for same, and professional development for faculty and staff with various different providers. Mrs. Pollitt indicated she will provide status updates on the grant proposal when available.

- *MTSS* – Mrs. Pollitt reported that the principals and Dr. Williams continue to meet with teachers. Dr. Williams recently held professional development regarding social, emotional, and behavioral interventions with respect to academic development, and informed that tomorrow the entire leadership team will be participating in the annual MTSS Virtual Summit as a part of Branching Minds. Mrs. Pollitt was excited to share that Dr. Williams was nominated to be interviewed and featured on the Branching Minds Podcast as a leader in this field.

**CPSE/CSE REPORTS**

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated December 1, 2022. Mrs. Lanci seconded and motion carried 5-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mrs. Malloy moved that the Board of Education approve Items 16.3 through 16.5. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**RECORD RETENTION AND  
DISPOSITION**

16.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Education Law Section 2034, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the District Clerk to destroy all of the unused ballots from the May 17, 2022 Annual District Budget Votes and Board of Education Elections.

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

16.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the attached Settlement and Release Agreement for a Contemplated Due Process Impartial Hearing against North Bellmore Union Free School District (Confidential Attachment A).

**CSEA AGREEMENT**

16.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve an agreement between the North Bellmore Union Free School District and the CSEA, Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, North Bellmore UFSD Clerical/Cafeteria Unit dated November 16, 2022.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made to return into Executive Session by Mrs. Malloy at 8:39 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Corless for matters pertaining to the Board, and motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Cmar-Grote on behalf of the Board wished all a happy holiday season. The meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels  
District Clerk