



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2023**

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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 9, 2023, 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
- Christopher Nardo

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

- Nina Lanci

Also present:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. Corless and seconded by Mrs. Malloy to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mrs. Corless read the District’s Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nardo moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Business meeting of January 12, 2023, and Special meeting of January 30, 2023. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
John G. Dinkelmeyer School:
Sixth Grade Representatives**

Mrs. Brugge, Principal of the John G. Dinkelmeyer School, introduced the JGD sixth grade BOE representatives. She proudly shared with the Board that the students present this evening volunteered without hesitation to be here and are a symbol of the hardworking and dedicated students of the JGD school community.

Erini Ballis
Lennuyshka Cadet
Brendan Radicone
Ryan Rothschild

Collectively the students shared with the BOE recent learning activities and events their school community partook in:

- World Read Aloud Day – On Friday, January 27, the students celebrated World Read Aloud Day. Students shared favorite books with classmates. The sixth-graders read out loud to the first graders, assisted them with learning new words, and joined Mrs. Brugge in her office while she, herself, read aloud to all the students in the school.
- Global Play Day was celebrated on Wednesday, February 1, a day where students were able to bring in board games, participate in fun group interactive learning activities, solving problems, and using imagination. As an example, the sixth-grade students joined the second graders in a game of Kahoot focused on continents and oceans reiterating how playing games can be a tool in learning.
- Argumentative Essay Writing - Sixth grade students are learning how to express their ideas and thoughts for the benefit of the school and/or community. They described learning and utilizing the skill of argumentative essay writing coupled with providing evidentiary documentation in support of their ideas.

In closing, they offered to the BOE their gratitude for allowing them to present this evening and appreciation for all they do for the North Bellmore school community.

Mrs. Testa thanked them for presenting their insight into what's meaningful and important as students. She recapped when Global Play Day and Read-Aloud Day was introduced into the district and how the administrators spoke to the importance and impact that play interaction has on studies and enjoyable learning. Mrs. Testa joyfully addressed each student, presented them with the BOE Leadership Award certificates, and extended gratitude to their families present this evening.

Science and Social Studies Presentation

Mrs. Pollitt and Ms. McNamara presented for the BOE and the community a detailed slideshow and had available a physical display depicting the new curriculum enhancements in social studies and science improving and expanding the North Bellmore student learning experience in those subject areas. The foundation of the new curriculum utilizes inquiry-based learning allowing students to ask, investigate, reflect, and communicate ideas which ultimately creates life-long learning tools.

- Social Studies: The new resource for Grades K-5 is *My World Interactive* by Savvas Learning, and for Grade 6, *Networks Discovering Our Past: The Eastern Hemisphere* by McGraw Hill. Areas of study include History of the US and New York, World History, Geography, Economics, and Civics, Citizenship, and Government.
- Science: The new resources for Grades K-5 is *Exploring Science* by National Geographic, and for Grade 6, *Elevate Science* by Savvas Learning. Areas of study include Physical Science, Earth Science, and Life Science.

The content of study is outlined by grade levels and progresses developmentally from Kindergarten through Grade 6. The new curriculum has a strong digital component, incorporating computer interactive work, to further develop a fun educational experience rising to the level of 21st century learning.

A copy of the presentation is available on the website. Highlights include:

- An introduction into inquiry-based learning, a multi facet learning experience incorporating language arts, reading and writing, and mathematical reasoning.
- Illustrated examples of the subject work performed at the various grade levels.
- An overview of the new computer-based testing (CBT) in Grade 5 elementary science beginning spring of 2024.
- New for this year, implementation of science investigations in Grades 3 through 6. Content of study can be assessed as part of Grade 5/8 Written Science Assessments.

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. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended December 31, 2022. Mrs. Malloy seconded and motion carried 4-0.

BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS

The high school report was tabled until next month.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of January 2023.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mrs. Testa began by extending her gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Pollitt, Ms. McNamara, and all the teachers in their extensive research and decisions in support of the Science and Social Studies curriculum and instructional planning as was proudly presented this evening for the BOE and the community.

Mrs. Testa spoke to highlights departmentally districtwide:

- Staff Development - Training continues tomorrow in Google Classroom at the Teacher Center under the direction of Mr. Fischetti and his technological team. In future planning, Ms. McNamara has been researching and investigating upcoming professional development in the area of writing workshops.
- Mrs. Rehak has begun budgetary planning for the 2023/24 school year with building and central administrators with respect to enrollment, projected staffing, etc. As discussed last month, the district is looking at the projects that were included in the bond and will present to the BOE potential ideas on funding those items moving forward.
- Capital Project planning and building walk throughs is underway under the direction of Mr. Russo in preparation of the ceiling, lighting, and pavement work to be performed this summer at Martin Avenue and John G. Dinkelmeyer Schools. See Capital Projects on the website for the projected schedule.
- Smaller upcoming projects include installation of outdoor speakers and the replacement of the curtains in the buildings. Also, the district is looking at new signage for the Newbridge Road School's main entrance recently relocated due to the installation of the security vestibule.

In closing, Mrs. Testa, on behalf of the district and the building administrators, addressed proudly their appreciation and gratitude to the North Bellmore faculty for welcoming new resources and having the flexibility to learn, grow, and develop new skills as teachers/leaders in the future of education.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Corless moved to approve the Personnel Report dated February 9, 2023. Mrs. Malloy seconded and motion carried 4-0.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Malloy moved to approve the Staff Development report dated February 9, 2023. Mrs. Corless seconded and motion carried 4-0.

- CPSE/CSE REPORTS** Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated February 2, 2023. Mrs. Malloy seconded and motion carried 4-0.
- CONSENT AGENDA** Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve Items 14.1 through 14.5. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 4-0.
- SECOND READING:
Policy Nos. 4750
9140.1** 14.1 The Board of Education accepts the following policies for a second reading:
Policy 4750: Promotion and Retention of Students
Policy 9140.1: Staff Complaints and Grievances
- ADOPTION:
Policy Nos. 4750
9140.1** 14.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education adopt the following policies:
Policy 4750: Promotion and Retention of Students
Policy 9140.1: Staff Complaints and Grievances
- NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS** 14.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2022-23 school year:
Parent from the Heart
Richard Zawislak
Lydia Qiu
- DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT
PROPERTY** 14.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education excess an Everett Piano located at Martin Avenue School, that is in poor condition and beyond repair (NB inventory: 20090412 and 20190100).
- NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS
(continued)** 14.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following additional contracts for the 2022-2023 school year:
-Extraordinary Pediatrics, P.C.
-Nassau County Department of Human Resources, Office of Mental
-Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Services
-Sensational Developmental Occupational Therapy, PLLC
-Uniondale UFSD
- PUBLIC COMMENTS** Ms. Zukowski (Oak Street) – *Can portion size of school lunches be reviewed? The portion size for a kindergartner and a 6th grader should be different.* Mrs. Rehak in response did confirm that the portion size of the meal is the same for students Kindergarten through sixth grade, but students do have the option of purchasing two meals. In furtherance, she did explain that the meal is comprised of five components as required by the state and the federal government including a vegetable and fruit, and some students are only eating a portion of the meal and not all the components. Mrs. Rehak and Mrs. Testa thanked Ms. Zukowski for the question and indicated discussing future potential options relating to the size of the meal and/or individual components of it with the Manager of Food Services.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made to return into Executive Session by Mrs. Corless at 8:47 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Malloy for matters pertaining to personnel. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 10:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mr. Nardo, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk