



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2023**

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 16, 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
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 Venator, District Counsel
Laurice Gunnels, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Motion was made by Mrs. Corless and seconded by Mrs. Malloy to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

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

Mr. Nardo read the District’s Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Business meeting of February 9, 2023. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Park Avenue School:
6th Grade BOE Representatives Mrs. Testa on behalf of the BOE spoke to the importance of leadership portrayed by students and their voices. She welcomed the Park Avenue BOE representatives, faculty, and parents, and invited Mr. DeBlasio up to introduce the students.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Park Avenue School:
6th Grade BOE Representatives
(continued)

Mr. DeBlasio thanked the BOE for inviting the Park Avenue BOE representatives to speak this evening. He expressed the importance of students and their positive experiences on the overall success of a district and/or school. To share firsthand some of those memorable moments, Mr. DeBlasio happily introduced the Park Avenue BOE representatives present this evening.

- Christina Eromon
- Griffin O’Neill
- Leighton Gauldie
- Colin Crichton-Stanganelli

The students collectively spoke to their memorable journey at Park Avenue, whether it began in kindergarten or sixth grade, it was an amazing experience including exciting field trips, back to school picnics, award of the month, and great teachers who created a fun and captivating learning environment. As sixth graders they shared their enjoyment of changing classes for science and social studies in preparation for middle school, their excitement for their canoe trip adventure at the end of the school year, and most of all graduation with their friends and Park family as they move on to their new journey at Grand Avenue.

In closing, appreciation and gratitude was extended to the BOE, Mrs. Testa, and the North Bellmore community for allowing them to speak this evening and Mr. DeBlasio reiterated the sentiment.

Mrs. Testa on behalf of herself, the Administrators, and the BOE thanked the students for painting a picture of their journey at Park, and sharing their prospectives. Mrs. Testa described how those experiences become a part of who you are while you continue to thrive and grow on your journey of success. And to the families, Mrs. Testa expressed her gratitude for them being present this evening and sharing their children as she indicated they are the reason we are all here. Mrs. Testa presented each student with a Certificate of Leadership.

Music in Our Schools Month

Mrs. Testa, in celebration of *Music in Our Schools Month* expressed gratitude to all the professionals who comprise the North Bellmore Music Department:

<u>Vocal Music</u>	<u>Instrumental Music</u>	
Ms. Lopez	Mrs. Behr	Mr. McCullagh
Ms. Ng	Mr. D’Orio	Ms. Uckardes
Mr. Roff	Ms. Hirsch	

Mrs. Testa invited those present this evening, i.e., Ms. Hirsch, Mr. D’Orio, Ms. Ng, and Mr. McCullagh, up to speak on behalf of their department and colleagues. Gratitude and appreciation was offered to Mr. Roff who was not present this evening for the creation of the slide show.

A synopsis of the music department depicted in the presentation collectively narrated by those present this evening illustrated the opportunities offered to the students of North Bellmore. Highlights included:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Music in Our Schools Month
(continued)

- Music instruction occurs once in a six-day cycle beginning in kindergarten, recorders are introduced in third grade, followed by instrumental in grades four through six, and orchestra music in grades five and six.
- Performance ensembles in chorus, band, and orchestra are offered to students in Grades 5 and 6 with opportunities to perform at annual All County Festivals and NYSSMA.
- Seasonal in-school and evening concerts through the collaboration and dedication of the music department staff and students are enjoyed by classmates and families.

In celebration of Music in Our Schools Month, Mrs. Testa thanked the Music Department for their presentation and expressed her gratitude and appreciation to them for sharing their musical inspiration and dedication with the students and families here in North Bellmore. She was happy to share that over the years she has followed the North Bellmore students' amazing progression with music while attending performances at the middle/high school levels, a journey that begins here at the elementary level.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(Agenda Items Only)

There were no public comments relating to agenda items only.

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 January 31, 2023. Mrs. Corless seconded and motion carried 5-0.

BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS

Mrs. Lanci reported the high school district met earlier this month. She spoke to the participation of women in wrestling, and congratulated Yianna Foufas and Talia Robles of Mepham High School, and Gabriella Schechtman of Kennedy High School on their outstanding accomplishments in the sport. Mrs. Lanci indicated there was an informative presentation regarding college planning. She stressed the importance of the student's digital footprint and the potential impact it could have upon the college admission process. Mrs. Lanci reminded all of important and exciting dates including the annual St. Baldrick's event at Mepham High School on March 22, and the upcoming musical performances at the middle and high school levels between March 23 and April 1 (check calendar for specific performance dates). The BOE will meet again on April 3.

FINANCE

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

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated March 6, 2023. Mrs. Lanci seconded and motion carried 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mrs. Testa informed the BOE and the community that the Superintendent and Business reports will be combined this evening to address the proposed budget for the 2023/24 school year.

Before moving forward, Mrs. Testa spoke to and expressed her gratitude to Mrs. Pollitt and Ms. McNamara who worked collaboratively with the 3rd and 4th grade teachers aligning the writing units to meet New York State guidelines. Ms. McNamara will now continue this process with Grades K/1 working collaboratively with Ms. Sarah Cordova, National Literacy consultant, and the respective North Bellmore teachers to achieve this goal.

Mrs. Testa also reported with respect to parental services available, there was a SEPTA presentation addressing ADHD and executive functioning on Monday evening, and a Parent University workshop last night with another session scheduled for Monday to address learning to speak so children will listen and listen so children will speak.

As a final note, Mrs. Testa reminded families the report cards will be uploaded to the portal tomorrow, Friday, March 17.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Rehak presented a detailed comprehensive power point presentation of the proposed 2023/24 budget which is available on the website for viewing.

Mrs. Testa began by presenting an overview of academic studies, services, and programs available. She spoke of literacy, reading and writing workshops, mathematics, inquiry-based learning in science and social studies, the implementation of science investigations, and in technology/computer science, the migration of Google Classroom in Grade 6 expanding to Grade 5, the ongoing development of coding instruction, advancements in network security, and equipment upgrades as required. Mrs. Testa was excited to introduce new for the 2023/24 school year in Special Area Programs the addition of Grade 4 Spanish instruction.

Moving on, Mrs. Rehak continued by addressing the budgetary goals of the District including supporting existing/new programs, maintaining and improving the District's buildings and grounds, and continuing to look for outside revenue sources to meet these goals now and in the future. She detailed the breakdown of the budgetary components as follows:

- 10.42% - Administration
- 13.63% - Capital
- 75.96% - Programs

Mrs. Rehak indicated the proposed tax levy is estimated at 2.00 percent with a budget-to-budget increase of 5.49 percent citing rising costs in benefits (health), transportation, insurance, increased professional development for new/existing program expansion, and budgetary capital projects including electrical upgrade

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT
(continued)**

work at three buildings. Mrs. Rehak also reported the district is closely monitoring enrollment and at present is estimating the same overall section count as the current year, but indicated there is a contingency plan to increase that if deemed necessary prior to the budget adoption.

Moving on, Mrs. Rehak spoke to a second proposition that will be on the ballot this year and stressed it does not add to the tax levy. Proposition 2 is seeking voter approval to expend money for *Phase II* ceiling and pavement replacement at Saw Mill Road and Park Avenue schools with a projected start date of July 2024. In furtherance of this, Mrs. Rehak was happy to share that *Phase I* of this project approved by voters in May of 2022, is set to begin this summer in July of 2023 at Martin Avenue and John G. Dinkelmeyer schools. She indicated the school selection sequence was based on the Building Condition Survey.

Mrs. Rehak shared the following upcoming budget meeting dates:

- March 20 – PTA Coordinating Counsel, Virtual Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- April 4 – BOE Meeting Budget Adoption, Martin Avenue School, 7:30 p.m.
- May 8 – BOE Meeting Budget Presentation/Hearing, 7:30 p.m.
- May 16 – Annual Budget Vote and Trustee Election – Newbridge Road School from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Mrs. Rehak inquired if the BOE had any questions.

Mr. Nardo asked Mrs. Rehak to further explain the cost of the insurance and how the Cyber coverage impacts it. Mrs. Rehak responded that the insurance increase is a combination of both the Cyber insurance estimated to cost about \$45,000, and NYSIR, the insurance carrier for the district's general liability, etc., projecting a 15 percent increase overall for their policy this year.

Mr. Nardo, in follow-up, inquired what protection will be afforded the district with respect to the Cyber insurance. Mrs. Rehak explained that the district is still currently receiving quotes on this, but is considering policy levels of \$1 million to \$2 million in coverage with deductibles ranging between \$5,000 and \$50,000.

Mr. Nardo inquired with respect to the electrical upgrades, can all the buildings be done at once. Mrs. Rehak responded that would not be an option as the district does have the extended school year program and the overall cost of it would directly impact the tax levy.

In furtherance, Mrs. Cmar-Grote inquired where the programs will be held this summer while Martin and Dinkelmeyer are under construction, and will this work impact District Office. Mrs. Rehak responded that the current plan is to have the Extended School Year program at Saw Mill Road, and SCOPE and other programs run by our Curriculum Department are scheduled to be held at Park Avenue School. With respect to District Office, staff location is currently under review and has not been finalized yet.

- PERSONNEL REPORT** Mrs. Corless moved to approve the Personnel Report dated March 16, 2023. Mrs. Lanci seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- STAFF DEVELOPMENT** Mrs. Malloy moved to approve the Staff Development report dated March 16, 2023. Mrs. Corless seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** Mrs. Malone was excited to share that the Special Education Department in coordination with Frontline IEP will be taking the next step in this digital age to securely transmit student Special Education documents.
- To explain, Mrs. Malone indicated Frontline IEP has a collaborative portal to which documents can be sent securely via e-mail encrypted and password protected. The parents she indicated will be able to view the document, download copies for their records, and if required, write/sign it and click submit to allow immediate access by the Special Education Department. This is an expedient means of transmitting documents as in comparison to the current practice.
- Mrs. Malone informed the BOE that Nassau BOCES will conduct a training session for the Special Education clerical staff and psychologists on March 30th, and spoke to potentially starting this process with the June progress reports. Further communication regarding this will be forthcoming.
- CPSE/CSE REPORTS** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated March 9, 2023. Mrs. Malloy seconded and motion carried 5-0.
- CONSENT AGENDA** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve Items 14.1 through 14.18 (on file in District Office). Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.
- NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS** 14.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2022-23 school year:
- LI Emergency Care Training, LLC
 - Office of Addictions Services and Supports
 - Plainedge UFSD (Health and Welfare)
 - Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD (Health and Welfare)
 - Rockville Centre UFSD (Health and Welfare)
- NBTA AGREEMENT** 14.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves an agreement with the North Bellmore Teachers Association dated March 16, 2023.
- CSEA CLERICAL/CAFETERIA RETIREMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT** 14.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves an agreement with the CSEA Clerical/Cafeteria Unit dated March 16, 2023.

**INVOKE EDUCATION LAW
SECTION 913**

14.4 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to the provisions of Education Law Section 913, that a non-instructional employee whose identity is known to the Board of Education, is hereby directed to report for a medical examination in order to determine her physical and mental capacity to perform her employment duties, the said examination will be conducted by a medical professional selected by the North Bellmore Union Free School District on a mutually agreeable date and time. (Confidential Attachment "A")

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

14.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the first amendment agreement with the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Janet Pollitt, effective 2/1/2023.

14.6 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the first amendment agreement with the Director of Education Programs and Staff Development, Tillie McNamara, effective 2/1/2023.

14.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the first amendment agreement with the Director of Facilities, Richard Russo, effective 2/1/2023.

14.8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the first amendment agreement with the Director of Personnel, Denise Fisher, effective 2/1/2023.

14.9 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the first amendment agreement with the Assistant Superintendent for Business, Jacqueline Rehak, effective 2/1/2023.

14.10 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the third amendment agreement with the Director of Food Service, Helena McKenna, effective 3/17/2023.

14.11 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Memorandum of Employment agreement with the RTI Coordinator, Dr. Lydia Williams, for the 2023-2024 school year.

14.12 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Memorandum of Employment agreement with the Confidential Secretary, Jeanne Canavan, for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

14.13 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Memorandum of Employment agreement with District Treasurer, Jack Newman, for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

14.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves an agreement between an employee of the North Bellmore School Union Free School District and the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District and the North Bellmore Principals' Association dated March 10, 2023.

**SEQRA RESOLUTION –
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS****14.5 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: (a) Electrical service upgrades at Martin Avenue School, Newbridge Road School, and Saw Mill Road School; (b) fencing and skylight replacements at Martin Avenue School, (c) ceiling and lighting replacement at Saw Mill Road School and Park Avenue School and (d) pavement/concrete/asphalt replacement at Saw Mill Road School and Park Avenue 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 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

**SEQRA RESOLUTION –
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
(continued)**

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.

**CSEA CLERICAL/CAFETERIA
AGREEMENT**

14.16 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves an agreement between an employee of the North Bellmore Union Free School District and the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District and the North Bellmore CSEA Clerical/Cafeteria Unit dated March 16, 2023.

**REIMBURSEMENT OF
EXPENSES**

14.17 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the District to reimburse the parents of a child made known to the District for their expenses associated with obtaining an Independent Educational Evaluation in the area of speech and language for a one-time cost of \$450 to be paid upon submission of invoice and proof of payment.

DONATION

14.18 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of a check in the amount of \$1,865.44 from the Newbridge Road School PTA to be used to totally cover all costs of the Newbridge Road School's sixth grade canoe trip.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Murphy (Monroe Avenue) – *With the migration to Google Classroom this school year and the proposed expansion next year to 5th grade, can you clarify the end objective for the utilization of Google Classroom? Is it what we have this year with partial implementation with some in-school assignments on Google Classroom? Or, can we expect full implementation this year to full use having all assignments in-class and homework on Google Classroom and roll off of Seesaw for those grades? With the ability of parents to log in and see in order to mimic Grand Avenue and MAMS and to better prepare both students and parents?*

Mr. Fischetti responded that Google Classroom training and utilization of the program is in progress in Grade 6, and teacher training will begin in Grade 5 at the latter part of this year. The goal ultimately is to transition fully from Seesaw to Google Classroom in Grades 5 and 6 once training is complete in both grade levels. Mr. Fischetti also addressed the future purchase of Chromebook as the older I-Pads fade out beginning with Grade 6 next school year and Grade 5 the year after that. In furtherance, Mr. Fischetti expressed that technology at the elementary level is a learning tool not to be utilized all day every day, but rather to enhance instruction and prepare students for the middle and high school levels.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion was made to return into Executive Session by Ms. Malloy at 9:43 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Corless for matters pertaining to personnel. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Nardo exited executive session at 10:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk