



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – APRIL 4, 2023**

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School 2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710	6:30 PM
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The Business meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Tuesday, evening, April 4, 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
Stephen Goodstadt, District Counsel
Laurice Gunnels, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. Mrs. Lanci was not present when the meeting came to order.

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

Mrs. Malloy read the District’s Mission Statement.

AMENDMENT TO THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS Mrs. Cmar-Grote requested a motion on behalf of the Board to move forward the Personnel Report, Agenda Item 11.1. Motion was made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Mrs. Lanci entered the meeting after the onset of the special presentations at 7:09 p.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Saw Mill Road: 6th Grade
BOE Representatives

Mrs. Testa invited Mr. Madden, Assistant Principal, up to the podium to introduce the 6th Grade BOE representatives this evening from Saw Mill Road School. Mr. Madden offered his congratulations to Mrs. Brugge and Mrs. Rehak, and all the educators in the room this evening on their appointment of tenure. He advised the BOE that this evening Saw Mill has a video presentation to share and then introduced the 6th Grade BOE Representatives:

Blake Borets Liberov
 Julia Dumitru
 Gabriella Hartmann
 Anyah Lewal
 Katherine Rios
 Abbey Rose Rothchild

As tonight was a celebration of North Bellmore educators, the 6th Grade BOE representatives expressed their excitement over honoring their educators. In consideration of this, they expressed their thoughts on how best they would represent the student voice in this regard, and the decision was made to interview students on video in all grades levels to illustrate their appreciation.

Those in attendance were then invited to view their presentation. The students interviewed on the video used words to depict their educators/teachers as welcoming, caring, hardworking, patient, sweet, helpful, cheerful, and overall inspirational for them to strive to do their individual best. In conclusion, the 6th Grade BOE student representatives shared appreciation of their overall experience at Saw Mill and collectively spoke to their gratitude of all the educators acknowledged this evening.

Mrs. Testa expressed her gratitude to the students as students are an inspiration to the educators, and indicated educators grow from that experience, too. In celebration, Mrs. Testa presented the Board of Education Leadership award certificates to the 6th grade student representatives.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Tenure Recognition

Continuing in North Bellmore's tradition, Mrs. Testa began the festivities by joyfully congratulating the tenure recipients approved by the Board of this Education this evening. Mrs. Testa proudly introduced the following North Bellmore faculty and staff:

- Ms. Danica Brugge, Principal (John G. Dinkelmeyer School)
- Ms. Melissa Danowski, Teacher K-6 (Park Avenue School)
- Ms. Julia Krugel, Special Education Teacher (Saw Mill Road School)
- Ms. Pauline Lanzillo, Speech (Newbridge Road School)
- Ms. Jennifer McGovern, Teacher K-6 (John G. Dinkelmeyer School)
- Ms. Kelly Navin, Teacher K-6 (John G. Dinkelmeyer School)
- Ms. Jacqueline Rehak, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Ms. Melissa Reime, Teacher K-6 (Martin Avenue School)
- Ms. Jillian Sears, Social Worker (Park Avenue School)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Tenure Recognition

The newly appointed tenure recipients were honored collectively this evening with words of sentiment and pride by Mrs. Testa, Superintendent, and of appreciation and steadfast dedication by the Principals, Mr. Rosof, Mr. O'Brien, Mrs. Brugge, Mr. DeBlasio, Ms. Licci, and on behalf of the NBTA, Ms. Signorelli. Heartfelt stories of their journeys were told by their fellow colleagues and co-workers, and words of gratitude and appreciation were spoken by the respective PTA and students who presented gifts and flowers.

On behalf of the Board of Education Mrs. Cmar-Grote congratulated the faculty and staff who received tenure this evening and expressed appreciation of their work and dedication in receiving this honor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Business meeting of March 16, 2023. Mrs. Corless seconded and motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Agenda Items Only)

There were no public comments relating to agenda items only.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Cmar-Grote advised that correspondence was received and will be addressed by the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended February 28, 2023. Mrs. Corless seconded and motion carried 5-0.

BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS

Mrs. Lanci reported the high school meeting was held last evening, Monday, April 3. The BOE had the distinct honor of sharing in celebration of student athletes the Calhoun High School Track Team as Nassau County Champions, Sara Manson and Logan Schaeffler, NYS All State Track, and Raymond Adams NYS All State Wrestling. Mrs. Lanci shared the budget was adopted at \$188,863,521 with a budget-to-budget increase of 6.64 percent, and in the regular course of business, the acceptance of three donations. She reported they will meet again on April 18 for the Special BOCES Budget Vote/Trustee Election and the next regular meeting of the High School will be held on May 3.

Before moving on, Mrs. Cmar-Grote called for a moment of silence for those lives lost in Tennessee last week.

FINANCE

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

2023/2024 BUDGET

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the North Bellmore School District to expend the sum in the General Fund Appropriation in the total amount of \$64,588,702 for the 2023/2024 school year. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

VOTER PROPOSITION

Mrs. Lanci moved 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 16, 2023 the following proposition in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION

SHALL the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District be authorized to expend up to (a) \$3,406,421.42 (plus interest) from the capital reserve fund established on June 16, 2020 and (b) \$2,293,578.58 from fund balance, for a total of \$5,700,000 for the purpose of performing the following projects: (a) pavement/concrete/asphalt replacement at Park Avenue Elementary School and Saw Mill Road Elementary School; (b) ceiling replacements at the Park Avenue Elementary School and Saw Mill Road Elementary School and (c) electrical upgrades at the Park Avenue Elementary School and Saw Mill Road Elementary School; all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental costs related thereto.

Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mrs. Testa, before moving into the budget presentation for this evening, addressed the paramount issue of school safety especially in the wake of the recent tragedy. She shared the focal point is to assess and readjust, if necessary, safety measures and expressed her gratitude to the North Bellmore staff and teachers for their support in this regard. Mrs. Testa reported meeting this week with fellow Nassau County Superintendents for a presentation by Commissioner Patrick Ryder of the Nassau County Police Department who reviewed current safety and security measures in place for schools, churches, and synagogues. She expressed that safety drills are number one for preparedness as proactivity and response time is foremost in safety and security.

Mrs. Testa solemnly spoke to the ever-changing environment we live in and the impact upon the role of educators today. She expressed while instruction remains important, of course, paramount is safety and security. In furtherance, Mrs. Testa spoke to threat assessment seminars to be attended by representatives of North Bellmore's central administrative teams who will then be able to debrief faculty and staff as well as conduct future professional development days relative to same.

Moving forward, Mrs. Testa introduced Mrs. Rehak to present the budgetary overview.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT/
BUDGET REPORT**

Mrs. Rehak shared the proposed budget remains unchanged and indicated a detailed report is available on the website for review. She reported a budget-to-budget increase of 5.49 percent with a proposed tax levy increase of 2 percent. Mrs. Rehak was happy to share an increase in State aid due to foundation aid being totally funded has kept the proposed tax levy down.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT/
BUDGET REPORT
(continued)**

Mrs. Rehak presented an overview of the proposed budget:

- New in instruction for the 2023-2024 school year is the expansion of Spanish to Grade 4 as a special.
- Enrollment is ongoing and those figures are continually being reviewed with respect to the number of sections, staffing, and spacing in the respective buildings. At present the section count is estimated to be the same as the current year, but a contingency plan is included to increase that if necessary.
- In Technology, included are upgrades and/or replacements of I-pads, keyboards, and smartboards, and the cost of equipment supplies, i.e., toner, etc.
- Professional Development has increased due to new/existing program expansion coupled with the district support of foundations, i.e., RTI, MTSS, Branching Minds, etc. Included in this budget is the reinstatement of a second instructional coach.
- Transportation increase is governed by the CPI and the projected CPI for those contracts extended for the 2023-24 school year is projected at 8 percent. Guardian, the district's main contract, is not renewing their contract, and an RFP is in consideration with a projected increase of 18 percent.
- With respect to insurance, the district is projecting a 15 percent increase in general liability insurance (NYSIR), a 12.5 percent increase in health coverage, and the additional cost for the Excess Cyber Insurance is included in the proposed budget.
- Budgetary capital projects are part of the proposed budget with respect to items outlined in the building condition survey. Included in this budget are electrical upgrades in three buildings, and for Martin Avenue kindergarten fencing not included in the grant and replacement of a skylight.

Moving on, Mrs. Rehak spoke to Proposition No. 2 on the ballot seeking voter approval to expend money for *Phase 2* of ceiling and pavement work for Saw Mill Road and Park Avenue schools with an anticipated start date of July 2024. She was excited to share that *Phase 1* which was approved by voters in May of 2022, will commence this July at John G. Dinkelmeyer and Martin Avenue schools. In furtherance of this, she did remind all of an existing Capital Reserve still funding, the Facilities Improvement Fund, for the districtwide bathroom renovation work. Mrs. Rehak stressed Capital Reserve projects do not add to the tax levy.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT/
BUDGET REPORT
(continued)**

In closing, Mrs. Rehak indicated the next Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m., and Tuesday, May 16, is the Annual Budget Vote from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Newbridge Road School.

Mrs. Rehak inquired of the Board if they had any questions.

Mrs. Malloy inquired regarding transportation and students who attend non-public schools, since North Bellmore is a K-6 District and private schools are K-8, can students within the elementary grade level be placed on buses with students in the middle and high school level. In response, Mrs. Rehak explained the non-public school transportation is governed by a contract and the number of students applying to a particular school. She indicated a whole bus can be contracted by the consortium in a situation where a large number of students in the area attend a particular school. In contrast to this, Mrs. Rehak spoke to having only a small number of students, maybe even just one, where the district would have to go out to bid for individual seats on a bus, and the bus companies in this instance may place students on a bus with other students of varying grade levels, schools, and/or districts.

Mr. Nardo posed a question regarding the normal term or length of time associated with a transportation contract. Mrs. Rehak responded a contract is one year. In follow-up, Mr. Nardo then asked if the district would have to go out to bid a second time next year or can there be a renewal based upon the CPI. Mrs. Rehak responded the transportation company can renew based upon the CPI, but would have to be willing to extend their contract. She indicated the consortium is going out for an RFP this year which differs from a bid where certain criteria or terms such as extensions maybe included. Currently, she explained, the RFP is still in the drafting stages and has not been finalized yet.

Mr. Nardo, with respect to banking and interest, expressed concerns regarding the overall current climate and health of banks. Mrs. Rehak reported the banks that the district deals with are either collateralized or FDIC insured and maintain capital levels above the regulatory requirements.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

Mrs. Corless moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated March 30, 2023. Mrs. Malloy seconded and motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve Item Nos. 14.1. through 14.9. Mrs. Corless 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:

- Garden City UFSD (Health and Welfare)
- Hicksville UFSD (Health and Welfare)

ELECTION INSPECTORS

14.2 BE IT RESOLVED that the North Bellmore Board of Education appoint the following election inspectors for the 2023 Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election: District Employees- Patricia Benson, Patricia Lombardo, Jeanine Morales.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

14.3 BE IT RESOLVED, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the North Bellmore Board of Education extend the allowance of the remote work environment for the Data Coordinator for North Bellmore schools through December 2023.

TRANSPORTATION

14.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provision of Education Law, 1907 and 3635, and General Municipal Law, 119-0 relating to Municipal cooperative activities, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is hereby authorized and directed to continue its participation in a regional transportation consortium with its component elementary districts to provide for the regional transportation of elementary and secondary students of the District and its components to the schools which such students attend in accordance with the parameters defined in a document entitled, "Cooperative Student Transportation Feasibility Study" dated March, 1989; the foregoing resolution shall be operative to commit the North Bellmore Union Free School District to participation in such regional transportation system only for the 2023-2024 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized and directed to give effect to the within Agreement if, in her judgment, there is sufficient participation among the elementary component districts to make participation by the North Bellmore Union Free School District feasible and economically advantageous to it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized and directed to take such other and further actions as shall be necessary or appropriate to give effect to the within resolution, as per the attachment.

14.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an inter-municipal cooperative agreement with Bellmore UFSD, North Merrick UFSD, Merrick UFSD and Bellmore-Merrick CHSD for the purpose of seeking proposals for transportation services for the 2023-2024 school year.

NBUFSD SAFETY TEAM APPOINTMENT

14.6 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Rocco Famiglietti to the North Bellmore Districtwide Safety Team for the 2022-23 school year.

EXCISE DISTRICT BOOKS

14.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the excess of books due to poor condition, zero circulation, or titles have been replaced by newer editions in better condition. The total amount of books being excised districtwide is 2351, of which there are multiple copies and duplicates across the district.

**INTERMUNICIPAL
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN NBUFSD AND
NASSAU BOCES**

14.8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves and Intermunicipal Cooperative Agreement between North Bellmore UFSD and Nassau BOCES for the purpose of seeking proposals for Academic Tutoring Services, Related Services and Skilled Nurse Staffing Services on behalf of the students of North Bellmore (on file in District Office).

**TRASH BAG COOPERATIVE
BID**

14.9 Trash Bag Cooperative Bid:

WHEREAS, the North Bellmore UFSD has received sealed bids.

Bid Description: Trash Bag Cooperative Bid
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Bid Advertised: Nassau Newsday Sunday, March 19, 2023

Bid Opening: Monday, April 3, 2023 @ 11AM

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Testa, that the Board of Education agrees to award the following bids:

AWARDED VENDORS:

	Item #	Name	Amount
1	516-001	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$6.50
2	516-002	Central Poly-Bag Corp, 2400 Bedle Place, Linden, NJ 07036	\$23.80
3	516-003	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$8.70
4	516-004	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$17.60
5	516-005	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$17.60
6	516-006	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$7.30
7	516-007	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$7.90
8	516-008	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$19.60
9	516-009	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$19.14
10	516-010	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$15.40
11	516-011	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$18.60
12	516-012	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$17.40
13	516-013	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$15.40
14	516-014	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$19.50
15	516-015	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$18.60
16	516-016	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$16.90
17	516-017	Unipak Corp., POB 332, West Long Branch, NJ 07764	\$21.60

These contracts, which were bid as cooperative services, shall include the participation of the following school districts:

- North Bellmore Union Free School District, Bellmore, N.Y.
- Baldwin Union Free School District, Baldwin, N. Y.
- Bellmore Union Free School District, Bellmore, N.Y.
- Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Merrick, N.Y.
- Bethpage Union Free School District, Bethpage, N. Y.
- Carle Place Union Free School District, Carle Place, N.Y.
- East Rockaway Union Free School District, East Rockaway, N.Y.

**TRASH BAG COOPERATIVE
 BID
 (continued)**

- East Williston Union Free School District, East Williston, N.Y.
- Floral Park-Bellerose Union Free School District, Floral Park, N. Y.
- Freeport Union Free School District, Freeport, N.Y.
- Garden City Union Free School District, Garden City, N.Y.
- Glen Cove City School District, Glen Cove, N. Y.
- Great Neck Union Free School District, Great Neck, N. Y.
- Hempstead Union Free School District, Hempstead, N.Y.
- Herricks Union Free School District, New Hyde Park, N.Y.
- Hewlett-Woodmere Union Free School District, Woodmere, N. Y.
- Hicksville Union Free School District, Hicksville, N. Y.
- Island Trees Union Free School District, Levittown, N.Y.
- Jericho Union Free School District, Jericho, N.Y.
- Levittown Union Free School District, Levittown, N.Y.
- Locust Valley School District, Locust Valley N.Y.
- Long Beach Public Schools, Long Beach, N. Y.
- Lynbrook Union Free School District, Lynbrook, N.Y.
- Manhasset Union Free School District, Manhasset, N.Y.
- Massapequa Union Free School District, Massapequa, N.Y.
- Merrick Union Free School District, Merrick, N.Y.
- Mineola Union Free School District, Mineola, N.Y.
- New Hyde Park/Garden City Park School District, New Hyde Park, N.Y.
- North Bellmore School District, North Bellmore, N.Y.
- North Merrick Union Free School District, North Merrick, N.Y.
- North Shore Central School District, Sea Cliff, N.Y.
- Plainedge Union Free School District, North Massapequa, N.Y.
- Plainview/Old Bethpage Central School, District Plainview, N.Y.
- Port Washington Union Free School District, Port Washington, N.Y.
- Rockville Centre Union Free School District, Rockville Centre, N.Y.
- Roosevelt Union Free School District, Roosevelt, N.Y.
- Seaford Union Free School District, Seaford, N. Y.
- Syosset Central School District, Syosset, N. Y.
- Uniondale Union Free School District, Uniondale, N.Y.
- Valley Stream 24 Union Free School District, Valley Stream N. Y.
- Valley Stream 30 Union Free School District, Valley Stream, N.Y.
- Wantagh Union Free School District, Wantagh, N.Y.
- West Hempstead Union Free School District, Hempstead, N.Y.

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	Central Poly	Unipak
516-001	15" x 9" x 24" .001 mil 500/case	\$9.20	\$6.50
516-002	Black 15" x 9" x 33" 1.5 mil 500/case	\$23.80	\$27.40
516-003	24" x 33" 8 microns 500/case	\$18.40	\$8.70
516-004	30" x 37" High Molecular 17 Microns 500/case Black	\$18.90	\$17.60
516-005	30" x 37" 17 microns 500/case/clear	\$19.40	\$17.60
516-006	30" x 37" 1.5 mil 100/case	\$10.40	\$7.30

**TRASH BAG COOPERATIVE
BID
(continued)**

516-007	33" x 40" High Density Clear 1.5 mil 100/case	\$14.00	\$7.90
516-008	22" x 20" x 54" 2 mil 100/case Black	\$19.70	\$19.60
516-009	22" x 20" x 54" 2 mil 100/case Clear	\$20.40	\$19.14
516-010	23" x 17" x 48" 2 mil 100/case	\$16.30	\$15.40
516-011	38" x 60" 2mil (for 60 gal can) 100/case Black	\$21.20	\$18.60
516-012	38" x 60" 1.5 mil (for 60 gal can) 100/case Black	\$19.60	\$17.40
516-013	40" x 48" 2 mil 100/case Black	\$22.00	\$15.40
516-014	40" x 48" 17 microns 250/case Black	\$20.60	\$19.50
516-015	41" x 54" (55 gal) 2 mil 100/case	\$23.00	\$18.60
516-016	44" x 46" (50 gal) 2 mil 100/case	\$20.90	\$16.90
516-017	40" x 48" 3 mil 100/case Black	\$23.00	\$21.60
NOTE:	Lowest bid that met specifications		

OLD (NEW) BUSINESS

Mrs. Malloy introduced the prospect of sending a letter with respect to the new housing compact proposal and its impact on the North Bellmore area to the local legislators as well as the Governor. She reminded all of the recent event regarding a large property for sale in North Bellmore and the proactiveness of the district resulting in the blockage of that variance. She expressed due to the size of the school buildings in conjunction with large property development it is important for the district to express these concerns on behalf of the families and students of this community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion was made to enter into Executive Session by Mrs. Lanci at 9:17 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Corless for matters pertaining to personnel. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Nardo exited executive session at 11:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk