



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School 2616 Martin Avenue, North Bellmore, NY 11710	6:30 PM
------------------	--	---------

The Business meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, September 14, 2023, in the All Purpose Room of the Martin Avenue School at 2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, New York, and was recorded.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Christine Malloy, President
Nina Lanci, Vice President
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Rosemarie Corless
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. A motion was made by Mr. Nardo, seconded by Mrs. Lanci to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

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

Mrs. Malloy called for a moment of silence to honor those lives lost on 9/11.

MISSION STATEMENT Mrs. Corless read the District’s Mission Statement.

Mrs. Lanci welcomed the Murphy family to the meeting and presented on behalf of the Bellmore Lions Club a donation to the Dylan Murphy Foundation. Mrs. Testa spoke to Dylan’s time as a beloved student at both Jacob Gunther and Saw Mill Road schools, his love for baseball, and how the foundation in his name is raising money to build a field of dreams at Saw Mill Road School to honor his memory.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Martin Avenue Sixth Grade
BOE Representatives

Dr. Yannucci, Principal of Martin Avenue School, extended his gratitude to the BOE for the great opportunity to lead the Martin community, staff, students and families, and to provide the best possible education for the children. The students he described this evening will speak to their opening school days and upcoming exciting events for this year. He proudly introduced the following sixth grade BOE representatives present this evening:

Ryan Beery	Sara Kelly
Lui Dorsainvil	Andrew Reitzen
Nicolette Ferro	

The student representatives individually introduced themselves to the BOE and collectively spoke to meeting with faculty and staff, reported on grade level highlights on their first eight days of school, and events upcoming in the future, i.e., book buddies, Fun Fridays, STEAM activities, stock market game, science experiments, holiday cards for nursing homes, teddy bear around the world project, etc., and field trips such as Safety Town, Project Adventure, DNA Laboratory, the track meet at Mephram, and Caumsett State Park to name a few.

The students thanked the BOE and Administration for inviting them to speak this evening and for always supporting them. Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Malloy congratulated the Martin faculty, parents, and students, and presented the sixth grade BOE representatives with certificates.

BOE DISCUSSION
Electric Bus Requirements
for Districts

Mrs. Rehak reported that the NYS 2022 Budget included a provision that requires school districts and contracted bus companies to transition their bus fleets to zero emissions electric buses by the year 2033 (an extension maybe filed to increase this to 2035), and all buses purchased starting in 2027 must meet these requirements. Mrs. Rehak explained one of the main challenges regarding this is predominantly the cost which includes the purchase of the buses, the infrastructure, coordination with the utility power authority to run the high voltage power required, the electricity, and for the contracted bus companies faced with similar challenges, the increase in cost due to the mandate passed onto the district.

Mrs. Rehak indicated this will be a capital expense for the district, and explained while the purchase of the buses is an aid able expense in New York, the district must fund the capital upfront and wait a year to receive the aid. In furtherance, Mrs. Rehak indicated the district will look for federal, state, and local grants to assist. Mrs. Rehak stressed due to the extensive considerations involved to meet this mandate upon the districts, it is imperative to start planning and will keep the Board apprised.

The BOE raised questions regarding the life expectancy of the buses, the cost of the infrastructure, and overall safety. In response, Mrs. Rehak and Mrs. Testa in reiteration explained this evening was to introduce the timeline and the mandate, and will keep the Board apprised in future meetings regarding the ongoing planning involved and data obtained.

***National School of
Character Recognition***

Mrs. Testa expressed her gratitude to the BOE for recognizing the mission of North Bellmore and the core values set forth by all the administrators, faculty, and staff. She explained there is a national award that schools can apply for but was not certain if this district meets all the specific criteria. Mrs. Testa indicated further research into this is required and will report back to the Board on it.

***Meeting Diverse Language
Needs of the Community***

Mrs. Testa reported on the diverse language needs of the district and the increase in ELL students districtwide. Currently, she indicated there are approximately 100 ELL students who receive services in a number of languages including Spanish, Urdu, Mandarin, Arabic, Hindi, Russian Albanian, Gujarati, Korean, Chinese, French, Polish, and Punjabi. In furtherance, Mrs. Testa further indicated an increased awareness of the diversity in the families where both students and parents and/or just parents who do not speak English. Mrs. Testa called upon Mrs. Pollitt to address the services available.

Mrs. Pollitt reiterated there are approximately 100 ELL students but indicated that number may still increase as screening is still underway. Mrs. Pollitt addressed the various services districtwide currently available to students and families:

- For interpretation services the district utilizes various means through BOCES including the Propio subscription available via phone in multiple languages and in-person services which can be utilized for parent/teacher conferences. The Microsoft Translator App is also currently used by faculty, staff, and students.
- With respect to written documents, Mrs. Pollitt indicated the district utilizes BOCES for translation. Also, in the Microsoft Office Suite currently utilized by the district, documents can be translated into various languages as well.
- The North Bellmore website can be translated to over 100 languages. The dropdown menu appears on the upper right of the website. This feature can be used to read information and content on the website only.

Mrs. Pollitt reported an orientation for new ELL's will be held on Wednesday, October 11, and notices will be going home in English and in the respective home language of the families.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a Motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Business meeting of August 14, 2023, and Special Meeting of August 21, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Agenda Items only)

Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Malloy on behalf of the Board of Education. There were no public comments relating to agenda items only.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Malloy advised that the Board received correspondence and were discussed.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

On a Motion made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's report for the month ended July 31, 2023.

**BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH
SCHOOL REPORTS**

The BMCHSD met on Wednesday, September 6. Mrs. Lanci indicated the meeting consisted of updates regarding the opening days of school describing the great energy and spirit portrayed in all the schools. She proudly reported that for the 2022/23 academic school year, 98 percent of the students graduated with 82 percent receiving an Advanced Regents Diploma. Mrs. Lanci extended her gratitude to the Mepham Sports Boosters for their donation of over \$8,500 to be utilized for windscreens on the Mepham athletic fields. She spoke of the upcoming scheduled events at the Middle and High Schools including back-to-school night on September 21 and 28 respectively, Homecoming and pep rallies at Calhoun on September 22, and Kennedy on September 30, and no date was available at the time of this meeting for Mepham. The next meeting will be held on October 4.

Mrs. Lanci somberly spoke to the passing of Lieutenant Rick Kobbe, Ladder Company 138, longstanding community member and former Newbridge Road parent, and extended on behalf of all deepest sympathies to his family. She reported his name was added to the wall of those firefighters who lost their lives due to 9/11 related illnesses.

FINANCE

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

PERSONNEL REPORT

On a Motion made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report dated September 14, 2023.

- A. Appointments
- B. Leave Requests
- C. Resignations
- D. Terminations
- E. Retirement

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

On a Motion made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Staff Development Report dated September 14, 2023.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa recognized and congratulated the NBTA, the Principals, staff, and students on a super opening to the new school year.

Mrs. Testa spoke of numerous phone calls she received with respect to the heat and the lack of air conditioning in the buildings. She reminded all of the bond that was put before the community on December 10, 2022, as well as one years before that which also included central air for the buildings. Both she reported were voted down by the community. In furtherance, Mrs. Testa indicated a bond is borrowed money, and had the bond passed the work would have been in progress. Without a bond, she stressed it is a much longer process requiring voter approval for all work performed.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**
(continued)

Mrs. Testa shared alternate planning the district is formulating to upgrade/maintain the buildings. As part of this plan, Mrs. Testa spoke to the electrical upgrade work included in this budget for three buildings. Mrs. Rehak addressed the scope of work, the projected timeline of completion, and stressed this does not include air conditioning. Mrs. Rehak described this as a layered approach, a methodology used when you don't have a bond. In reiteration, Mrs. Testa stressed again the BOE went out twice for the bond and it was declined both times.

Moving forward, Mrs. Testa discussed future options to bring back to the Board including the possibility of going out for another bond. In the meantime, she indicated the district continues to look at the Building Condition Survey and proudly spoke to the new asphalt, ceilings, and lighting at John G. Dinkelmeyer and Martin Avenue schools, and the continuation of that work in the future.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mrs. Rehak focused her report this evening on Central Registration and the overall growth in enrollment district wide. During the summer months she indicated the district normally has approximately 30 students register, but this summer that number more than tripled. Mrs. Rehak reported even as of the current date the district saw more than ten students register over the past two weeks.

Due to the influx this summer, Mrs. Rehak reported on the need to look at the overall enrollment in all buildings, the services required if applicable by the incoming students, transportation availability for students that need to be moved out of their home school to another school, and, most important, keeping in mind the best interest of students and families involved. Mrs. Rehak stressed the district will continue to closely monitor enrollment.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

On a Motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the CPSE and CSE reports dated September 7, 2023.

CONSENT AGENDA
(Item Nos. 15.1-15.8)

On a Motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 15.1 through 15.8.

BUSINESS CONTRACTS

15.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts:

- All About Kids, SKP, OT, LMSW, Psychology, PLLC (Related Services)
- All About Kids, SLP, OT, LMSW, Psychology, PLLC (Academic Tutoring)
- Lisa Arbucho-Veneroni
- Fontanetta Neuropsychology, PLLC (Related Services)
- Lawrence Public Schools
- MSKA, LLC (Academic Tutoring)
- MKSA, LLC (Related Services)
- Variety Child Learning Center

EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT

15.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby amends paragraph 4 of the letter agreement with Jeanne Canavan to clarify that the benefits contained in the CSEA contract applicable to Ms. Canavan include the \$500 longevity stipend.

DONATIONS

15.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Boy Scout Troop 192 of a check in the amount of \$126.88 to be used towards book purchases for the lending library at Martin Avenue School.

15.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Mrs. Susan Ptacek of approximately 53 backpacks with school supplies and 6 baskets of school supplies for new teachers. Approximate value: \$1500.00

15.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Cernuto of a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 to be used to continue to provide Cernuto Awards to students.

**FIRST READING:
Policy No. 5699**

15.6 The Board of Education accepts Policy 5699: Data Security and Privacy for a first reading.

**FIRST READING AND
ADOPTION:
Policy No. 5152**

15.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following revised policy for a first reading and adoption: Policy 5152: Admission of Non-Resident Students.

**DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT
PROPERTY**

15.8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and excess 29 cafeteria tables (15 from Newbridge, 11 from Park Avenue, 3 from Gunther School) that are unsafe and dangerous to use.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Malloy on behalf of the Board of Education. There were no public comments.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion was made to enter into Executive Session by Mrs. Lanci at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk