



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School 2616 Martin Avenue, North Bellmore, NY 11710	6:00 PM
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The Business meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, November 2, 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 (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)
- 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 6:05 p.m. A motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:52 p.m. Mrs. Malloy was absent at the onset of the meeting, and arrived at 8:05 p.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Mrs. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Lanci asked all to remain standing for a moment of silence for the victims in Maine and the war in the Middle East.
- MISSION STATEMENT** Mrs. Corless read the District’s Mission Statement.
- SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** Mrs. Lanci happily welcomed Mr. DeBlasio and the Park Avenue students. Mr. DeBlasio expressed the best way to measure the success of a school district is through the voices of the children sharing their wisdom and experiences, and proudly introduced the Fifth Grade Student Ambassadors present this evening.

Anthony Davis Giuliana Ferraro	Abigail Giordano Micah Millington
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SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
Park Avenue Fifth Grade
Student Ambassadors
(continued)

The Park Avenue student representatives spoke of their experiences at the Park Avenue School past and present, and their excitement for the future. Their smiles and enthusiasm were contagious. They individually yet still collectively spoke of their amazing principal, inspiring teachers, exciting learning experiences, field trips, i.e., field day, talent show, and of the “Park” promise. The Park Avenue promise they shared is a guide to making good decisions and choices, to meet challenges, and most important to treat others like you want to be treated expressing “being kind to other people brings kindness in return.” They thanked the Board of Education, Mrs. Testa, the District Office, Mr. DeBlasio, and the North Bellmore schools for allowing them to speak this evening.

In closing, Mr. DeBlasio applauded the students on their presentation this evening. He reiterated the importance of the student voice and proudly expressed “the sky is the limit for North Bellmore.” Mrs. Lanci on behalf of herself and the BOE spoke to the students’ poise, articulation, and confidence, and thanked their teachers and parents for inspiring them. Mrs. Testa congratulated and awarded certificates to the students.

Mrs. Malloy entered the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD
RECOGNITION

Mrs. Testa shared while NYSSBA recognizes school boards for their commitment to public school children during School Board Recognition Week in October, here in North Bellmore a public celebration for their commitment is held at the November BOE meeting. Mrs. Testa spoke of appreciation to the BOE for their volunteer work and service to the community year-round, i.e., daily, nightly, weekends, and expressed gratitude both personally and professionally for placing the North Bellmore students first above all. In recognition of this commitment, she invited the BOE to sit back, listen, and enjoy the celebration this evening on their behalf.

Words of dedication, appreciation, hard work, passion, courage, leadership, and integrity in honor of the BOE were expressed in gratification by Mr. Rosof on behalf of the North Bellmore Principals’ Association, Ms. Pirozzi of the North Bellmore Teacher’s Association, Ms. Roach on behalf of the members of CSEA, and Ms. Babsin representing the Paraprofessional Unit. Donations were made on their behalf to the Ronald McDonald House and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, gift cards were presented as honorary donations in support of the North Bellmore families, cards signed by the students districtwide, and other sentiments in gratitude.

Mrs. Malloy on behalf of all the BOE members expressed gratitude and appreciation for the recognition of their service presented this evening, and voiced their love and admiration for the community and the schools.

BOE DISCUSSION
Board of Education Goals
2023/24 (Follow-up)

The BOE held an open discussion relating to the following items:

- Board of Education Goals 2023/24
- Digital Component Usage of BOE Meetings.

BOE DISCUSSION
Board of Education Goals
2023/24 (Follow-up)
(continued)

Mrs. Malloy presented a copy of the BOE goals drafted for review and potential upload to the website based on a previous work session, and read aloud for the public the contents therein. Mrs. Cmar-Grote and Mrs. Corless presented input relating to content and suggested modifications to the written draft for clarifying purposes. Mrs. Lanci expressed how BOE goals, though not in writing have always existed, and shared the necessity for flexibility in these goals based on necessities that may arise.

BOE DISCUSSION
Digital Component for BOE
Meetings (Follow-up)

Mrs. Malloy opened discussion for follow-up relating to BOE livestreamed meetings. Mrs. Lanci raised the additional interest for livestreamed BOE meetings overall, not just high attendance nights such as tenure night, and suggested that all meetings be livestreamed. In furtherance of this, Mrs. Corless clarified while the meetings will be livestreamed indicated questions will not be accepted digitally and invited the community to the meetings to address the BOE in person. Mrs. Malloy expressed in agreement the importance of livestream meetings. In closing, Mrs. Cmar-Grote suggested monitoring the attendance and revisiting continuation of livestream in the future based on participation.

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 October 12, 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 September 30, 2023.

BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH
SCHOOL REPORTS

Mrs. Lanci reported the BMCHSD held their meeting last night, Wednesday, November 1. In appreciation of the BOE, she graciously spoke to a celebration of Board Recognition night by faculty and students, and reflected on a musical chorus performance by Word of Mouth/Merrick Avenue Middle School and student artwork presentations. Mrs. Lanci reported the BOE honored two students, Julia Cohen (Kennedy) and Liam Osborne (Mephram), 2023 NYSSMA All-State, and four alternates from Kennedy and Calhoun. She indicated the BOE accepted the Annual Audit Report, several contracts, and donations from PTA Coordinating Council and Calhoun Boosters. With respect to upcoming events, Mrs. Lanci shared November 22nd is a half day to be utilized as a remote learning day exercise in the event the need arises in the future such as for snow days.

FINANCE

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Mrs. Testa reiterated her appreciation to Mr. DeBlasio and the faculty of Park Avenue, and again congratulated the fifth-grade students on their amazing job this evening.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(continued)**

Moving on, Mrs. Testa reported on the following highlights districtwide:

- Gratitude was offered to the NBTA and Coordinating PTA Council for supporting the annual candy drive. The candy is donated to the Lions Club for the Polar Express scheduled for December 9.
- In the area of Safety & Security, a vulnerability assessment was conducted last week under the direction of Homeland Security with impressive positive results. Mrs. Testa expressed gratitude to the Administrative Staff and faculty for following the protocols. Security is continually assessed and adjusted when necessary to maintain districtwide safety.
- Mr. Fischetti is currently assessing the Connect Ed communication system and investigating other means. More information will be forthcoming when available.
- In Buildings & Grounds, as part of the Building Condition Survey, the district is obtaining estimates for thermal scanning of the building roofs.

In closing, Mrs. Testa reported the BOE and District Administrative Staff met with some of the members of PTA Coordinating Council prior to the onset of the meeting this evening and expressed pride in their partnership. She reminded all of upcoming events, i.e., Parent/Teacher Conference on November 6 and 7, and Pass, Punt, and Kick on November 8.

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 November 2, 2023.

- A. Appointments
- B. Change of Status
- C. Leave Requests
- D. Resignations

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

On a Motion made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated November 2, 2023.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mrs. Rehak reported on the following updates to the BOE:

- State Aid filings were completed, accepted, and marked clean by NYSED. Mrs. Rehak thanked Mr. Newman, District Treasurer, on his hard work in preparing the filings and financial statements this year. The annual audited financial statements were also uploaded to the state and approved, and will be made available on the website.
- Preparation work has begun for the ESSER reporting. This report is due by the end of the calendar year.
- Work on the 2024/25 budget is underway. The budget calendar will be available soon for BOE review.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT
(continued)**

- With respect to Capital Projects, Mr. Grillo, the District Architect is currently working on the plans for Phase 2 of the pavement and ceiling work at Saw Mill and Park Avenue schools to be sent to the State for approval.
- Annual Kindergarten registration will begin on November 15, and scheduling of appointments is already underway. The registration packet is available on the website under the Central Registration Department. Enrollment is being monitored closely with respect to projected numbers for next year for budgetary purposes.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

On a Motion by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the CPSE and CSE reports dated October 26, 2023.

**CONSENT AGENDA
(Item Nos. 15.1 to 15.8)**

On a Motion made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, 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 contract for the 2023-24 school year: M. Diana Haddad

DONATIONS

15.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Newbridge Road School PTA of a check in the amount of \$1,938.54 to be used to cover all the costs of the sixth grade Project Adventure trip for the students at Newbridge Road School.

15.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Milohnic of a check in the amount of \$1,000 to be used to purchase curriculum material for the students at Park Avenue School.

**ADOPTION OF NBUFSD
UPDATED PLAN OF SERVICE
FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

15.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the updated North Bellmore School District Plan of Service for Special Education.

**REVISED POLICIES FOR
READING AND ADOPTION:
Policy Nos. 5710, 8130, 8140,
0100, 4321, 0110.2, 8414.5,
and 8413**

15.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the following revised policies for a reading and adoption:

- Policy 5710: School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) Reporting
- Policy 8130: School Safety Plans and Teams
- Policy 8140: Unsafe School Transfer Choice
- Policy 0100: Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity
- Policy 4321: Programs for Students with Disabilities
- Policy 0110.2: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Policy 8414.5: Alcohol and Drug Testing of Drivers
- Policy 8413: Transportation to Private & Parochial Schools

**POLICIES FOR FIRST
READING:
Policy Nos. 6640 and 4321.12**

15.6 The Board of Education accepts the following policies for a first reading:

- Policy 6640: Capital Assets Accounting
- Policy 4321.12: Timeout and Physical Restraint (All Students)

**EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT
AMENDMENT**

15.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the first amendment agreement with the Director of Facilities, Richard Russo.

**2022/23 MANAGEMENT
LETTER CORRECTIVE
ACTION PLAN**

15.8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the 2022-23 Management Letter Corrective Action Plan.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Testa provided the following updates to public questions and/or comments at the BOE meeting of October 12, 2023:

- With respect to inquiry regarding a dog on the Martin Avenue property, Mrs. Testa reported that the dog in question is a service dog and service dogs are permitted on school grounds. Mrs. Testa reiterated the limited inquiry that is allowed and thanked the person for providing the information in confirmation of this status.
- Regarding the inquiry surrounding security and safety for October 13, Mrs. Malloy at the prior BOE meeting responded that there would be extra police surveillance in North Bellmore. Members of the community verbally voiced their disbelief in her response. Mrs. Testa confirmed this evening that on October 13, Homeland Security and Nassau County Police were present at Martin Avenue and the other schools as communicated on October 12. She further explained that the BOE and/or police cannot speak openly with regard to particular plans for security reasons.

Mrs. Lanci opened a discussion regarding the celebratory festivities of Halloween in the North Bellmore schools. Mrs. Lanci spoke to feedback she heard regarding the diversity of the celebrations by building, i.e., fall festival, Halloween parade, costumes, and suggested that the teams work together to have more consistency districtwide for future activities. Mrs. Cmar-Grote made a similar suggestion with respect to continuity in grade level fields trips districtwide.

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**

The Board of Education did not enter into executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk