



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

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Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School 2616 Martin Avenue, North 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 8, 2024, in the All Purpose Room of the Martin Avenue School at 2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, New York.

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
- Jacqueline Rehak, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Steven Goodstadt, District Counsel
- Laurice Gunnels, District Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**                      The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. A motion was made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

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

**MISSION STATEMENT**              Mrs. Cmar-Grote read the District’s Mission Statement.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**              Dr. Yannucci, Principal of Martin Avenue School, thanked the BOE for the invitation this evening, welcomed the families, faculty and staff present, and introduced the BOE sixth grade representatives:

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Khloe Cangenua | Mason Torres  |
| Summer Ferrie  | Ariana Vargas |

The BOE representatives individually spoke yet collectively shared how the North Bellmore mission statement is evidenced at Martin Avenue through compassion, kindness, and understanding. The students spoke of grade sensitive as well as school wide experiences such as the read aloud, the balloon parade, class trips, school buddies, etc., and discussed the efforts of how the Martin family serves

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**  
***Martin Avenue Sixth Grade***  
***BOE Representatives***  
***(continued)***

the community through fundraising efforts like the Thanksgiving food drive, clean up the backyard, and for those who have served the Country, Valentines for Vets to offer gratitude.

Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Malloy congratulated the students on their poise and articulation demonstrated in their representation this evening and presented them with certificates.

***Student Art Presentation***

Mr. Rosof, the District Liaison for the art program of North Bellmore and Principal of Saw Mill Road School, welcomed the artist honorees districtwide present this evening, their families, and introduced the art educators of North Bellmore, Ms. Bock, Ms. Farley, and Ms. Lopez. Mr. Rosof commended the students on their artwork displayed this evening and spoke to the visual representation of skills learned in art instruction combined with thought and imagination visually depicted on paper.

Mr. Rosof extended gratitude to the BOE, Mrs. Testa, building principals, and teachers for their support of the district arts program, i.e. art, music, and instrumental, and stressed the importance of artistic programs combined with academics in a child’s overall growth. Mr. Rosof invited Ms. Bock, Ms. Farley, and Ms. Lopez to introduce and present certificates to the artist honorees from their respective schools.

JOHN G. DINKELMEYER

Siya Gahra  
Erin Loechner  
Vincent Maltese  
Yirui Zhang

MARTIN AVENUE

Tess Daly  
Vivienne Ferrie  
Vincent Samaniego  
Reese Walker

NEWBRIDGE ROAD

Kayla Diaz  
Paul Stoven  
Luke Watson  
Connor Weidemann

PARK AVENUE

Catalina Fioranelli  
Caleb Littman  
Wyatt Roussine  
Madison Scholl

SAW MILL ROAD

Grace Cho  
Sean Egan  
Noah Gwyther  
Alexa Olmo  
Lucas Shek  
Brielle Tambini  
Olivia Thomas  
Averie Volpe

**BOE DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Malloy inquired if the BOE had any items they wished to raise for discussion. Mr. Nardo inquired if there was an update regarding electric buses raised in a prior BOE meeting. Mrs. Testa responded that item is still in discussion at the various levels including the state, and once a formalized template is available, she will update the BOE.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a Motion to approve the minutes of the Business meeting of January 11, 2024, Mrs. Lanci, Mrs. Cmar Grote, and Mr. Nardo voted in favor, and Mrs. Malloy and Mrs. Corless abstained as they were not present for the January 11, 2024, meeting. The Motion passed with three votes in favor and two abstentions.

On a Motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 16, 2024.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS***(Agenda Items only)*

Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Malloy on behalf of the Board of Education. With respect to Item No. 15.2, the 2024/25 School Calendar, consideration by the BOE to add Eid al-Adha to the calendar was requested by the following community members:

Ms. Huda (Jennie Court)  
Ms. Karim (Old Britton Road)  
Ms. Marfani and Ms. Sabam (Saw Mill Road)  
Ms. Rehman (North Jerusalem Road)  
Ms. Umar (Queen Street)

Mrs. Malloy thanked all for their input this evening. She reported that correspondence with respect to this was also received and indicated that the school calendar is on the agenda for consideration this evening.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Malloy advised that the Board received correspondence for discussion.

**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 ending December 31, 2023.

**BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS**

Mrs. Lanci reported that the BMCHSD met last night. She announced the BOE celebrated the five Regeneron Scholars, two from Kennedy High School and three from Mephram. She spoke to their success and appreciation of the profound work to receive that distinction, and congratulated the honorees on their accomplishment. Mrs. Lanci noted a donation was received by the Community Cupboard. The next BMCHSD meeting will be held on March 6.

**FINANCE**

The Board of Education acknowledged review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of January 2024.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Testa was excited to share the focal point of her report this evening is on Curriculum and Instruction, and the amazing work of Mrs. Pollitt, Ms. McNamara, and the teachers on the advancements in this area for the students of North Bellmore.

Mrs. Testa proudly spoke to current and upcoming highlights:

- New Literary analysis units for grades 3 through 6 expanding students' knowledge with respect to challenging and understanding literature, building vocabulary, writing short but detailed responses to questions, etc. A 90-minute PD with respect to this was given to the teachers in January, and the utilization of these strategies has provided positive feedback already from the staff.
- New for Grade 2, *Inquire Like a Scientist*, which focuses on foundational research and notetaking skills in a creative, fun, and innovative manner increasing vocabulary and knowledge.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT  
(continued)**

- Grade 5 argumentative writing was revised and facilitated by Ms. McNamara utilizing creative feedback from the teaching staff enhancing student's foundational writing skills.
- In Grade 6, a new foundational unit of study has been created revising the argumentative units of study with increased focus on grammar. The new unit of study will be shared on March 8 at the Superintendent's Conference Day.

In closing, Mrs. Testa spoke to North Bellmore advancements in Curriculum and Instructional, and more importantly the continued growth, reiterating her gratitude to Mrs. Pollitt, Ms. Namara, the administrators, faculty, and staff.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On a Motion made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved Items 12.1 and 12.2.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

12.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report dated February 8, 2024:

- A. Appointments
- B. Leave Requests
- C. Resignations

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

12.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved the Staff Development Report dated February 8, 2024.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT  
REPORT**

Mrs. Rehak reported the Budget Workshop was rescheduled to Tuesday, March 5, at the Martin Avenue School, APR Room, and the calendar on the website has been updated to reflect this change.

Mrs. Rehak indicated work on the 2024/25 budget has begun and is currently ongoing. Mrs. Rehak discussed the major items outlined in the budget, i.e., the rising costs associated with transportation and health insurance, enrollment, an increase in student services and out-of-district placements, the status of state aid, etc. With respect to grant funding, ARPA she reminded will be coming to an end this upcoming August as did CRSSA last August, reiterating the purpose of this funding was to address COVID and the aftermath of pandemic related issues. She indicated those items would not be sustainable under the projected general fund budget.

In summary, Mrs. Rehak estimated a 15 percent increase in transportation, 15 percent in the special education budget, a 12 percent increase in health insurance, and 5 percent in utilities. Overall, she reported the first draft of the budget reflects a 5.47 percent increase budget to budget, and a 1.86 percent increase to the tax levy which is within the cap. She stressed this is a draft projection of the budget which will continue to be fine-tuned over the upcoming weeks. Mrs. Rehak indicated a detailed outline of the proposed budget will be presented at the Budget Workshop on March 5.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT  
REPORT  
(continued)**

Mrs. Rehak highlighted important upcoming dates:

- March 5 - Budget Workshop (Martin Avenue School)
- April 11 - BOE Meeting/Approval of Budget (Martin Avenue School)
- May 9 - Annual Budget Hearing (Martin Avenue School)
- May 21 - Budget Vote (Newbridge Road School)

In closing, Mrs. Rehak reminded all of the Non-Public School Transportation application deadline of Monday, April 1, and the process to submit the application. She reiterated the importance of the deadline and reminded all that the District Office is closed on Monday, April 1, and all applications must be received prior to that date.

**CPSE/CSE REPORTS**

On a Motion made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education the Board of Education approved the CPSE and CSE reports dated February 1, 2024.

**BUSINESS CONTRACTS**

On a Motion made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the contracts for the 2023-24 school year:

- Extraordinary Pediatrics
- Seaford UFSD
- Sensory Stars Pediatric Therapy

**2024-25 SCHOOL  
CALENDAR**

On a Motion made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education tabled the adoption of the 2024-25 school calendar for further discussion.

Item 15.2 was tabled for further discussion by the BOE in consideration of public commentary this evening and correspondence received requesting the addition of Eid al-Adha.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On a Motion made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved Items 15.3 through 15.8.

**POLICY - READING AND  
ADOPTION:  
Policy 8130.2**

15.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepted the following policy for a reading and adoption:

- Policy 8130.2 - Workplace Violence Prevention

**POLICY - FIRST READING:  
Policy No. 5152**

15.4 The Board of Education accepted the following policy for a first reading:

- Policy 5152: Admission of Non-resident Students.

**2023-24 NYSED NON-  
RESIDENT TUITION RATE**

15.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District hereby approved the NYSED non-resident tuition rate for the 2023-2024 school year.

**DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT PROPERTY**

15.6 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board declare obsolete and excess the following equipment that is very old, damaged and beyond repair:

- 12 units Artcobell convertible cafeteria tables, Model No. SA44156
- Thoromatic Floor Machine, Model No. TM2000
- Minuteman Floor 260 Scrubber, Serial No. VMC260026QP0932  
NB serial No. 20090466

**POLICY - READING AND ADOPTION:  
Policy 9520.6**

15.7 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepted the following policy for a reading and adoption:

- Policy 9520.6 – Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

**POLICIES - FIRST READING:  
Policy Nos. 4327  
9260**

15.8 The Board of Education accepted the following policies for a first reading:

- Policy 4327 Homebound Instruction
- Policy 9260 Conditional Appointment and Emergency Conditional Appointment – Student Safety

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Malloy on behalf of the Board of Education.

Ms. Cheng – Additional improvements to the school zone at Newbridge Road School on Bellmore Avenue. Mrs. Malloy asked Ms. Cheng to clarify her question. Ms. Cheng raised concerns regarding the flow of traffic on Bellmore Avenue in the vicinity of the Newbridge Road School, i.e. the disregard for speed limits and/or traffic control signals, and student safety traveling to and from school. She indicated even with the additional signs and speed monitoring that was added the issue still exists. Mrs. Testa responded the district can reach out to the Legislators and the Police Department to perform a traffic study in that area, and thanked Ms. Cheng for raising her concerns.

Ms. Sloven (Davenport Place) – *Is there any update you can give us on swatting?* Mrs. Testa replied that she has no new information but assured that this is an active ongoing investigation by the local police department, the FBI, and Homeland Security. Mrs. Testa indicated due to the nature of the investigation and for security reasons she would only be allowed to share information permitted by the authorities involved.

Ms. Karim (Old Britton Road) – Ms. Karim inquired if a police assembly like the one held at Newbridge Road School after the swatting could be held at the other school buildings to make children more aware of police presence and safety. Mrs. Testa reminded all of the importance for the assembly at the Newbridge Road School for the students, faculty, and staff with the police and various municipalities, and indicated she has requested from the Police Department and Homeland Security a list of future assemblies and/or programs available that may be conducted in the buildings for consideration.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

Motion was made to enter into Executive Session by Mrs. Corless at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 10:23 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a Motion by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m. The next Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels  
District Clerk