



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES – DECEMBER 12, 2024**

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| Business Meeting | Martin Avenue School<br>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, December 12, 2024, in the All Purpose Room of the Martin Avenue School at 2616 Martin Avenue, North Bellmore, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

- Nina Lanci, President
- Rosemarie Corless, Vice President
- Melissa Cmar-Grote
- Christine Malloy
- 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

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| <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>        | The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. A motion was made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b> | Mrs. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>    | Mrs. Rehak read the District’s Mission Statement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>  | <p>ON A MOTION to approve the minutes of the Business meeting of November 14, 2024, Mrs. Lanci, Mrs. Cmar-Grote, Mrs. Malloy, Mr. Nardo voted in favor, and Mrs. Corless abstained as she was not present for the November 14, 2024, meeting. The Motion passed with four votes in favor and one abstention.</p> <p>ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 21, 2024.</p> |

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
*(Agenda Items only)*Guidelines to Public Comments:

Any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall complete an information card. Questions are to be addressed to the Board President, not to individual board members. Personal attacks on individual board members, administrators and staff will not be tolerated and may be cause to adjourn the meeting. There will be no back and forth dialogue. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, it would be appreciated if each visitor would limit his/her remarks to not more than three minutes or ask only one question. Public discussion on matters relating to staff and students, at which their reputation, privacy, or rights to due process, or those of others could be in some way violated, is prohibited.

There were no public comments relating to agenda items only.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Lanci advised that the Board received correspondence.

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's report for the month ended October 31, 2024 (on file at District Office).

**BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH  
SCHOOL REPORTS**

Mrs. Corless reported BMCHSD met last week. Mr. Harrington, she said, spoke of the thoughtfulness and support of the community, extended gratitude for the contributions received by the community cupboard resulting in the distribution of more than one hundred Thanksgiving baskets this year, and of the upcoming Polar Express event this weekend for under privileged children organized by Mrs. Lanci with volunteers from both North Bellmore and the high school district. There was a presentation of student awards to the Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalists, three from Calhoun and one from Kennedy; four student athletes received certificates for their success and participation in the Maccabiah Games in Houston, Texas, a worldwide event for Jewish athletes whereby the 2024 Maccabiah Games baseball team won a gold medal; and, Makayla Daube, Mephram HS, Class of 2025 Valedictorian, was honored as the recipient of the News 12 Scholar Athlete award for her achievements districtwide as a script writer and reporter for the Bellmore-Merrick Broadcasting program. Lastly Mrs. Corless proudly spoke to the third annual Manual Mojica Stairway Climb which raised over \$600 for the Ronald McDonald House in honor of his service as a firefighter who passed on 9/11. His children were former graduates of the Martin Avenue School. The next meeting is on January 8.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
*Item Nos. 9.1 to 10.3*

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 9.1 through 10.3.

**FINANCE**

9.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Budgetary Transfers dated December 12, 2024 (on file at District Office).

9.2 The Board of Education acknowledges the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of November 2024 (on file at District Office).

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

10.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated December 12, 2024 (on file at District Office).

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

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

10.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated December 12, 2024 (on file at District Office).

**ADDENDUM TO  
PERSONNEL REPORT**

10.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an addendum to the Personnel Report dated December 12, 2024 (on file at District Office).

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa opened in the spirit of the holiday season expressing her heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Lanci, on behalf of the Lion's Club, for the upcoming Polar Express extravaganza, and to the Administrators, the NBTA, the parents, students, and the community for their selfless generosity and volunteered time over the year conducting various drives (candy, winter accessories, etc.), in preparation for it. Mrs. Testa expressed excitement for the ten-year anniversary of this event, the immense contribution to the community of families across Nassau County that face multiple challenges, and shared great pride displayed by the community as a true illustration of the North Bellmore mission.

Mrs. Testa congratulated proudly the students and Directors on the outstanding performances by Chorus, Band, and Orchestra in celebration of the holiday seasons of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.

Looking forward, Mrs. Testa welcomed Mr. Richard Cunningham, the interim Business Official, starting officially on January 6, 2025, and indicated he has already begun transitioning with her and Mrs. Rehak in preparation. In furtherance Mrs. Testa congratulated Mrs. Rehak on her new position and proudly spoke of her successful career and accomplishments as the Assistant Superintendent for Business of North Bellmore. Mrs. Testa expressed heartfelt gratitude to her as a Business Official and partner, for the district's growth financially, shared admiration for her analytical/strategic thinking, her data driven and decision-making qualities, her ability to lead and inspire others to lead, and expressed appreciation for the Business Office team she created and the long-term planning she leaves behind. In closing, Mrs. Testa wished Mrs. Rehak the best moving forward on her new journey.

Mrs. Lanci on behalf of the BOE expressed gratitude to Mrs. Rehak for her time and dedication illustrated through her work and attention for detail, and shared appreciation for how Mrs. Rehak performed at the next level, focusing on the whole community, not just the business aspect. In closing, Mrs. Testa shared the plans moving forward on the search for the new Business Official of North Bellmore, and expressed how fortunate the district is to have Mr. Cunningham, an experienced Business Official, in the interim position.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT  
REPORT**

Mrs. Rehak conveyed appreciation to the Board of Education and team with whom she had the privilege to work with and expressed gratitude for the encouragement and support she received relative to promoting new ideas and growth opportunities. Mrs. Rehak expressed a heartfelt thank you for all the kind words this evening on her behalf.

Mrs. Rehak reported on the following highlights districtwide:

- As reported last month, the Rockefeller study was built into the State budget this year to obtain an assessment of Foundation Aid, and a 300-page plus report was recently released. The study in summary suggests that factors in the formula are old and need to be updated, i.e. poverty rates, labor costs, etc., and suggested changes in State Aid to the Districts should be predictable and handled in a phased-in approach. While the report does include recommendations to the Governor for budgeting purposes, the unknown is how this report may affect the upcoming State budget and the possible impact upon North Bellmore. There will be future updates regarding this once the Governor puts forth the proposed budget.
- A rough first draft of the 2025/26 North Bellmore budget was presented suggesting a potential 2.55 percent tax cap with a 2.75 to 2.8 budget to budget increase. Factors driving the budget like last year include Special Education out-of-district placements and increased transportation costs with little to no attrition in this category as discussed last month. On the positive side, the Health Insurance rates were released for January 2025, and the increase was less than originally anticipated whereby assisting budgetarily in the current year and potentially in the proposed budget for next year.
- Based on the November 21 BOE Capital Project work session, a bid packet was prepared by the architect to add additional electrical panels, outlets, and air conditioning units in case the proposed legislation is passed regarding classroom temperature. The packet will be available on December 19, and the bid opening is set for January 10.
- The ADA bathroom Capital Reserve has been funded with just over \$3 million, and based on the work session of November 21, it was approved to start moving forward with the multi stall bathrooms districtwide. The district is currently waiting for the architect to prepare estimates for this so it can be included on the May 2025 ballot for voter approval. It was stressed this does not increase the tax levy as these are reserve funds already set aside.

In closing, Mrs. Rehak indicated she has reviewed these and other ongoing items in detail with Mr. Cunningham, and he is aware of the BOE and district plans moving forward.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
CPSE/CSE REPORTS**

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approves the CPSE and CSE reports dated December 5, 2024 (on file at District Office).

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| <b>CONSENT AGENDA</b><br><i>(Item Nos. 13.1 to 13.8)</i> | ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 13.1 through 13.8.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS</b>                            | 13.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2024/25 school year (on file at District Office): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Atlas Search Health Solutions, LLC (Skilled Nursing)</li> <li>-Atlas Search Health Solutions, LLC (Services)</li> <li>-Bellmore UFSD (DOR/DOL)</li> <li>-Bus Patrol America, LLC</li> <li>-Malverne UFSD (Health &amp; Welfare)</li> </ul> |
| <b>EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT</b>                              | 13.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an employment agreement between the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District and Richard Cunningham for the services as the District's Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business from January 6, 2025, through June 30, 2025 (on file at District Office).                                                                            |
| <b>READING &amp; ADOPTION OF POLICY 8210.1</b>           | 13.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a second reading and adoption: Policy 8210.1 Use of Surveillance Cameras on School Property (on file at District Office).                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>RECORD ACCESS OFFICER APPOINTMENT</b>                 | 13.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint the appointment of Jeanne Canavan as Records Access Officer effective December 20, 2024 through June 30, 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>DONATION</b>                                          | 13.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board accept an anonymous donation of eight \$25.00 Shop Rite gift cards to help Saw Mill families in need. (Total value: \$200.00)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>NEW BUSINESS CONTRACT</b>                             | 13.6 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emerald Investigation</li> <li>- North Merrick UFSD</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>SEPARATION AGREEMENT</b>                              | 13.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes and approves a certain Separation Agreement dated December 12, 2024 with an employee made known to the Board (on file at District Office).                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>SITE DIRECTOR</b>                                     | 13.8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District authorizes a \$12,000 stipend for the 2025 year for the Site Director paid via the Prevention Grant with OASAS. Such stipend will increase by 2% every January 1 until otherwise determined by the Board of Education.                                                                                                      |
| <b>OLD BUSINESS</b>                                      | No old business was discussed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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There were no public comments.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The BOE did not adjourn into Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. Mrs. Lanci extended wishes for a safe and healthy Holiday season, and a Happy New Year. The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels  
District Clerk