

MINUTES OF THE NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING April 12, 2018

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The regular meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, April 12, 2018, 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:

Peter Mayo, President  
Melissa Cmar-Grote, Vice President  
JoAnn DeLauter  
John Ferrara  
Nina Lanci

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools  
Carol Eskew, Deputy Superintendent  
Mark Schissler, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Jason Fischetti, Director of Technology, Chief Information Officer  
Larry Tenenbaum, District Counsel  
Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Schissler led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. DeLauter then read the District's Mission Statement.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the regular meeting of March 8, 2108 and minutes from the special meeting of March 6, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded, and the motion was carried 5-0.
- SPECIAL PRESENTATION** Mrs. Testa announced that she is very proud of the students tonight as we celebrate Music in our Schools Month. Mrs. Testa thanked Mrs. Skelos for her leadership with the music department and then turned the meeting over to her. Mrs. Skelos introduced the district's music teachers and thanked them for their dedication to the students. The teachers introduced the fifth and sixth grade student representatives from each school in orchestra, chorus and band. Each group performed for the community. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Mayo thanked the students for sharing their talent and to their parents for supporting music education.
- CORRESPONDENCE** Mr. Mayo advised that correspondence was received by the Board.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended February 28, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

**FINANCE**

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Internal Auditor

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated April 12, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education authorize the North Bellmore School District to expend the sum in the General Fund Appropriation in the total amount of \$57,228,137 for the 2018/2019 school year. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the following Personnel Report dated April 12, 2018. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**A.1 Personnel Report**

**April 12, 2018**

**Certified Personnel:** Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it resolved that the following persons be appointed as teachers in North Bellmore Union Free School District as indicated below. All assignments are at the discretion of the district. Leave replacements are paid on a per diem basis per the NBTA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

<u>Appointments:</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
10.1 Yencharis, Amy	Chorus Co-Director	(Stipend)	\$1,268	4/12/2018
10.2 Lambraia, Alexandra	Chorus Co-Director	(Stipend)	\$1,268	4/12/2018
10.3 Behr, Desiree	Band Co-Director	(Stipend)	\$1,268	4/12/2018
10.4 D'Orio, Christopher	Band Co-Director	(Stipend)	\$1,268	4/12/2018

**Appointment to Tenure:**

10.5 Fisher, Denise	Principal			7/01/2018
10.6 Martelli, Nicole	ENL Teacher			9/01/2018
10.7 Teti, Dawn	Teacher K-6			9/01/2018
10.8 West, Jenna	Special Ed. Teacher			9/01/2018

**Spring Concert:**

10.9 Hirsch, Dana	Chaperones		\$43.39/hr	5/07/2018
10.10 Martelli, Nicole	Chaperones		\$43.39/hr	5/07/2018
10.11 O'Neill, Jennifer	Chaperones		\$43.39/hr	5/07/2018

**Family Medical Leave of Absence:**

10.12 Losquadro, Teresa	Nurse			3/12/2018-3/23/2018
10.13 Meskill, Susan	Teacher K-6			4/09/2018-5/04/2018
10.14 South, Christine	Teacher K-6			4/30/2018-6/22/2018
10.15 Callahan Fodor, Kathleen	Teacher K-6			4/23/2018-5/04/2018

**Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence:**

10.16	Stuertz, Judith	Psychologist	3/14/2018-6/22/2018
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**Unpaid Leave of Absences:**

10.17	Belferder, JoAnn	Teacher K-6	9/01/2018-6/30/2019
10.18	Candelaria, Mary Kate	Special Ed. Teacher	9/01/2018-6/30/2019
10.19	McCormack, Audra	Special Ed. Teacher	9/01/2018-6/30/2019
10.20	Callahan Fodor, Kathleen	Teacher K-6	5/07/2018-6/30/2018

**Abolition/Discontinuance of Service**

10.21 The Superintendent recommends that, due to fiscal constraints and attrition, the Board of Education abolish the following positions, effective at the end of the workday, June 30, 2018:

- Nine (9) positions in the tenure area of general education grades K-6
  - 6 positions due to fiscal constraints
  - 3 positions due to attrition
- One (1) position in the tenure area of school psychologist
- Three (3) positions in the tenure area of reading
- One (1) half time (.5) position in the tenure area of physical education
- One (1) half time (.5) position in the tenure area of music
- One (1) half time (.5) position in the tenure area of art

10.22 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a position in the tenure area of general education, K-6, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee A (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

10.23 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a position in the tenure area of general education, K-6, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee B (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

10.24 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a position in the tenure area of general education, K-6, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee C (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

10.25 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a position in the tenure area of general education, K-6, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee D (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

10.26 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a position in the tenure area of general education, K-6, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee E (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

10.27 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a position in the tenure area of general education, K-6, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee F (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

10.28 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a position in the tenure area of school psychologist, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee G (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

10.29 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a half time position in the tenure area of physical education, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee H (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

10.30 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a half time position in the tenure area of music, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee I (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

10.31 The Superintendent recommends that, as a result of the abolition of a half time position in the tenure area of art, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education discontinue the services of Employee J, (named in Confidential Attachment A), effective at the end of the day, June 30, 2018, on the basis of seniority in the tenure area.

**Resignation:**

10.32	Bragg, Jaime Lynn	Substitute Teacher	4/04/2018
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***Classified Personnel:*** Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it resolved that the following person be appointed in North Bellmore Union Free School District as indicated below. All assignments are at the discretion of the district. Leave replacements are paid on a per diem basis per the NBTA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

<b><u>Terminations:</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Step</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Eff. Date</u></b>
10.33	Alexander, Christine	Monitor PT		3/26/2018
10.34	Guagliardo, Salvatore	Maintainer		2/13/2018

**Resignation:**

10.35	Wesselhoft, Mary	Typist Clerk PT	4/06/2018
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Change to the February 8, 2018 Personnel Report

Termination: (Rescind)

8.17	Cilione, Jennifer	Monitor PT/Sub	01/25/2018
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**STAFF  
DEVELOPMENT  
REPORT**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development report dated April 12, 2018. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**TENURE**

Mrs. Testa congratulated the following staff members for receiving tenure this evening: Nicole Dawn Teti (Newbridge, Grade 4), Jenna West (Martin Avenue, Special Education), Nicole Martelli (Newbridge, ENL) and Denise Fisher (Principal, Newbridge Road School). Mr. Rosof (on behalf of the Principals), Mrs. Malone, Ms. Speidel, faculty members, Mrs. Elhilow (on behalf of NBTA) and representatives from the PTAs, SEPTA, and Coordinating Council all expressed their congratulations to Mrs. Fisher and the newly tenured teachers and gave them tokens of appreciation. Mr. Mayo and Mrs. Lanci, on behalf of the Board of Education congratulated Mrs. Fisher and the teachers and expressed their appreciation for their dedication to the students in North Bellmore. The meeting recessed at 8:17 PM for refreshments. The meeting reconvened at 8:37 PM

**2018-19 BUDGET  
UPDATE**

Mrs. Testa gave an overview of the proposed budget for the 2018-19 school year.

Mrs. Testa explained that the proposed budget carries a tax levy increase of 3.40 percent, which meets the New York State tax cap guidelines. The budget-to-budget increase is 1.98 percent (without the Library loan).

Mrs. Testa gave a PowerPoint presentation on how the taxpayers can expect to see the transportation propositions, submitted by community members, on the ballot.

The first transportation proposition (No. 2A) changes the transportation eligibility mileage limit for students in grades 4-6 from the current one (1) mile limit to a new one-half (1/2) mile limit. This increases expenses \$610,000 and will increase the tax levy by an additional 1.64 percent for an overall increase of 5.04 percent. It will exceed the tax levy cap of 3.40 percent and will eliminate refund checks to taxpayers. The first transportation proposition will require both the budget and the proposition to pass (each independently) by a supermajority of voter approval (60 percent or more).

The second transportation (No. 2B) eliminates all transportation except for the students in grades K-6 who reside more than two (2) miles from school. If passed, this will result in a savings to the district of approximately \$450,000 and will require a standard 50 percent +1 majority to pass. Taxpayers would be eligible for a refund check.

Proposition No. 2C maintains transportation eligibility at current mileage limits, requires a standard 50 percent +1 to pass. Taxpayers would be eligible for a refund check.

Mrs. Testa added that all the transportation choices will be included in the budget newsletter.

**SECURITY UPDATE**

Mrs. Testa stated that she recently met with Legislator Tom McKeivitt and discussed getting a legislative grant for security vestibules at all of the schools. Mrs. Testa thanked Mr. Russo and Mr. Fischetti for visiting other districts and researching the various vestibules. We are looking forward to taking the next step.

**NYS ELA  
ASSESSMENT**

Mrs. Testa reported that the NYSA ELA assessments took place this week. The district had a 62% refusal rate. Last year we had a 66% refusal rate.

Mrs. Testa indicated that she received a petition from parents through the change.org website suggesting that teachers use part of their contractually allotted time between the end of the day and 3:45 PM to facilitate enhancement activities. Mrs. Testa stated that she appreciated the correspondence and has sent a response.

**VISITORS**

Mrs. Casucci (Sycamore Ave.) questioned why the district is accepting donations of six LifeVacs and stated her concerns about using them.

Mrs. Testa stated that we will work with the administration, district physician, nurses and the Wellness Committee to set up a training protocol and professional development for next year and will decide how they will be utilized. Mrs. Casucci stated that she wants to see research that evidences that the LifeVacs are better than using the Heimlich Maneuver.

**HIGH SCHOOL  
REPORT**

Mrs. Lanci reported on the April 9 Board meeting. The Board recognized the Nassau County Cheerleading Champions from Calhoun, as well as Kennedy senior, Jessica Rosen, who won a National Gold Medal in the 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, and Calhoun teacher, Jason Boland, Harvard Club of Long Island Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

The Board adopted the 2018-19 school budget in the amount of \$159.8M and represents a tax levy increase of 2.65%, which is within the district's tax cap. The budget-to-budget increase is 3.98 percent. The residents will vote on a second proposition to use \$1.53M from the district's capital reserves fund for building and maintenance work, with no further bonding.

Mr. Gerard Owenburg, current JFK assistant principal, was appointed principal of Kennedy High School effective July 1.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
CPSE/CSE**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated April 5, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS  
CONTRACTS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following contracts:

- Frances Bacon (2018/19)
- Creative Tutoring Services (2018/19)
- Hicksville School District (2017/18)
- KLH Fire Safety Consultants (2018/19)
- Lawrence Public Schools (2017/18)
- Nassau BOCES (2018/19)
- Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District (2017/18)
- Rockville Centre UFSD (2017/18)
- Syosset Central School District (2017/18)

Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**AGREEMENT WITH  
NASSAU BOCES**

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve an Agreement between and among the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services and North Bellmore UFSD (on file in Business Office).

Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**DONATION**

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of six LifeVac (airway obstruction rescue device) from the Bellmore Lions Club (valued at \$1,354.95) for school use at North Bellmore School District.

Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**VISITORS**

Mr. Turk (Lawrence Rd.) a representative of the Young Israel of North Bellmore, requested the district to consider extending the transportation mileage limits from 15 miles to 17 miles for children attending nonpublic schools.

Mrs. Testa stated that a resident must submit a petition to the district explaining the proposition and the approximate cost, with a minimum of 77 signatures and addresses of eligible voters in North Bellmore in order to be considered for submission on the ballot. Mrs. Testa added that the petition would need to be received by the district office by Monday, May 5 by 5 p.m.

Mr. Weiss asked why extra help issues cannot be discussed at a board meeting if the teachers' contract is available to the public.

Mrs. Testa explained that the teachers are contractually required to be available until 3:45 p.m. for lesson planning, parent conferences, faculty meetings, professional development and extra help. Mrs. Testa stated that parents may request extra help and that teachers may recommend extra help. Mrs. Testa noted that the North Bellmore Teachers' Association and the district have already been meeting regarding extra help. Anything that

**VISITORS**

occurs after 3:45 p.m. that is a designated extracurricular activity is negotiated with the Union and paid via stipend.

Mrs. Saraceni (Oakfield Ave.) asked if transportation proposition 2B passes for eliminating of bussing, how will this affect bussing between the buildings for programs such as Alpha, district orchestra, etc.

Mr. Mayo stated that it would not be affected.

Mrs. Hastings (Redmond Rd.) asked what would prevent North Bellmore from adding specific times for extra help in the new teachers' contract, since the present teachers' contracts expires in June 2018.

Mr. Mayo stated that all aspects of the contract are being looked at.

Mrs. Kaminsky Yosha (Bellmore Rd.) asked about the status of the demographic study.

Mrs. Testa stated that the administration team met today to discuss preliminary recommendations of the report. There will be no radical changes. The Board will meet in two weeks with the administration to review the complete analysis of the demographic and enrollment study.

Mrs. Bakay (Court St.) asked what is being done to meet the NYS standards in physical education.

Mrs. Testa advised that we can utilize other forms of instruction that count towards the physical education mandate. We are working with the teachers to include movement breaks throughout the day. Teachers implement mindfulness movement activities into their classroom. The Prevention Department activities also counts towards for physical education time. The mandate does not have to be met purely through physical education time. This is primarily a financial issue, as well as a space challenge, although we know that it is our goal to increase physical education time.

Mrs. Fleming (Sycamore Ave., N. Merrick) asked with the elimination of Spanish for next year's fifth graders, when will teachers have their prep. Mrs. Testa explained that the prep time will occur when the students attend library media class.

Mrs. Haugh (Harding St.) asked if a committee could be formed with board members and a couple of parent representatives from each school to discuss ideas and parent concerns in an open setting to hopefully eliminate negativity in the district.

- VISITORS** Mr. Mayo stated that the Board has discussed this idea and will consider it moving forward.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 5-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law with instructional bargaining units at 10:45 PM.
- ADJOURNMENT** On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. DeLauter and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan, Board Secretary

Mark Schissler, District Clerk