



NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 8, 2020

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School 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, October 8, 2020, 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:

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

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
Carol Eskew, Deputy Superintendent
Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Jacqueline Rehak, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Jason Fischetti, Executive Director of Technology, Data and Information Services
Christopher Venator, District Counsel (Executive Session)
Steven Goodstadt, District Counsel (Public Session)
Jeanne Canavan, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM. Motion was made by Mrs. Erhard, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel matters. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Corless led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Erhard read the District's mission statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the reorganization meeting/business meeting of July 2, 2020 and the

business meeting of September 10, 2020. Mrs. Corless seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mr. Michael Nawrocki gave a presentation of the fiscal 2020 External Audit to the Board of Education. Mr. Nawrocki thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with the District. He complimented the District for a timely, accurate closing of books and records. There were no audit adjustments. The District received "Clean" or unmodified opinions on the financial statements. There were no significant deficiencies or material weakness reported during the audit of the financial statements. Mr. Nawrocki thanked Mrs. Rehak for doing a great job in a tough year. The audit report will be accessible for viewing in the District Clerk's office.

Mrs. Corless thanked Mr. Nawrocki for his presentation and thanked the District's Audit Committee for their hard work and effort.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no agenda item related questions.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Corless advised that correspondence was received and will be reviewed by the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended August 31, 2020. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion and was carried 5-0.

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci reported that the opening of the High School District went well. All students are wearing masks inside and outside of class. The Business Office is applying for grants to help cover costs related to COVID-19. The fall sports intramurals started this week at all schools. The next meeting will be held on November 4.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of September 2020.

Mrs. Erhard moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accept the Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, as presented by Nawrocki Smith, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Testa thanked Nawrocki Smith for their Audit Report. Mrs. Testa recognized Mrs. Rehak for her outstanding work and stated how proud she is of the Business Department.

Mrs. Testa reported that the faculty and staff have been remarkable during the first month of school as they continue to meet the challenges of

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

teaching and supporting students in the new learning environment, both in-person and virtually. Although it is significantly different, we will continue to adapt and learn as we move forward. Mrs. Testa reported that she has been visiting the classrooms and the children are doing exceptionally well adjusting to the new protocols and processes.

As the Covid Resource Officer for the District, Mrs. Testa reported that she has been very busy with Covid related duties and reporting to the NYS Department of Health on a daily basis. Mrs. Testa thanked the nurses for all their support. Mrs. Testa thanked Mr. Russo and the custodial teams for their steadfast attention to cleaning and disinfecting the school buildings throughout the day and after dismissal.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held via teleconference this year on November 2 from 6-8 PM and on November 3 from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Mrs. Testa advised that the District is experiencing substitute teacher shortages, as are many other districts. The principals will continue to interview for substitutes and will cover classes from within when substitutes are not available.

Mrs. Testa reminded the community that in compliance with Project SAVE guidelines, there will be early dismissal for students at 2:45 PM tomorrow to conduct a variety of emergency preparedness drills.

The District-wide Safety Team will meet on October 21 to update the District's plan to include new Covid protocols and updates to pertaining to evacuation and lockdown drills.

Mrs. Testa was pleased to announce that the District is creating a fifth and sixth grade instrumental lesson program. Mr. McCullagh, North Bellmore band and orchestra teacher, will deliver the virtual instrumental program. Mrs. Fisher, principal and district music coordinator, will be in contact with the families of the students who indicated interest in participating in the virtual instrumental music program.

Mrs. Corless stated her appreciation to Mrs. Testa for all the Covid work that she is doing for the District.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the North Bellmore Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation to increase the full time ENL staff by one position in the tenure area of English as a New Language, effective 10/12/2020. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated October 8, 2020. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

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

Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Pollitt congratulated Ms. Shannon Breslin-Conaty on her probationary appointment as an ENL teacher and welcomed her to the North Bellmore family.

Mrs. Testa congratulated Dinkelmeyer reading teacher, Cynthia Reilly, on receiving tenure and for helping the students develop a love for reading.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mrs. Rehak thanked Mrs. Fillios and the Business Office team for their support finalizing the year-end audit which was done in-house. The year ended with approximately \$15K in savings. As Mr. Nawrocki mentioned, the District exceeded the 4 percent limit in appropriated fund balance due to savings due to COVID-19 and school closings, as well as expenditures coming in less than budgeted. Due to the extremely high unbudgeted costs related to the pandemic and the reopening situation, the potential loss in State Aid, and the delay in tax receipts causing concerns regarding future cash flow, it was decided to leave those funds in appropriated fund balance in order to have it accessible to offset these costs. We will continue to monitor the increasing costs and loss in revenue, as well as the unappropriated fund balance, to get the District back to the 4 percent statutory limit by the end of the current fiscal year.

We are looking to schedule the Internal Audit within the next two weeks. We will prepare any required corrective action plans and put it forth to the Board for approval at the October board meeting.

Mrs. Rehak reported that the NYS Transparency Report, which was submitted last month, has been reviewed and approved by the State.

The Business Office will begin working on the ESSA report, which is due in December.

The CARES Act funding application was submitted to the State. We received preliminary projections that the District will be allocated about \$150K, however, the final projections have changed to approximately \$70K. The State is currently reviewing the application and will let us know if they require further information. After learning that the Town of Hempstead has CARES funding that may be available through a grant, Mrs. Rehak advised

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

that she prepared an application and submitted it to the Town of Hempstead today.

Last month Mrs. Rehak reported that the District may need to go out for a TAN due to the 2 percent decrease in State Aid payments and with the extension of the due date of real estate tax payments. However, at present the District's cash flow should be good through the end of November.

The Federal government extended the free lunch program that was operated during the school closure through December 2020. Since that was enacted, there is a rise in meal counts in the schools. Should the free lunch be extended for the remainder of the school year, the District will adjust accordingly and notify the community.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt reported that the virtual school is going strong. Mrs. Pollitt thanked Mrs. McNamara for serving as the administrator liaison. The date for parents to submit the 2nd Trimester Learning Model Intent Form has been moved up to November 15 in order to have enough time to plan, re-roster classes and analyze staffing for the second trimester, which begins on December 9.

Regarding APPR, the District has held off on the formal observation process for the month of October so that teachers can acclimate to the new learning environment. The APPR Committee met recently to discuss how it can be revised to shorten the duration of each observation and narrow the scope of the components observed.

Mrs. Pollitt stated that the Alpha After School Program will start the week of October 19. All previous Alpha students will participate. Families will be notified of their specific day and time and the zoom information. Mrs. Angert will meet with each group once per week after school at 4 PM.

The fall edition of *The Beacon* will be sent out next week and will focus on the reopening of our schools and the measures the District has taken to create a safe learning environment for the students.

Mrs. Pollitt advised that she and Mrs. McNamara are planning professional development on October 19 and 21 for all teachers and is also geared to specific needs of virtual teachers.

**TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mr. Fischetti announced that the 1:1 iPad initiative is underway. iPads are being delivered and put into instruction. Professional Development will be scheduled to develop instructional plans for 1:1 instruction. Once all devices are distributed, we will roll out our plan for allowing devices to be sent home on a daily basis.

**TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

We continue to manage accounts in myWORKBAGDE for all employee and family health screenings. Employees seem to be getting used to doing daily screenings, and the building secretaries have been extremely helpful in monitoring the screening process.

It has been a great team effort in the Technology Department to get all of the online platforms, Seesaw, Realize, and Clever, populated with all student and teacher account information. This process is very different, far more difficult than ever before. Mr. Fischetti thanked all of the teachers for their patience as the kinks get worked out.

We are looking forward to moving over to our new District website. We are in the final stages of moving over all of files from one site to another and hope to have the new site up and running shortly.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Ms. Eskew reported that the District has exceeded the ESSA one percent state cap on NYS Alternate Assessment participation. The district has completed all required steps for exceeding the Cap and met all compliance requirements. All special education staff have participated in training webinars regarding Alternate Assessment participation and ensuring that the students are appropriately assessed. The submission for exceeding the 1.0 percent Cap was made on time.

The component districts have met with the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District to start the transition process for sixth graders with IEPs and 504 plans so that they will be informed of the programs and services they require so that they can support the students when they arrive at the High School District.

Kindergarten Screening is completed and results are being reviewed with each building team for determining which students will require progress monitoring, AIS support or referral to the CSE.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated October 1, 2020. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Erhard and carried 5-0 for the following consent agenda items: Nos. 16.1 through 16.7.

**NEW BUSINESS
CONTRACTS**

16.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2020/21 school year:

- All About Kids SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychology, PLLC (Academic Tutoring)
- All About Kids SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychology PLLC (Related Services)
- Shari Dorman
- KLH Fire Safety Consultants

CONTRACTS

- Lawrence Public Schools (Health and Welfare)
- New Designs Consulting, Inc.
- Ruth Rosenberg

**TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACTS**

16.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education renew the following transportation contracts at the revised CPI for the 2020/2021 school year with: Guardian Bus Company, Inc. and Suburban Bus Transportation, Inc.

16.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the new transportation contracts for the 2020/2021 school year with: First Student, Inc., Guardian Bus Company, Inc. Suburban Bus Transportation, Inc., and We Transport, Inc.

DONATIONS

16.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Park Avenue PTA of assorted recess equipment to enhance each individual classroom recess equipment bag (approximate value \$1,000) for use by the Park Avenue students.

16.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a check in the amount of \$1,394.75 from Stop and Shop A+ Awards Program to be used to enhance the recess program at Newbridge Road School.

16.6 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a check in the amount of 1,000.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Milohnic to be used to purchase stadium cushions, command hooks, colored pencils, kinetic sand for Park Avenue students in grades K-2 for outdoor learning/indoor recess.

CONTRACT

16.7 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, approve the following contracts for the 2020-21 school year:

- Comprehensive Resources, Inc.
- White Glove Community Care, Inc. (Related Services)
- White Glove Community Care, Inc. (Skilled Nurse Staffing)

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Testa reminded the community that, as always, all district administrators are available for questions and encouraged parents to refer to the district calendar for protocols on who to contact for particular questions or concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci seconded by Mrs. Erhard and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan

District Clerk