



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – MAY 10, 2021
Via Zoom Video Conference**

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, May 10, 2021, via Zoom video conference.

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 only)
Christopher Powers, District Counsel
Jeanne Canavan, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and convene an executive session at 6:33 PM to discuss contractual negotiations. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 8:13 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mrs. Erhard read the District's mission statement.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

On a motion made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Erhard and passed 5-0, the Board of Education convened into Public Hearing of the 2021-2022 School Budget.

Mrs. Rehak, Assistant Superintendent for Business, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2021-2022 School Budget. The proposed budget of \$59,193,419 represents a budget that is within the tax cap (increase of 1.54%) and a budget-to-budget increase of 1.99%. Mrs. Rehak explained the three part budget numbers for Administrative & Program Support, Academic Program Budget and Capital Budget. Proposition No. Two: Permission to install Security Vestibules and Expend from the 2021 Surplus Funds. This proposition would authorize the district to install security vestibules at each of the district's schools, and to expend

PUBLIC HEARING – 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

from funds the district already saved during the 2020-21 fiscal year in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 (no increase to tax levy). Proposition No. Three: Permission to fund the Capital Reserves. This proposition would authorize the district to fund the 2020 voter-approved Capital Reserve in the amount not to exceed \$7,500,000 from the 2020-21 unexpended fund balance (no increase to tax levy). See attached Budget Hearing presentation. The Budget Vote will be held on May 18 at Newbridge Road School 6 AM to 9 PM.

Looking ahead:

Mrs. Pollitt stated that there has been an overwhelming response to the virtual survey for children to attend school in person next year. As such, we are not looking at a large, full-blown virtual program next year.

Mrs. Testa added that she will discuss options with the Board on how we want to deliver virtual learning next year. If the interest in virtual learning remains low, we may be able to look into other options for the Board to consider, such as: implementation of a sixth special (Library media in grades K-3 and Coding/Technology in grades 4-6.

Mrs. Testa stated that Instrumental and Vocal Music, Chorus and Band are coming back in person for next year. It is our goal to bring Alpha for students in grades 3-6 in person. We are also looking at the possibility of offering virtual world languages for students in grades 5 and 6 to include Spanish, French, Italian and Mandarin for next year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Business meeting of April 8, 2021 and the special meeting of April 20, 2021. Mrs. Erhard seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Corless advised that the Board received correspondence and it was discussed in Executive Session.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report for the month ended March 31, 2021. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Mrs. Lanci reported that the Board met last on May 5. The Board virtually honored the Nassau County Champions Calhoun Boys Cross Country Team. The Board granted tenure to four administrators and eighteen teachers. The Board expressed congratulations to six National Merit Scholars. The Board held a hearing on the 2021-22 school budget and approved a Capital Reserve Project. The Board also recognized former Kennedy graduate, now New York City Police Officer, Alyssa Vogel. Officer Vogel responded to the Times Square incident in New York City over the weekend, applied a tourniquet to the four-year-old child, and ran with her in

her arms to a waiting ambulance. The Budget Vote is Tuesday, May 18. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, June 2 and the Board will honor the retirees.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledged the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of April 2021.

Mrs. Erhard moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated May 10, 2021. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

On behalf of the New York State School Boards Association, Mrs. Testa congratulated Mrs. Corless for earning the Level 1 Board Mastery Award for participation in leadership development opportunities and Mrs. Cmar-Grote for earning the Level 3 Board Mastery Award for participation in leadership development. Mrs. Testa expressed her appreciation to the Board members for all they do to be the best Board trustees.

Mrs. Testa announced that Tina Levine, a former North Bellmore teacher and recent award-winning author, will be present a workshop at our Ed Camp this week on the topic, *Better Than a Bully*. Mrs. Testa congratulated Mrs. Levine on her accomplishments and thanked her for sharing her research and talents with the teachers in North Bellmore.

Mrs. Testa reported that some of the Saw Mill students created a presentation for the Board, *The Young Voices of North Bellmore School District*, that was initiated by parents to give their children the opportunity to write what they would do if they were principal. Mrs. Testa read many of the children's comments such as, "more mask breaks, make recess longer, take away zones at recess, return of specials", etc. Mrs. Testa thanked the children for sharing their voices with the Board --"their voices matter."

Mrs. Testa stated that the North Bellmore Reopening Team will reconvene tomorrow at 4:30 PM to sum up this year's work and assess our current plan in terms of moving forward. As required, the Team will share the revised plan with the public for comment. We will then officially create a 2021-22 District Reopening Team. An e-mail will be sent out shortly to reestablish this Team for the upcoming school year opening.

Mrs. Testa stated that she has received a lot of correspondence from parents regarding the wearing of masks, barriers in classrooms, recess, social distancing, quarantining, livestreaming, etc. Until we receive updated guidance, masks will continue to be required for students, staff and families. We will provide updates once we receive further guidance from NYS Department of Health. The district anticipates being able to revise some protocols to allow for lesser restrictions and make whatever changes we can to get back to what is best for the children while still maintaining an environment as healthy and safe as possible.

Questions from the BOE

Mrs. Malloy asked about the possibility of implementing livestreaming next year.

Questions from the BOE

Mrs. Testa stated that she is working with the NBTA and is in discussion with the administration team on this topic. Since we are looking at low virtual enrollment numbers for next year, we may look at livestreaming.

Mr. Fischetti added that the Technology Department is prepared to move ahead if the Board wants to go forward with livestreaming. Computers and webcams will need to be updated.

Mrs. Corless asked about using federal grant money to accomplish this.

Mrs. Testa responded that this is something we can utilize.

Mrs. Malloy asked if the Smart Boards would have to be updated.

Mr. Fischetti responded that the Smart Boards in grades five and six will be changed out this summer. The new Smart Boards do not need a projector.

Mrs. Erhard asked about the availability of the equipment.

Mr. Fischetti stated that we have a better chance of obtaining it this summer than last summer. There are different options for webcams. If we need to do cabling in classrooms, there may be a slight delay.

Mrs. Corless thanked Mrs. Testa and the students for their reports.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion was made by Mrs. Malloy to approve the personnel report dated May 10, 2021. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

- A. Appointments
- B. Leave Requests
- C. Resignation
- D. Termination

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Superintendent's Conference Day: Mrs. Pollitt reported that she and Mrs. McNamara are very excited to hold our first-ever, virtual "Edcamp-ish" Superintendent's Conference Day on Thursday. We are thrilled to join forces with the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District for a unified K-12 keynote address presented by Dr. Adolph Brown III on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. There will be a wide variety of workshops including math, literacy, social emotional learning, mental health and wellness, culturally responsive teaching and meaningful outdoor learning.

Virtual Learning Survey 2021-22: The survey revealed that there was minimal interest for virtual classes. Total number of families responded: 773
Total number of Yes responses: 72
Total number of No responses 701
Overall, most of the families want to send their children back to in-person, but would like to keep the option open for virtual learning.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Universal Pre-K: Our grant funds have been expanded. In addition to our 66 half day placements we have a potential of 86 more spots. Original lottery winners are currently being contacted with the full day placement offers. Due to the expansion, more wait list families may receive placements.

Mental Health Awareness Month: The District is celebrating next week to bring awareness and support positive mental wellness among our students, faculty and staff. There will be daily activities throughout the day devised by the Mental Health and Wellness Committee. Communication will go out to the families with sample activities so that it can be expanded at home.

Sixth Grade Rocket Launch: We are happy to reinstate the rocket launch this year. Sixth grade virtual students are also invited to participate. The project concentrates on physics, motion and engineering. New rocket kits have been ordered. This project is set for May and June.

QUESTIONS FROM BOE

Mrs. Corless asked how we assess students for learning loss.

Mrs. Pollitt responded that students are being assessed using i-Ready, Fountas and Pinnell Bench mark, State assessments and direct feedback from the teachers.

Mrs. Malloy asked if there is any discussion about turning the mental health and wellness block into a more activity-based program, such as more mindfulness, yoga, meditation, get moving, etc.

Mrs. Pollitt stated that she is in conversation with Ms. Signorelli to revamp the health and wellness block for next year. Since it is partially grant funded, we need to meet certain requirements, however, we are listening to all feedback and looking to enhancing the block in the future.

Mrs. Erhard asked what a parent can do if their child needs extra help.

Mrs. Pollitt responded that parents are encouraged to talk directly to their child's classroom teacher.

Mrs. Malloy asked if the two day a week option is still available for UPK.

Mrs. Pollitt stated that the half day program is 2 ½ hours every day and the full day option is five hours per day every per week. If parents chose the full day option, parents must commit to that. There is no modified version.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Mr. Fischetti gave the following updates:

Smart Board replacements: The original Smart Boards that are still in use were installed 2007. The Smart Boards have been flawless for that period of time and we have had very minimal issues. We need to upgrade/replace the projector every 3-4 years. The new Smart Boards are still 75 inches, do not require projectors, are very durable and have a 10-12 year expected life span.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

We are getting quotes to replace Smart Boards in grades 5 and 6 this summer. Projectors removed from classrooms will be used as spares for all other classrooms. Moving forward we will continue to replace Smart Boards by grade level each year.

We are also replacing document cameras for every classroom with this purchase. Document cameras have become an integral part of instruction. We have three different versions in the field which all use different software.

The “Smart” brand integrates directly with the Smart Notebook, the Smart Board software, and the cameras are wireless so they can easily be used to capture images from anywhere in the room.

ILS Upgrades: We have three consecutive projects running-- all to be completed by the end of summer:

- Server upgrade to move all recordings to cloud storage, all accessible through secure portal from anywhere.
- 90 additional cameras to be installed districtwide throughout the buildings for all hallways.
- Districtwide camera viewing video walls.
- These cameras will create a very large amount of data traveling all over the district. Some network upgrades also need to be completed. We will need to create a separate video network that will handle all video traffic separately from all email/internet traffic to prevent lagging.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Ms. Eskew gave the following updates:

We received two NYSED handbooks for summer school administrators and principals. They are primarily directed at the middle and high schools (not special education). Not much changed for special education summer programs. Dr. Kaminska will be the Principal again, which will be in-person and begins on July 6. Approximately 78 students will be in attendance. Meetings are still occurring so that number may fluctuate. We continue to interview for paraprofessionals.

National Nurses Week is May 6-12. Mrs. Eskew thanked all the nurses for all that they do to keep everyone healthy, especially during this very difficult and challenging time with COVID.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

Mrs. Malloy moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated May 5, 2021. Mrs. Erhard 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 – 16.13

NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS

16.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts:

-All About Kids, PLLC (Related Services) (2021/22)

CONTRACTS

- All About Kids, PLLC (Academic Tutoring) (2021/22)
- APEX Therapeutic Services (Academic Tutoring) (2021/22)
- APEX Therapeutic Services (Related Services) (2021/22)
- APEX Therapeutic Services (Skilled Nurse Staffing) (2021/22)
- Susan Browne, MS, CCC-SLP (2021/22)
- Jared Campbell Music (2021/22)
- Childhood Anxiety Solutions, LCSW, PLLC (2021/22)
- Comprehensive Resources, Inc. (Skilled Nurse Staffing Svcs.) (2021/22)
- Gwenn Eiger, PT (2021/22)
- Health Source Group, Inc. (Related Services) (2021/22)
- Health Source Group, Inc. (Skilled Nurse Staffing) (2021/22)
- Hilary Gomes, Ph.D. (2021/22)
- Sepideh Homayoonfar (2021/22)
- Linda LaMarca, Ph.D. (ABPP Services) (2021/22)
- Manhasset Public Schools (Health and Welfare) (2020/21)
- Amanda McCarthy (2021/22)
- Metro Therapy, Inc. (Academic Tutoring) (2021/22)
- Metro Therapy, Inc. (Related Services) (2021/22)
- MKSA, LLC (Academic Tutoring) (2021/22)
- MKSA, LLC (Related Services) (2021/22)
- New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc. (2021/22)
- New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc. (Academic Tutoring) (2021/22)
- Caryl Oris, M.D. (2021/22)
- Lindsay Plunkett (2021/22)
- Sensational Development Occupational Therapy, PLLC (2021/22)
- Textbook Central (Textbook Procurement & Distribution Svcs.) (2021/22)
- Variety Child Learning Center (Related Services) (2021/22)
- Henry Viscardi School (Tuition) (2020/21)
- Rona Weiss (2021/22)
- White Glove Community Care, Inc. (Related Services) (2021/22)
- White Glove Community Care, Inc. (Skilled Services) (2021/22)

MOA – CSEA/CLERICAL

16.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves the execution of a memorandum of agreement between North Bellmore UFSD and the North Bellmore Clerical and Cafeteria Unit of CSEA dated April 23, 2021, with regard to the carry over and cash out of unused vacation days due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

**MOA/PARAPROFESSIONALS
RETIREMENT INCENTIVE**

16.3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves the execution of a memorandum of agreement between the North Bellmore UFSD and the North Bellmore Paraprofessional Association regarding a 2020-21 retirement incentive.

**MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT**

16.4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the execution of a memorandum of employment between the North Bellmore Board of Education and Jeanne Canavan for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. (See attached.)

16.5 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the execution of a memorandum of employment between the North Bellmore Board of Education and Barbara Fillios for the 2021-2022 school year. (See attached.)

DONATION

16.6 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Newbridge Road School PTA of a check in the amount of \$1400.00 to be used to cover part of the cost of the sixth grade canoe trip for the sixth grade students at Newbridge Road School.

POLICIES

16.7 First reading of Policy 0101 Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms.

16.8 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the following revised policies for a reading and adoption:

Policy 0000 Mission Statement & Vision

Policy 1000 Community Relations Goals

Policy 1741 Home-Schooled Students

Policy 9240 Recruiting and Hiring

CSE CHAIRPERSON

16.9 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education appoint Leyna Malone as Chairperson of the Committee on Special Education/Section 504/Committee on Preschool Education.

TRASH BAG BID

16.10 WHEREAS, the North Bellmore UFSD has received sealed bids.

Bid Description: Trash Bag Cooperative Bid

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Bid Advertised: Nassau Newsday March 15, 2021

Bid Opening: April 7, 2021 @ 11am

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Testa, that the Board of Education agrees to award the following bids:

AWARDED VENDORS

	Item #	Name	Amount
1	516-001	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$6.82
2	516-002	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$19.74
3	516-003	Central Poly-Bag Corp, 2400 Bedle Place, Linden, NJ 07036	\$8.10
4	516-004	Unipak Corp, PO Box 300027, Brooklyn, NY 11230	\$16.60
5	516-005	Unipak Corp, PO Box 300027, Brooklyn, NY 11230	\$16.60
6	516-006	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$5.84
7	516-007	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$7.34
8	516-008	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$16.34
9	516-009	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$17.72

TRASH BAG BID

10	516-010	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$14.18
11	516-011	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$15.98
12	516-012	Unipak Corp, PO Box 300027, Brooklyn, NY 11230	\$13.80
13	516-013	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$15.72
14	516-014	Central Poly-Bag Corp, 2400 Bedle Place, Linden NJ, 07036	\$16.80
15	516-015	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$15.84
16	516-016	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$14.74
17	516-017	Interboro Packaging, 114 Bracken Road, Montgomery, NY 12549	\$18.68

These contracts, which were bid as cooperative services, shall include the participation of the following school districts:

North Bellmore Union Free School District, Bellmore, N.Y.,
 Baldwin Union Free School District, Baldwin, N. Y.
 Bellmore Union Free School District, Bellmore, N.Y.
 Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Merrick, N.Y.
 Bethpage Union Free School District, Bethpage, N. Y.
 Carle Place Union Free School District, Carle Place, N.Y.
 East Meadow Union Free School District, East Meadow, N. Y.
 East Rockaway Union Free School District, East Rockaway, N.Y.
 East Williston Union Free School District, East Williston, N.Y.
 Elmont Union Free School District, Elmont, N. Y.
 Floral Park-Bellerose Union Free School District, Floral Park, N. Y.
 Freeport Union Free School District, Freeport, N.Y.
 Garden City Union Free School District, Garden City, N.Y.
 Glen Cove City School District, Glen Cove, N. Y.
 Great Neck Union Free School District, Great Neck, N. Y.
 Herricks Union Free School District, New Hyde Park, N.Y.
 Hewlett-Woodmere Union Free School District, Woodmere, N. Y.
 Hicksville Union Free School District, Hicksville, N. Y.
 Island Trees Union Free School District, Levittown, N.Y.
 Jericho Union Free School District, Jericho, N.Y.
 Lawrence Union Free School District, Lawrence, N.Y.
 Levittown Union Free School District, Levittown, N.Y.
 Locust Valley School District, Locust Valley N.Y.
 Long Beach Public Schools, Long Beach, N. Y.
 Lynbrook Union Free School District, Lynbrook, N.Y.
 Manhasset Union Free School District, Manhasset, N.Y.
 Massapequa Union Free School District, Massapequa, N.Y.
 Merrick Union Free School District, Merrick, N.Y.
 Mineola Union Free School District, Mineola, N. Y.
 North Merrick Union Free School District, North Merrick, N.Y.
 North Shore Central School District, Sea Cliff, N.Y.
 Oceanside Union Free School District, Oceanside, N.Y.

TRASH BAG BID

Plainedge Union Free School District, North Massapequa, N.Y.
 Plainview/Old Bethpage Central School District, Plainview, N.Y.
 Port Washington Union Free School District, Port Washington, N.Y.
 Rockville Centre Union Free School District, Rockville Centre, N.Y.
 Seaford Union Free School District, Seaford, N. Y.
 Syosset Central School District, Syosset, N. Y.
 Uniondale Union Free School District, Uniondale, N.Y.
 Valley Stream Central High School District, Valley Stream, N. Y
 Valley Stream 13 Union Free School District, Valley Stream N. Y.
 Valley Stream 30 Union Free School District, Valley Stream, N.Y.
 Wantagh Union Free School District, Wantagh, N.Y.
 Westbury Union Free School District, Old Westbury, N.Y.

DONATIONS

16.11 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Malloy and Allison Families of outdoor blacktop sensory path and play stencils to be used to help students with social interaction, outdoor play and occupational therapy needs for Saw Mill Road School students and all North Bellmore students (approximate value \$993.92).

16.12 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Saw Mill Road School PTA of two new signs for the building – one for the front lawn and one for the front entrance brick façade, with installation (approximate value \$2,777.53).

16.13 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Box Tops for Education in the amount \$54.70 (\$38.90+\$15.80) to be used for school beautification and decorations for the students of Saw Mill Road School.

Mrs. Corless thanked the Malloy and Allison families and the Saw Mill PTA for their generous donations. They are greatly appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were many questions by the community. Questions were grouped by topic and answered as such.

1. Masks – There were many questions on masks.
 Mrs. Testa said the goal is to get back to normal as fast as possible. The Re-Opening Team is meeting tomorrow. Additional masks breaks are being looked at, but the masks as of the present time are still required by the State Education Department, Department of Health and the CDC.
2. Removal of Barriers – Mrs. Testa reiterated what she spoke about earlier in the evening about the revised guidance on social distancing in schools from the CDC. We are waiting for regulations from the NYS Department of Education.
3. Instrumental Music – Mrs. Pollitt stated that Instrumental Music would be returning in Grades 4 through 6 for the upcoming school year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. Where does the Board stand on mandated vaccines for our children?

Mrs. Testa stated that the district must follow New York State DOH guidelines and requirements.

5. Will air filters get upgraded in the schools to one that is rated at a MERV 13 or higher?

Mrs. Rehak said no, they are not made for Merv 13--Merv 8 only.

6. Are there any plans for air conditioning all classrooms?

Mrs. Testa stated that we have installed a lot of air conditioning over the years in as many rooms as required. We must be mindful of each building's overall capacity. As part of capital improvements, we are looking ahead toward air conditioning as a possible future project. In the meantime, we do presently monitor the temperatures in the classrooms. As it gets warmer, we will be looking at scheduling more mask breaks. All cafeterias and libraries are air conditioned.

6. Will there be a security vestibule at one entrance in each building?

Mrs. Testa stated that there will be one in each building located at the main entrance. All visitors will come through the vestibule area. The other egresses in the building will be utilized for arrival and dismissal.

7. What is the scooping method?

Mrs. Testa stated that anyone within six feet of a positive case for more than 15 minutes or more must be quarantined.

8. Will there be another after school program if we are not selected?

Mrs. Testa said the Bellmore Merrick Child Care Program is the aftercare program located within the district and it will be limited to a certain level in each building. Only the gyms and cafeterias will be utilized for the upcoming year. Mrs. Smith of the BMCCP will keep us apprised of how many parents are interested. If the enrollment exceeds the number of spaces available, Mrs. Smith will hold a lottery. BMCCP staffing and regulations will govern the protocols.

Mrs. Pollitt also added that the South Shore Program will be in existence for usage as well (this is an off-site program).

8. Questions were asked on the Library/Tech block.

Mrs. Testa stated that we are working on how we can bring back the Library/Media block and opportunities to build forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

9. There were a number of comments on a confidential matter.

Mrs. Testa stated that we cannot comment on the confidential matter that is concerning the District's Code of Conduct and Visitor's Guidelines.

10. ALPHA – Mrs. Pollitt replied to the inquiries about ALPHA. The program will be returning in the upcoming school year. More information will be going out to those students eligible between May and June. ALPHA will be offered to children in Grades 3 through 6.

11. Foreign Language – Mrs. Pollitt reiterated what she spoke about in her report regarding the possibility of having four languages all of which are presently taught at the high school level (Spanish, Mandarin, French, and Italian). Sign language is also being considered.

12 A number of questions were asked regarding the use of grounds after hours.

Mrs. Testa responded that our grounds are here for our community. There are Use of Facility Forms for the various Organizations to fill out and a Code of Conduct and Visitor Guidelines must be followed by all that use our facilities. Parents and students all can use our grounds ... we work within a set of guidelines (we are a public school district) and we must move forward with the regulations that govern that. Safety is the main priority.

13. Why are North Bellmore Board Meetings still on zoom and other districts in person?

Mrs. Testa responded this is due to the amount of people attending the Board Meetings and the limited availability of space and the regulations regarding same. At the Board meeting this evening there are over 250 participants and we could not accommodate that many people in-person. Mr. Fischetti will be looking into live streaming future meetings when we finally do go back in person over the summer.

14. Does the district have plans to have a more culturally diversified staff?

Mrs. Testa stated that she has reached out to universities and experts in the field to ask what can be done further to attract diversity. We welcome diversity.

15. When will a decision be made on the Park Principal?

Mrs. Testa added that the final candidates will be interviewed by the Board On Wednesday. Once a candidate is selected, we will make an offer. We look forward to making an announcement within the next two weeks. Then Ms. Speidel will introduce the new principal to the students.

The assistant principal search for Saw Mill is also going well. The Meet and Greet is scheduled for May 20. Those candidates will move on to be interviewed by the Board on May 25.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Corless asked if a parent felt their question was not answered this evening how may they address this. Mrs. Testa stated that parents can call or email her directly.

Mrs. Corless wished all a belated Happy Mother's Day and expressed blessings to all those celebrating the Eid holiday. Mrs. Corless reminded the community to come out and vote on May 18. The next Board meeting will be held on June 10.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci seconded by Mrs. Erhard, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Canavan
District Clerk