

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Pascalli (Briggs Street) – With regard to last month’s Agenda, Section 15.3, what is a Master Scheduler... is this a temporary position for Ms. Speidel or will a new Master Scheduler be hired? Mrs. Testa responded that this was a one-time only contract. Ms. Speidel worked on scheduling with Ms. Malone. The duration of the contract was three days and it is now complete.

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 July 31, 2021. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS

Mrs. Lanci reported that the last meeting was held on Wednesday, September 1st. Reopening of the high schools and middle schools went well. Contracts were approved. For the 2020-2021 year, Mrs. Lanci was happy to report that an average of 97 percent of graduates moved onto college, military, or trade schools. Schools will be closed in observance of Yom Kippur on Thursday, September 16th. The next Board meeting will be held October 6th.

FINANCE

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

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated September 9, 2021. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

The Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of all resolutions included in 10.1 through 15.3.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Testa began by wishing those who celebrate a happy holiday. She continued by expressing her gratitude to the parents, staff, and faculty for their assistance in facilitating a smooth start for the 2021-2022 school year. With regard to Transportation, Mrs. Testa expressed that there are issues that the District is currently working on. Mrs. Rehak will address this in more detail in her report.

Mrs. Testa reported that both she and Mrs. Rehak visited the buildings over the past week. She was happy to announce that the Special Area Teachers are back in their classrooms. Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Rehak spent time in the cafeteria, assessing the lunchroom and maximizing on space where needed. Mrs. Testa expressed her gratitude to the Lunch Recess Assistants and the Kindergarten monitors for their support and supervision of the children. She was happy to say that visiting the cafeterias was definitely the highlight of the week for them and expressed how they enjoyed observing the children smiling, eating their lunch, and listening to the children’s stories of their favorite experiences since school began.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(continued)**

Mrs. Testa followed up with an update to the Board on Facilities.

- The building surveys are currently underway. There is only one building left to complete. Upon completion, the Building Surveyor will come in and report directly to the Board.
- Mr. Russo and his Custodial Staff are busy District wide installing Smart Boards. Mr. Fischetti will further address this in his report.

Mrs. Corless added by expressing her gratitude to Mr. Russo and his custodial staff for their continued hard work.

Mrs. Testa reported that COVID testing is now a mandated requirement for School Districts for employees who are not vaccinated or who do not provide proof of vaccinations. The District is working with the component Districts on location of test sites. More information will follow when available.

Lastly, Mrs. Testa addressed Open School Night. In discussions with the component Districts, and reviewing the regulations and the social distancing guidelines, Open School Night will be held virtually. The District is looking into the possibility of touring options for first grade parents and those parents who are new to their respective Communities.

Mrs. Testa invited all to celebrate Patriot Day tomorrow, Friday, September 10th. All students, faculty, and staff are invited to wear red, white, and blue in honor of the twenty year anniversary of 9/11.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci to approve the personnel report dated September 9, 2021. Mrs. Cmar-Grote seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

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

BUSINESS REPORT

Mrs. Rehak began her report with an update on finance:

- Year-End Audit – The District is working on the year-end financial statements. Upon completion a detailed report will be provided to the Board and the public by our external auditors.
- The Transparency Report has been completed and submitted to the NYS Commissioner of Education. This report details the total funding allocation for each school within the District. A copy will be uploaded to the District website.

**BUSINESS REPORT
(continued)**

- As reported last month the CRRSA grant was approved. This grant is broken down into two subsidiary grants ... CRRSA ESSER and CRRSA GEER. The District will receive a 20 percent initial payment tomorrow from the State for the GEER Grant and does expect the 20 percent initial payment for ESSER shortly thereafter.
- ARPA is still under review by NYSED. Mrs. Rehak reported she did reach out for the status on these applications and no update has been provided as of yet.

Mrs. Rehak then followed up with a report on Transportation. The District experienced issues regarding transportation as is usual on the first few days of school. The inclement weather added though to the normal challenges which was compounded this year by the shortage of bus drivers. Mrs. Rehak expressed her gratitude to the parents for reaching out and voicing the various issues and concerns they have been experiencing. The District is working diligently and has been in constant contact with Guardian, and these issues are being addressed. Mrs. Rehak thanked everyone for their continued patience during this process.

In conclusion, Mrs. Rehak was happy to announce that free lunch has been extended for the 2021-2022 school year. The meal counts are much higher than normal. All meals are individually wrapped including the utensils. Mrs. Rehak thanked Mrs. McKenna and the entire Food Service Department for their continued hard work in preparing the menus, and the preparation and distribution of food.

Mrs. Rehak indicated that both she and Mrs. Testa visited the cafeterias District wide last week and expressed their excitement of hearing the children's comments about the food, their favorite part of the day, and in general seeing the smiles on their faces. Mrs. Testa added by reiterating it was definitely the highlight of the week.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt opened her report to express how happy the District is to have all the children return in person for the 2021-2022 school year, and continued with the following updates:

- 1) On Thursday, August 26th, the District held a welcome orientation for the new staff and faculty.
- 2) Virtual Staff Development will be held for staff and faculty. It's an online platform tailored to their needs with the ability to be modified as necessary.
- 3) Language Enrichment again will be offered this year after school for students in Grades 5 and 6. There will be fall and spring sessions.
- 4) Fountas & Pinnell (3rd Edition) will be administered across the District with digital enhancements making it easily accessible for the staff.

**CURRICULUM &
INSTRUCTION REPORT
(continued)**

5) September is our month for assessment for the incoming Kindergarten students. The same procedure will be followed as last year since the screening could not be done during the spring.

6) ALPHA is back in person with Ms. Angert and will be housed in the Newbridge Road School building. Mrs. Pollitt expressed her gratitude to Mrs. McNamara for the coordination.

7) Parents have been completing the social and emotional needs intake form. Mrs. Pollitt thanked the parents for their feedback. The survey will close tomorrow, Friday, September 10.

8) Cultural Arts – The Committees will be working closely with the Principals to coordinate events and programs. Due to social distancing, events may have to be scheduled by the individual grade level. The goal is to bring back normalcy to these programs in a safe environment.

9) Social Studies Curriculum – Researching new materials based on new standards and exploring a digital component option. Updates to follow.

Mrs. Corless inquired about language enrichment in particular the languages offered. Mrs. Pollitt responded that French, Italian, Spanish, and Mandarin will be available again. Sign language is also being explored as an option. Mrs. Corless thanked Mrs. Pollitt and expressed that this is a great opportunity for our students.

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Mr. Fischetti continued by reporting on the technology upgrades throughout the District.

1) ICAS has completed three of the five buildings.

2) The Smart Boards are being installed in-house using our custodial staff under the direction of Mr. Russo at a tremendous cost savings for the District. The project is being completed at a slow and steady rate. Mr. Fischetti complimented all on the great job being performed.

3) The projectors currently being removed from the 5th and 6th Grade classrooms will be installed in the Kindergarten through 2nd Grade classrooms (replacing the older projectors).

4) Mr. Fischetti also reported on the new cyber security network in-house system. The system monitors e-mail activity and foreign e-mails are flagged. A very thorough report is issued detailing warning areas and recommendations.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
REPORT**

Mrs. Malone began her report by expressing her gratitude to all the building nurses for their hard work.

- The nurses are tasked with creating intake forms involving COVID cases and working closely with the Principals on the quarantine process when necessary.
- Reviewing all the Immunization Records for their students assuring that all records are in compliance with the Department of Health regulations.
- Maintaining updated allergy information and critical care plans for those particular students while in school.

Mrs. Malone also thanked the Paraprofessionals for their assistance at the start of this school year and their continued valuable support of the students each day. During Staff Development Day courses were available for their choice tailored to their particular needs.

Mrs. Malone further expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Fisher for her diligent efforts in ensuring that all positions vacated due to leaving of absences, resignations, etc. have been filled and adequately staffed.

Lastly, Mrs. Malone spoke to mainstreaming. Mainstreaming procedures were reviewed prior to the start of school. Mrs. Malone thanked the Special Area Teachers, Psychologists, and Principals for their input. She further thanked the custodial staff and the Principals for ensuring that desks were placed in those classrooms utilized for mainstreaming.

Mrs. Corless inquired of Mrs. Malone regarding EPI Pen Training. Mrs. Malone responded that this is a topic that will be discussed at the upcoming faculty meeting. All faculty and staff will be trained.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

Mrs. Cmar-Grote moved that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated September 1, 2021. Mrs. Malloy seconded and the motion was carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0 for the following consent agenda items: Nos. 15.1 – 15.3.

NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS

15.1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2021-22 school year:

- Alternative Tutoring, Inc. (Academic Tutoring)
- Alternative Tutoring, Inc. (Related Services)
- Lisa Arbucho-Veneroni
- Capital Markets Advisors, LLC
- Diana Jabis
- KLH Fire Safety Consultants

NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS
(continued)

- Nassau County Dept. of Human Svs., Office of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency & Developmental Disabilities Services (Prevention Program January – December 2021)
- Erica Pecorale
- Wee Friends Nursery School (UPK 2021/22)

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

15.2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District hereby approves the execution of a Memorandum of Terms and Conditions between the North Bellmore UFSD and Denise Fisher effective, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023.

JOINT MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVE BIDDING PROGRAM

15.3 JOINT MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVE BIDDING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and

WHEREAS, the North Bellmore Union Free School District, an educational/ municipal corporation (hereinafter the “Participant”) is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the “Program”) in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES’ standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding the bids, and reporting the results to the Participant.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

**JOINT MUNICIPAL
COOPERATIVE BIDDING
PROGRAM
(continued)**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board inquired if anyone wished to share any memorable moments since school began. Mr. DeBlasio, the Principal of Park Avenue School, shared his first day of school experience ... the children's reactions, the smiles on their faces, and the *WOW* impact on him as being the new Principal of Park Avenue. Mr. DeBlasio also spoke to the character trait for the month of September... *resilience* ... reflecting on forging ahead and moving forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Taglia (Briggs Street) – There is not a term limit ... why can someone continue to run? Mrs. Corless responded there are no limits on the number of terms for Board members. The term length is three years. If we run again and we are re-elected, we continue to serve.

Ms. Gambino (Acorn Place) – How much longer will parents have to go virtual? Why can't parents wear masks and still be a part of their children's school? Mrs. Testa responded that we have to follow social distancing guidelines. The number of participant(s) and the size of the room(s) being utilized must be taken into account to meet those guidelines for each event or program.

Ms. Ricotta (Haff Avenue) – What is the plan to get air conditioning approved and installed in all classrooms? Also, is there a plan for air purifiers? Mrs. Testa responded once the building condition surveys are complete we'll know how we can proceed for the future. Funding will be a factor to take into consideration. Units are currently installed in the common areas such as the special area rooms and cafeterias. And to the question of air purifiers, Mrs. Testa responded that based on reports they would not be required in our buildings since our ventilators perform the same function.

Ms. Pascalli (Briggs Street) - Vaccines and testing – Forcing employees who are not vaccinated to get tested is discrimination. People who are vaccinated spread the virus the same as those not vaccinated. Vaccination is a personal choice and private. This policy goes against what children are taught in school – do not discriminate. Mrs. Testa responded that while she appreciates Ms. Pascalli's

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(continued)

viewpoint the New York State Department of Health disagrees and we are mandated to follow their guidelines. Employees are not forced to vaccinate, but those not vaccinated must be tested. This is the mandate that the District was given and we must work within that.

Ms. Taglia (Briggs Street) – If the COVID shot is mandated for children in school are you ready to fight for the parents who do not believe it is safe for their children and do not want them to receive it? Mrs. Corless responded that the Board has not been asked to give children shots. Since it is a non-issue, the Board has not discussed this as a group and, therefore, does not have an opinion at the current time. A female voice in the audience expressed out loud that “you don’t care about our children”. Mrs. Corless asked that person to please fill out a yellow card so the Board may respond as there is no back and forth dialogue. Mrs. Testa added that the Board is working very hard for the children day and night and to say they don’t care about your children - that is all they care about. The District is mandated by New York State. Mrs. Testa went on to explain that we may have 50 percent of parents who want masks and 50 percent who don’t. While both sides of that argument is respected, not everyone will be happy. North Bellmore School District is part of a public school system and is mandated to follow the guidelines set forth by New York State. The focus of the Board is the best interest of your children within those guidelines on all issues.

Ms. Ciancarelli (Mona Court) – We would like to poll the Board of Education tonight, ask them a few questions, and ask that they answer honestly. We respect that you may not want to share your opinion but respect and understand that it matters to us. We should understand where you stand because we elect you. You shouldn’t be afraid to state your views. With or without mandates we simply want to know where you stand on the following views...1) Do you support mask mandates or parental choice? 2) Do you support COVID vaccines being required to attend school? 3) Do you agree to have pop up vaccine sites on our school property? Mrs. Corless responded there is no polling of Board members at the Board Meetings. Parents can express their views for the Board’s consideration, but there is no back and forth dialogue.

Ms. Taglia (Briggs Street) – Will the BOE recognize how unhealthy it is to constantly breath carbon dioxide back into their system? Mrs. Corless responded the CDC recommends and the Department of Health requires the wearing of masks, and Districts are required to follow the mandate.

Ms. Gambino (Acorn Place) stood up to make a statement. She thanked the Board for answering her question earlier and reiterated the importance of parent participation in-person with their children during school events.

Ms. Pascalli (Briggs Street) – I had asked at the last meeting about Government funds the District was given for COVID and how those funds were allocated. I was told I could find it on the website. I was unable to find that information. Can you please e-mail it to me? Mrs. Testa responded it can be e-mailed.

BOE COMMENTS

Mrs. Lanci further inquired about the return of assemblies. Mrs. Testa reiterated that the District must look at the size of the rooms and based on the social distancing guidelines the number of occupants that can attend. It is our goal to get our students, faculty, staff, and parents into the schools together but we cannot do this without planning. The District is working closely with the Principals looking at all options available. Mrs. Testa explained that while partnering with parents is our foundation at North Bellmore and what makes our memories, we are challenged with the mandates we have to follow and the safety of all.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk