



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2024**

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School 2616 Martin Avenue, North 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, March 14, 2024, 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:

- Nina Lanci, Vice President
- Melissa Cmar-Grote
- Rosemarie Corless
- Christopher Nardo

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

- Christine Malloy, President

Also present:

- Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
- Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Jacqueline Rehak, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Christopher Venator, District Counsel
- Laurice Gunnels, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. A motion was made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mrs. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MISSION STATEMENT Mrs. Corless read the District’s Mission Statement.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Newbridge Road Sixth Grade BOE Representatives Mrs. Testa welcomed the Newbridge Road Sixth Grade BOE representatives and their families present this evening, and invited Ms. Licci, Principal of Newbridge Road School, to the podium for their introduction.

Ms. Licci graciously thanked Mrs. Testa and the BOE for their invitation this evening, and expressed pride in her position as principal of Newbridge Road School. She happily shared these leaders this evening will speak to their memorable experiences that has impacted their lives as students of Newbridge Road and invited them up for their presentation.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Newbridge Road Sixth
Grade BOE Representatives
(continued)

Sheyla Cruz Alfaro
 Peyton Engel
 Brynn Fabricant

Keira Ferris
 Eva Maldonado

The BOE representatives through their individual speeches collectively shared how Newbridge displays *HEART*, “honesty, empathy, acceptance, respect and teamwork” through the student, faculty, and staff experience at Newbridge Road School. A variety of developmental and social activities are offered for students to participate in individualized interests, i.e. SADD Club, Smile Club, Spirit Club, Beautification Club, Young Librarian Club, Orchestra, Band, Chorus, intermural sports, field trips, etc., and creative teaching to further enhance the fun learning and teamwork experience. Lastly, grade level individualized memories were shared of teachers and events in appreciation of Newbridge’s *HEART*.

Mrs. Testa proudly expressed how Newbridge’s culture is a true reflection of the school’s theme *Newbridge Has Heart* and aligns to the District’s Mission. She shared feelings of inspiration demonstrated by the Newbridge Road School students, and offered appreciation and gratitude to Ms. Licci, faculty, and staff. There was a presentation of certificates to the BOE sixth grade representatives by Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Lanci.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Music in School

Mrs. Testa, as a tribute to Music in School month, happily spoke to the value of arts and music in North Bellmore. In celebration she proudly welcomed the North Bellmore Festival Chorus this evening and invited Mr. Roff to introduce them.

Mr. Roff graciously thanked the families, Mrs. Brugge, the North Bellmore Music Liaison, Mrs. Testa, and the BOE for their continued support in making high quality music education a priority in North Bellmore. Mr. Roff spoke to the importance of musical training in a student’s social and emotional development as well as language and reasoning skills, and shared general music is available to all students with more advanced musical opportunities available in grades four through six in band, orchestra, and/or chorus.

VOCAL MUSIC

Ms. Lopez
 Ms. Ng
 Mr. Roff

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Ms. Behr Mr. McCullagh
 Mr. D’Orio Ms. Uckardes
 Ms. Hirsch

Mr. Roff proudly introduced the sixth grade North Bellmore Festival Chorus consisting of over sixty focused and musically inspired students from all five buildings to perform in celebration of Music in School month. The Festival Chorus demonstrated their musical talent under the direction of Mr. Roff and Ms. Lopez. Ms. Lopez thanked all for coming out this evening, and reminded everyone of the Festival Band and Chorus Concert on March 26 at 6:00 p.m. at Brookside.

Mrs. Testa expressed gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Roff, Ms. Lopez, and the students for their heartfelt performance this evening, and to all the Music Department staff for their continued dedication and inspiration taking North Bellmore’s musical elementary education to these heights.

BOE DISCUSSION	No items were raised for discussion.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	On a Motion by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Business meeting of February 8, 2024, and Special Meeting of February 26, 2024.
PUBLIC COMMENTS <i>(Agenda Items only)</i>	Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Lanci on behalf of the Board of Education. There were no public comments relating to agenda items only.
CORRESPONDENCE	Mrs. Lanci acknowledged that the Board did receive correspondence.
TREASURER'S REPORT	On a Motion made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's report for the month ending January 31, 2024.
BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS	Mrs. Lanci reported that the BMCHSD met last week on Wednesday, March 6. The BOE honored Ms. Zannino and Ms. Schlieth, recipients of the Harvard Club of Long Island Distinguished Teacher Award. Mrs. Lanci spoke of the rigorous process whereby Harvard alumni interview Harvard applicants among the Long Island senior classes to find middle or high school teachers who were inspirational in their lives. Following in celebration, she announced the BOE honored the Mephram Science Research Department on their scientific program and their success with the Regeneron Scholars. Mrs. Lanci reported Curriculum Instruction and Data held a presentation of the Middle School Advisory Program demonstrating the benefits afforded the students. She reminded all of St. Baldrick's at Mephram HS on March 20, and the upcoming BOE meeting in April.
FINANCE	The Board of Education acknowledged review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of February 2024.
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	<p>Mrs. Testa informed the BOE and all those present this evening that the Superintendent's Report and the Business Department will be combined this evening for the Budget Presentation. Before moving forward, she expressed the following sentiments.</p> <p>Mrs. Testa, in celebration of the Newbridge Road School leaders and seeing in the audience many members of the NBTA from Newbridge, extended a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the BOE and herself for their amazing job performed during the lockdown. She spoke of recognition by the Nassau County Police Department and the Superintendents' Council, and commended them personally on their leadership and professionalism while following all the protocols of the safety drills practiced and supporting each other to keep everyone safe. Mrs. Testa reminded all that Newbridge has <i>HEART</i>, and reiterated her solemn gratitude.</p> <p>Finally, Mrs. Testa congratulated and extended words of praise and gratitude to Mrs. Pollitt, Ms. McNamara, the administrative staff, and all those who partook in the Professional Development Day to make it an amazing success.</p>

PERSONNEL REPORT

On a Motion made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report dated March 14, 2024:

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

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

On a Motion made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the Staff Development Report dated March 14, 2024.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Rehak presented a detailed power point presentation of the proposed 2024/25 budget, a copy which is available on the website for viewing. Mrs. Testa described the budget as a financial story depicting the goals of the district and the community for the future of education.

Mrs. Testa began by presenting an overview of academic studies, services, and programs available. She proudly spoke of continued advancements keeping up with next generation learning in literacy, reading and writing workshops, mathematics, science, social studies, the phenomenal special programs, i.e. art, music, physical education, library, Spanish instruction in Grade 4-6 with World Language experiences offered for grades 5-6 after school, and in the area of computer science, the continuous growth and upgrades in programs and equipment maintaining an alignment with the high school district. Mrs. Testa described ongoing Professional Development, i.e. trainings, workshops, and conferences offered for faculty and staff for continued growth in education on innovative learning techniques, and in the area of network enhancements, upgrades in building and network security.

Mrs. Rehak continued by addressing the budgetary goals of the district including supporting existing/new programs for the students of North Bellmore, improving and maintaining the district's buildings/grounds, safety and security, technology advancements, planning with long term goals in mind and continuing to look for outside revenue sources while striving to keep the tax levy within the tax cap to meet these goals now and in the future.

She detailed the breakdown of the budgetary components as follows:

- 10.22% - Administration
- 13.49% - Capital
- 76.29% - Programs

Mrs. Rehak indicated the proposed tax levy is estimated at 2.39 percent with a budget-to-budget increase of 6.22 percent citing rising costs in benefits (health), transportation, insurance, increased professional development for new/existing program expansion, and budgetary capital projects including the electrical upgrade work at John G. Dinkelmeyer, Park Avenue, and Jacob Gunther (the other buildings were include in the 2023/24 budget) and brick pointing at Newbridge Road and Jacob Gunther schools.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT
(continued)**

Lastly, Mrs. Rehak spoke to a second proposition that will be on the ballot this year and stressed it does not add to the tax levy. Proposition 2 is seeking voter approval to expend money for *Phase 3* of the ceiling and pavement replacement at Newbridge Road and Jacob Gunther schools with an estimated start and completion date summer of 2025.

In conclusion, Mrs. Rehak shared the following upcoming budget related meeting dates:

- March 25 - PTA Coordinating Counsel, Virtual Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- April 11 - BOE Meeting Budget Adoption, Martin Avenue School, 7:30 p.m.
- May 9 - BOE Meeting Budget Presentation/Hearing, Martin Avenue School, 7:30 p.m.
- May 21 – Annual Budget Vote – Newbridge Road School from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

On a Motion made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education the Board of Education approved the CPSE and CSE reports dated March 7, 2024.

**CONSENT AGENDA
(Items Nos. 15.1 to 15.5)**

On a Motion made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 15.1 through 15.5.

BUSINESS CONTRACTS

15.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved the following contracts for the 2023-24 school year:

- Global Investigations, Inc.
- Hicksville Public Schools
- Linda LaMarca, Ph.D., ABPP
- Nassau Neuropsychological Services, PLLC
- Plainedge Public Schools
- Plainedge UFSD (Health & Welfare)

**EDUCATIONAL EXPENSE
REIMBURSEMENT**

15.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorized the District to reimburse the parents of a child made known to the District (Confidential Attachment "A") for their expenses associated with obtaining an Independent Educational Evaluation in the area of speech and language for a one-time cost of \$500 to be paid upon submission of invoice and proof of payment.

**NBTA 2023/24 RETIREMENT
INCENTIVE**

15.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved a Memorandum of Agreement By and Between North Bellmore Union Free School District and the North Bellmore Teachers' Association regarding a 2023-24 Retirement Incentive.

**POLICIES FOR SECOND
READING:**

**Policy Nos. 4327
5152
9260**

15.4 The Board of Education accepted the following policies for a second reading:

- Policy 4327 Homebound Instruction
- Policy 5152: Admission of Non-resident Students
- Policy 9260 Conditional Appointment and Emergency Conditional
- Appointment – Student Safety

ADOPTION OF POLICIES:
Policy Nos. 4327
5152
9260

15.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopted the following policies:

- Policy 4327 Homebound Instruction
- Policy 5152: Admission of Non-resident Students
- Policy 9260 Conditional Appointment and Emergency Conditional Appointment – Student Safety

2024-25 SCHOOL CALENDAR

On a Motion made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mr. Nardo, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the 2024/25 school calendar.

Mrs. Lanci noted that the 2024/25 calendar adopted by the BOE includes June 6, 2025, as a Professional Development Day in North Bellmore.

CONSENT AGENDA
(Item Nos. 15.7 to 15.11)

On a Motion made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mr. Nardo, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 15.7 through 15.11.

DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT PROPERTY

15.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approved the disposal of the following kitchen stoves that are very old and beyond repair:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Serial #s</u>
Martin(2)	0092283 and 10H08601
JGD(2)	08401508 and 8401670
Park Avenue (2)	00387 and 00386
Saw Mill(3)	002092, 002091, and 002090

DONATIONS

15.8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepted a donation from the Bellmore LIONS Charitable Foundation, Inc. of a check in the amount of \$1500.00 to be used towards the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Newbridge Road School.

15.9 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepted a donation from the Bellmore LIONS Club of gift cards to be used for the district’s sixth grade awards ceremony. Total value: \$600.

Mrs. Corless offered appreciation of the generosity bestowed by the Bellmore Lions Club, and shared the BOE’s excitement in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Newbridge Road School.

SEQRA RESOLUTION – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

15.10 SEQRA RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvements at the District’s facilities: (a) electrical service upgrades at the Newbridge Road Elementary School, John G. Dinkelmeyer School, Park Avenue School and Jacob Gunther Elementary School; (b) masonry renovations at Newbridge Road School and Jacob Gunther School including waterproofing and repointing exterior walls, scraping and painting lintels and repointing mortar joints; (c) ceiling and lighting

**SEQRA RESOLUTION –
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
(continued)**

replacements at the Newbridge Road Elementary School and Jacob Gunther Elementary School, and (c) pavement/concrete/asphalt replacement at Newbridge Road Elementary School and Jacob Gunther Elementary School (hereinafter the “Projects”); and

WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2)); and

WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(10));

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Projects are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1), (2) and (10) of the SEQR Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Projects are Type II Actions, which require no further review under SEQR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

VOTER PROPOSITION

15.11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education shall present to the qualified voters of the North Bellmore Union Free School District at the annual meeting to be held on May 21, 2024 the following proposition in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION

SHALL the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District be authorized to expend up to (a) \$1,545,206.00 (plus interest) from the capital reserve fund established on June 16, 2020 and (b) \$4,454,794 from fund balance, for a total of \$6,000,000 for the purpose of performing the following projects: (a) pavement/concrete/asphalt replacement at Newbridge Road Elementary School and Jacob Gunther Elementary School; (b) ceiling replacements at the Newbridge Road Elementary School and Jacob Gunther Elementary School and (c) electrical service upgrades at the Newbridge Road Elementary School and Jacob Gunther Elementary School; all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental costs related thereto.

CONSENT AGENDA
(Item Nos. 15.12 to 15.15)

On a Motion made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 15.12 through 15.15.

BUSINESS CONTRACTS

15.12 WHEREAS, Southampton Union Free School District has made available to other municipalities a contract for the purchase of Doors, Door Hardware and Door Installation, under Bid No. SPS22-010; and

WHEREAS, said Bid No. SPS22-010 was let in a manner consistent with the requirements of General Municipal Law § 103; and

WHEREAS, the School District is permitted to utilize Bid No. SPS22-010 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the bid and with General Municipal Law § 103; and

WHEREAS, Board of Education policy 6700 permits the School District to utilize contracts let by counties or other political subdivisions when such contract is let in accordance with General Municipal Law § 103.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the utilization of Southampton Union Free School District Bid No. SPS22-010 for the purchase of Doors, Door Hardware and Door Installation, in accordance with the requirements of General Municipal Law § 103.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Purchasing Agent to issue purchase orders in order to purchase commodities under Bid No. SPS22-010.

15.13 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a contract with Island Trees Union Free School District for the 2023/24 school year.

DONATION:
***NBNMLL and Dylan Dream
Team Memorial Foundation***

15.14 WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District, by way of donation of labor and materials from the North Bellmore North Merrick Little League and Dylan’s Dream Team Memorial Foundation, desires to embark upon the following capital improvements at its Saw Mill Road Elementary School property: installation of anew synthetic turf baseball field (hereinafter the “Project”);

WHEREAS, said capital improvement projects are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the Projects and has determined that the Projects are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1),(2), and (10) of the SEQR Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that the above-described capital improvements projects are Type II Actions, which require no further review under SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the project from the New York State Education Department.

15.15 WHEREAS, the North Bellmore North Merrick Little League and Dylan’s Dream Team Memorial Foundation would like to donate the labor and material necessary for the installation of anew synthetic turf baseball field at Saw Mill Road Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the North Bellmore North Merrick Little League and Dylan’s Dream Team Memorial Foundation has raised the funds necessary to complete this work and has demonstrated to the District Administration that it has these funds on hand; and

WHEREAS, said funds will be placed in an escrow account for disbursement to the to North Bellmore North Merrick Little League and Dylan’s Dream Team Memorial Foundation to make payments to the contractor selected to perform the work; and

WHEREAS, the North Bellmore North Merrick Little League and Dylan’s Dream Team Memorial Foundation has secured a qualified, licensed and insured contractor to complete this work; and

DONATION:

***NBNMLL and Dylan Dream
Team Memorial Foundation
(continued)***

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District is desirous of accepting the gift of installation of anew synthetic turf baseball field at Saw Mill Road Elementary School;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District hereby accepts the gift of the installation of a new synthetic turf baseball field at Saw Mill Road Elementary School with much gratitude and appreciation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Board of Education hereby directs the administration to take all steps necessary to commence the project and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute any and all agreements necessary to allow for the commencement of the project.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Lanci on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Karim (Old Britton Road) – *Ramadan cookies from the Karim family and Eid-al-Adha discussion*. Mrs. Karim presented the BOE with Ramadan cookies. She tabled her discussion of Eid-al Adha as the BOE this evening approved June 6, 2025, as a Professional Development Day in North Bellmore, and she expressed gratitude to the BOE on their decision. Mrs. Testa offered her appreciation to Mrs. Karim and other Muslim community members for their input and detailed information provided over the past year, and reiterated gratitude to the BOE for their time and consideration in reaching their determination.

Mr. Kushnir (*North Pierce Avenue*) – *Proposition 15.11* – Mr. Kushnir inquired if the expenditure this coming year is part of a previous estimate that has received increases (interest); he inquired with respect to the electrical upgrades, ceiling work, and other work, are there any energy efficiency rebates the district can take advantage of; and, as to the Project Management contractor, do they handle what's called additional costs that come in with respect to the expenditures. Mrs. Testa interrupted to clarify if Mr. Kushnir was speaking about soft costs, if we budget for that, and he replied in the affirmative. Mrs. Rehak responded that the district works directly with the architect and the project managers, and the initial costs came from the Building Condition Survey when all the buildings were evaluated. She explained each year, before the propositions are set, she meets with the Architect and the Project Managers to discuss how much to adjust those costs based on market changes and inflation. She indicated the plus interest has to do with the reserve. The reserve funds do earn interest and the interest has to go directly to the reserve as the funds do not transfer until the end of the year. Mr. Kushnir thanked Mrs. Rehak for her explanation.

Mrs. Lanci inquired if we have had energy performance projects here in the past. Mrs. Rehak responded affirmatively and indicated that is the debt service rolling off now. She explained one of the goals was to incorporate capital projects into the budget as debt rolled off so as not to increase the tax levy while still maintaining the cap.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The BOE did not enter into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m. The next Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk