



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 9, 2025**

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School	7:30 PM
	2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710	

The Business meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, October 9, 2025, in the All Purpose Room of the Martin Avenue School at 2616 Martin Avenue, North Bellmore, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

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

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
Catherine Freeman, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business
Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Christopher M. Powers, District Counsel
Laurice Gunnels, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. A motion was made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

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

MISSION STATEMENT Mr. Nardo read the District's Mission Statement.

HUMAN RESOURCES ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report dated October 9, 2025 (on file at District Office)

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

STAFF DEVELOPMENT ON A MOTION by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Staff Development Report dated October 9, 2025 (on file at District Office).

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:***John G. Dinkelmeyer
Sixth Grade Board
Representatives***

Mrs. Testa welcomed the sixth grade John G. Dinkelmeyer (JGD) BOE representatives this evening and their families. She spoke about the NYS regulation regarding the requirement of BOE student representatives in High School districts, the importance of their role as the student voice for the BOE and proudly shared that North Bellmore is one of the only elementary districts that have students partaking in this experience.

Mrs. Brugge, Principal of JGD, spoke to spending time with the sixth-grade leaders planning and organizing their presentation speaking to their ideas and enthusiasm as a true reflection of JGD. Their focus this evening she indicated will be to share why their school is more than just a building and turned the podium over for student introductions.

- Asbah Jaffer
- Max Weerth
- Katie Hansen
- Chase Nirahu
- Czarina Bogin

The students reported Mrs. Brugge at the start of the school year met with each grade level to read aloud the book *"School is More Than a Building"* describing how school is more than just walls and classrooms, but rather a place where kindness matters and people are here for us. Reflecting upon the book, they spoke of their teachers sharing enthusiasm and interest in them not just as students (coming to athletic events outside of school), being greeted by faculty and staff by name, talking/laughing with friends at recess, etc., creating a family-like environment at JGD.

In closing, they extended gratitude to the BOE for their continued support of all their neighborhood schools, *little communities within North Bellmore* referring to the other buildings and helping them live the district mission by creating places where they all belong. Mrs. Corless, on behalf of the BOE, congratulated the students on their presentation, and utilizing the message this evening expressed how caring, kindness, and community is equally as important to the Board as student learning. BOE leadership certificates were presented.

***Nawrocki Smith LLP
External Audit Report***

Mr. Christopher Angotta, a partner at the firm Nawrocki Smith, greeted the BOE and the District Administration, thanked them for their continued confidence in their firm, and presented the results of the June 30, 2025, year-end audit. He reported meeting with the Audit Committee on October 7th to review the results in detail. He summarized the purpose of the audit and the standards by which it is conducted, spoke of the timely and accurate closing of the books and records citing the excellent cooperation and attention from the Business Office, specifically to Mr. Jack Newman on his tremendous efforts throughout. In closing, he commented upon the clean or unmodified auditor's reports and summarized the district's financial position and activity, noting no material weaknesses or deficiencies in internal control.

Tenure Recognition

Mrs. Testa thanked the BOE for approving the Personnel Report this evening, congratulated the newly appointed tenure recipients, and welcomed their families, faculty and staff in celebration. She spoke of the importance of tenure in North Bellmore and the high standards aligning with the mission to obtain that goal. Mrs. Testa introduced and applauded the honorees this evening.

- Jessica Dotzler, Reading Teacher
- Holly Sugarman, School Counselor

The tenure recipients were celebrated in North Bellmore fashion for their dedication, professionalism, leadership, and passion by Principals, Mrs. Brugge and Mrs. Licci, on behalf of the NBTA, Ms. Signorelli, fellow colleagues and friends, and words of gratitude and appreciation from the PTA and students. Echoing their sentiments, Mrs. Testa spoke to their individual attributes in the art of reading, and the importance of health and wellness in combination with education. In closing, Mrs. Corless, on behalf of the BOE, reiterated the importance of community in North Bellmore, and congratulated and officially welcomed the honorees to the district.

The meeting was temporarily interrupted for cake in celebration of tenure at 8:32 p.m. and resumed at 8:55 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Malloy, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Business meeting of September 11, 2025.

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Malloy, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 3-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 22, 2025. Mrs. Cmar-Grote and Mr. Nardo abstained as they were absent from this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(Agenda Items only)

Any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall complete an information card. Questions are to be addressed to the Board President, not to individual board members. Personal attacks on individual board members, administrators and staff will not be tolerated and may be cause to adjourn the meeting. There will be no back and forth dialogue. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, it would be appreciated if each visitor would limit his/her remarks to not more than three minutes or ask only one question. Public discussion on matters relating to staff and students, at which their reputation, privacy, or rights to due process, or those of others could be in some way violated, is prohibited.

There were no public comments relating to agenda items only.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Corless advised that the Board received no correspondence this month.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's report for the month ended August 31, 2025 (on file at District Office).

BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS

Mrs. Lanci reported the high school district met last night in celebration. She proudly shared the Central High School District, based on 2026 NICHE ratings, ranks 67 nationwide and 14 in the state, and extended gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the BOE for the support and efforts set forth by the staff, students, and community. The student representatives, one from each building, reported on homecoming and upcoming holiday events, and seven NYSSMA students were honored. Mrs. Lanci announced Saturday, October 25, is Drug Give Back Day whereby you may safely dispose of medications. The next meeting will be held on November 5.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledges the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of September 2025 (on file at District Office).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Before introducing the Superintendent's Report, Mrs. Corless shared State Senator Rhoads honored seventeen women for their dedicated leadership in their communities at the Women of Distinction ceremony. Mrs. Corless proudly announced four of the seventeen honorees were from the Bellmore-Merrick community extending congratulations to Marie Testa, Nina Lanci, Dr. Kaplan, and Janet Goller on this distinction. Mrs. Testa graciously accepted the recognition and expressed gratitude to those for whom she works and the North Bellmore community.

Continuing in celebration, Mrs. Testa happily announced the BMCHSD was named No. 14 in the State, an achievement illustrating the close partnership among the five school districts, their respective BOE representatives, the Superintendents, and Administrators. In furtherance, Mrs. Testa extended gratitude and appreciation to the North Bellmore Principals, their respective teams, and teachers for their dedication as educators to inspire students to grow as learners.

Mrs. Testa reported on updates districtwide highlighted below:

- Electrical panel assessments are being performed at John G. Dinkelmeyer and Park Avenue schools, projected upgrade work is set for spring of 2026 with air condition unit installation projected to be completed by the end of summer 2026.
- Asphalt/cement, ceilings, and lighting for Newbridge Road and Gunther schools is scheduled for the summer of 2026.
- Safety and security are paramount. Enhancements and modification updates continue to be investigated as well as new technology in this area.
- Migration to a new website is projected for early next year.
- A work session is scheduled in November with the BOE to discuss financial projections, roofing, and the future of Capital Projects in North Bellmore.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mrs. Testa shared the Business Department Report this evening was contained within the Superintendent's Report and took the opportunity to introduce and welcome Ms. Kate Freeman.

**CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt reported the ELL (English as a new language) orientation was held last evening wherein the new ELL families met the teachers, learned about the program, and the support and services that are available both in school and at home. With respect to ELL's, Mrs. Pollitt shared at the New York Board of Regents meeting this month it was announced that New York will be joining WIDA, a membership that enables the states to collaborate with state/nation experts for enhanced solutions devoted to research, design, and culturally and logistically appropriate services. Mrs. Pollitt did indicate that while instruction will remain the same, new assessment and screening processes may be forthcoming in the future. Mrs. Pollitt will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Moving on, Mrs. Pollitt happily introduced a re-envisioned 90-Minute PD workshop catalogue, all courses designed to prioritize the district's goals and initiatives from literacy to technology, to mental health, etc. A catalogue and schedule for the workshops were designed based on committee member feedback and survey results provided by the teachers. A detailed color-coded assessment calendar was included for planning. She indicated the teachers can register utilizing *My Learning Plan*.

Referring to the assessment calendar, Mrs. Malloy spoke of the assessments and surrounding views, and asked will parents be provided with information ahead of time regarding the assessment purpose and schedule. Mrs. Pollitt shared she did receive inquiry regarding this, spoke to understanding the importance of the correspondence, and indicated communication regarding this can be made available outlining a general timeframe and the purpose of each assessment.

Mr. Nardo spoke about the devices/programs that students use in the classrooms and inquired about their availability for use after school and/or at home. Mrs. Pollitt thanked Mr. Nardo with respect to the inquiry. In response she indicated that some of the programs are limited to certain grade levels and specific timeframes during the day. She indicated this would need to be tabled for further discussion with Mr. Fischetti (Technology). In furtherance, Mrs. Testa did suggest an updated subscription list can be made available.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the CPSE and the CSE reports dated October 1, 2025 (on file at District Office).

**CONSENT AGENDA
(Nos. 16.1 through 16.8)**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approves Item Nos. 16.1 through 16.8.

2025/26 CONTRACTS

16.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2025/26 school year (on file at District Office):

- Big Chief Nursery School
- Dilly Dally South Shore, LLC, DBA South Shore Country Day School
- Grand Canyon University
- The Hagedorn Little Village School (Tuition)
- Kidz Educational Services

**2025/26 CONTRACTS
(continued)**

-Merrick Community Nursery School
-Merrick Woods Country Day School
-North Merrick UFSD (Tuition)
-TLC & Brookside, Inc.
-Wee Friends Too Nursery School

**ROTH 403(b)
CONTRIBUTIONS**

16.2 WHEREAS, the North Bellmore UFSD ("District") maintains the North Bellmore UFSD 403(b) Retirement Plan ("Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to amend the Plan to permit Roth 403(b) Contributions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that 403(b) Contributions to the Plan is hereby amended to read as follows:

ROTH contributions shall be allowed under the Plan. The rules of §1.401(k)-l(f)(1) and for designated Roth contributions under a qualified cash or deferred arrangement shall apply to designated Roth contributions under the Plan. Thus, a designated Roth contribution under the Plan is a section 403(b) elective deferral that is designated irrevocably by the Employee at the time of the cash or deferred election as a designated Roth contribution being made in lieu of all or a portion of the section 403(b) elective deferrals the Employee is otherwise eligible to make under the Plan. A designated Roth contribution shall be treated by the Employer as includible in the Employee's gross income at the time the Employee would have received the amount in cash if the Employee had not made the cash or deferred election (such as by treating the contributions as wages subject to applicable withholding requirements); The Plan will allocate Roth contributions to a separate Account which shall be maintained in accordance with Treasury Regulation §1.401(k)-1(f)(2). Gains, losses, and other credits and charges shall be separately allocated on a reasonable and consistent basis to each Participant's Roth contribution Account and the Participant's other Accounts under the Plan. (See attached.)

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

16.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the External Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, as presented by Nawrocki Smith, LLP, Certified Public Accountants (on file at District Office).

**BENEFITS INTERNAL AUDIT
REPORT**

16.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the 2024-2025 Review of Health Insurance Benefits Internal Audit Report and Corrective Action Plan (on file at District Office).

RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

16.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the 2024-2025 Risk Assessment Report (on file at District Office).

**INTERNAL AUDIT RISK
ASSESSMENT CORRECTIVE
ACTION PLAN**

16.6 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the 2024-25 Internal Audit Risk Assessment Corrective Action Plan (on file at District Office).

TRANSPORTATION

16.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the renewal of the following transportation contract at the revised CPI of 3.4% for the 2025/2026 school year private school transportation effective September 2, 2025, with Dell Transportation Corp.

16.8 WHEREAS, the School District is required to provide transportation for one of its students to a certain out of district placement; and

WHEREAS, the District's current transportation provider has informed the District that it is not able to provide said transportation until October 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the District has an obligation to transport certain students to said out of district placement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares an emergency with regard to the provision of transportation services to said out of district placement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the School District to enter into an emergency student transportation contract with Stork Bussing LLC for a period of 30 days beginning September 29, 2025, pursuant to New York State Education Law §305(14).

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Malloy inquired if there was a status update regarding the request for an additional crossing guard. Mrs. Testa responded by addressing the concerns raised by Mrs. Malloy previously surrounding the traffic situation on Jerusalem Avenue and the potential upcoming construction, and indicated she has no new information to share, but will follow up with the BOE once it is available.

Mrs. Lanci inquired about the status of Halloween Parades this year, and Mrs. Testa happily reported the parades will occur at each building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall complete an information card. Questions are to be addressed to the Board President, not to individual board members. Personal attacks on individual board members, administrators and staff will not be tolerated and may be cause to adjourn the meeting. There will be no back and forth dialogue. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, it would be appreciated if each visitor would limit his/her remarks to not more than three minutes or ask only one question. Public discussion on matters relating to staff and students, at which their reputation, privacy, or rights to due process, or those of others could be in some way violated, is prohibited.

There were no public comments.

POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOE did not adjourn into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m. The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk