



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – JUNE 13, 2024**

Business Meeting	Martin Avenue School	8:00 PM
	2616 Martin Avenue, North Bellmore, NY 11710	

The Business meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Thursday evening, June 13, 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:

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

Also present:

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

CALL TO ORDER

The BOE honored the retirees prior to the commencement of the meeting. Mrs. Testa, District Administrators, Principals, Ms. Signorelli on behalf of the NBTA, representatives of the PTA, and students past and present shared in the bittersweet celebration of esteemed faculty, colleagues, and friends.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 8:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Nardo read the District's Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 5-0, the BOE approved the minutes of the Business meeting of May 9, 2024, and the Special Meetings minutes of May 21, and June 6, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Agenda Items only)

Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Malloy on behalf of the Board of Education. There were no public comments relating to agenda items only.

- CORRESPONDENCE** Mrs. Malloy acknowledged receipt by the Board of correspondence to be discussed in Executive session.
- TREASURER'S REPORT** ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Nardo, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's report for the month ending April 30, 2024.
- BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS** Mrs. Lanci happily shared the BMCHSD hosted graduation for the Class of 2024 this past Sunday, June 9, in celebration of over three hundred students at their respective schools on the football fields, and the Class of 2024 MAP students were honored on Tuesday, June 11. Continuing with the festivities, Mrs. Lanci reported at their regular meeting on June 5, the BOE proudly honored 21 dedicated retirees, the valedictorians and solitarians, and conducted items in the normal course of business.
- FINANCE** The Board of Education acknowledged review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of May2024.
- AMENDMENT TO ORDER OF AGENDA: *Item No. 11*** Mrs. Testa exited briefly and, in the interim, Item No. 11, the Business Department Report, was moved up on the agenda without objection.
- BUSINESS DEPARTMENT REPORT** Mrs. Rehak opened her report with a status update on Capital Projects. She reminded all of the letter sent a couple of weeks ago regarding the delay in the Saw Mill and Park Avenue projects earmarked to start this summer. Based on the status of the SED review today, Mrs. Rehak shared it is still the expectation that the final approval will not be received until mid-July not availing enough time for the projects to be completed this summer. Mrs. Rehak reiterated that several requests were made to the state to increase reviewers by the district, the district's council, the district's architect, and several administrative associations, and the state is looking into adding third party reviewers which will help moving forward for next year.
- Mrs. Rehak indicated due to the delay in the approval of the projects and the estimates received, the district will be going out to bid for all parts of the project once final authorization is received. Mrs. Rehak spoke to reviewing the scope of the work and timeframe options available (break periods), but the bulk of the project would be pushed back to the summer of 2025.
- Mrs. Rehak reported the capital reserve project for Newbridge Road and Gunther schools did receive voter approval and a letter of intent has already been sent to New York State with the final plans to follow. She explained if those projects are approved by spring of 2025, the district could have four buildings potentially able to move forward next summer. If that comes to fruition, Mrs. Rehak indicated undertaking all four in one summer can be difficult, each building would be looked at with respect to summer schedules, highest need, etc., and any proposed plans would be reviewed with the BOE. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Mrs. Rehak stressed all funds approved by voters for the capital reserve projects are earmarked solely for these projects and cannot be utilized elsewhere.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT
(continued)**

In closing, Mrs. Rehak reported the roof scans of the buildings are completed and were received today. She indicated the roofs scans will be analyzed and added as a revision to the five-year plan, and a plan including potential funding sources will be brought back before the BOE for discussion.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa extended gratitude to Mrs. Rehak for her comprehensive report on upcoming projects. Stressing the importance, she indicated the district will continue to move forward with the five-year plan, i.e. capital reserve and budgetary projects, thermal roof scans, etc., meeting with the BOE to discuss planning, and schedule work sessions if necessary.

Mrs. Testa shared she has received inquiry from the community with respect to air conditioning and why the buildings do not it. Mrs. Testa reminded all that the district did go out twice for a bond, once in 2008 and again in 2022, which contained air conditioning and both failed. She indicated the district is proactively taking steps through budgetary projects to upgrade the electric in the buildings as they are at max capacity now allowing for the possibility of adding more units in the future. In the interim, Mrs. Testa spoke of common areas and classrooms in the building that are utilized as cooling spaces for usage by students and faculty, and extended gratitude to the support of the teachers and staff in this effort.

Mrs. Testa extended her appreciation to the Districtwide Safety Plan team, spoke of the upcoming 2024/25 Districtwide Safety Plan, the required information that needs to be included with respect to safety and health that have to do with public schools, i.e. emergency drills, proactive measures, air quality advisories, etc., and the approval process by the BOE and the state. A permitted condensed version of this plan will be available on the district website for review once approved.

In closing, Mrs. Testa was happy to report new for 2024/25, the district will be moving to *Parent Square*, an improved communication network to be utilized by the community, faculty, and staff. She spoke of multiple options including multi language support, two-way communication, and enhanced privacy and security. In furtherance, Mrs. Testa spoke of future planning to redesign the district's website for the 2025/26 school year.

**CONSENT AGENDA:
Items Nos. 10.1 to 13.19**

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote and carried 5-0, the BOE approved Item Nos. 10.1 to 13.19.

PERSONNEL REPORT

10.1 WHEREAS, positions have been abolished in the tenure areas indicated below and the following named subject area teachers have been determined to have the least seniority in these tenure areas, now therefore, Upon recommend-dation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the appointment of the following subject area teacher(s) in the North Bellmore Union Free School District hereby is excessed as indicated below, effective July 1, 2024:

Tenure Area: Reading
Teacher: Cheryl Guzowski
Tenure Area: Special Education
Teacher: Julia Kriegel

PERSONNEL REPORT
(continued)

10.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Bellmore Board of Education approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to increase the teacher staff by a half-time (.5) position in the tenure area of Special Education, effective 8/28/24.

10.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report dated June 13, 2024:

- a. Appointments
- b. Leave Requests
- c. Resignations
- d. Retirements
- e. Terminations

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

10.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Staff Development Report dated June 13, 2024.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

12.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated June 6, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS

13.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 24/25 school year:

- All About Kids, PLLC
- Bellmore UFSD (Health & Welfare 23/24)
- Cerini & Associates, LLP
- Health Source Group, Inc. (Services)
- Health Source Group, Inc. (Skilled Nursing)
- Pearlcare Search Group, LLC
- Pediatric Neuropsychology Associates
- US Medical Staffing, LLC
- White Glove Community Care (Services)
- White Glove Community Care (Skilled Nursing)

NBPA MOA AGREEMENT

13.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an MOA between the North Bellmore UFSD and the North Bellmore Principals’ Association from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT PROPERTY

13.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the excess and disposal of the following instruments from Newbridge Road School that are broken and beyond repair:

<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Date Purchased</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>
Flute - Artley	1978	G8a	630326
Flute - Bundy	1984	NE10	652778
Flute - Armstrong	1978	G743468	743468
Flute - Artley	1985	G1	692061
Flute - King	1983	NE 9	3839
Flute - Bundy	1979	NE 6	442288
Oboe – A.Jarde	1960	NE1	D46

DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT PROPERTY	Alto Saxophone-Conn	1987	NE4	N236504
	Alto Saxophone- Olds	1988	NE5	7700965
	Trumpet	1973	NE8	791759
	Clarinet	1972	MNE11	678866
	Clarinet	1970	NE20	81692
	Clarinet	2008	NE45	A28067
	Cornet	1957	NE4	205901
	Cornet	1958	NE5	201482

DONATION

13.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of an older model marching style snare drum from Ms. Charlene Niedfield to be used by the students in the North Bellmore School District. (Approx. value \$150.00)

BUDGET VOTE/ELECTION: RECORD RETENTION AND DISPOSITION

13.5 WHEREAS, in or about May of each year, the North Bellmore Union Free School District conducts its annual budget vote and election; and

WHEREAS, the District Clerk is currently in possession of all voted ballots resulting from the annual budget vote and election from the 2023 election; and

WHEREAS, the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule LGS-1 provides for the destruction of such ballots after 1 year from the date of the election; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore School District order the destruction of all voted ballots resulting from the election of 2023.

APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

13.6 Appointment of External Auditor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of Nawrocki Smith LLP for external auditing services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 for a total all-inclusive fee not to exceed \$37,500; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the execution of an engagement letter in accordance with the terms of the District’s Request for Proposals dated 4/25/24 and the proposal from Nawrocki Smith LLP dated 4/19/24 for the rendering of the aforementioned services and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement and the Engagement letter on the Board’s behalf.

RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE FUNDS

13.7 Approval of Transfer of Funds to the Retirement Contribution Reserve Funds

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, previously established a Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund authorizing a maximum funding level not including interest not to exceed \$5,000,000 for the Employee Retirement System Contribution Fund Reserve and a maximum funding level not including interest not to exceed \$3,000,000 for the Teacher’s Retirement System Contribution Sub-fund Reserve.

**RETIREMENT
CONTRIBUTION RESERVE
FUNDS
(continued)**

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, in the event there are sufficient funds remaining in the 2023/2024 budget, the Board shall cause the Retirement Contribution Reserve Funds to be funded in June, 2024, in amounts not to exceed \$500,000 for the ERS Fund and in amounts not to exceed \$500,000 for the TRS Sub-Fund.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION
RESERVE FUND**

13.8 Approval of Transfer of Funds to the Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, previously established a Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund authorizing a maximum funding level not including interest not to exceed \$1,000,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, in the event there are sufficient funds remaining in the 2023/2024 budget, the Board shall cause the Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund to be funded in June 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$ 100,000.

**UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE RESERVE FUND**

13.9 Approval of Transfer of Funds to the Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, previously established an Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund authorizing a maximum funding level not including interest not to exceed \$600,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, in the event there are sufficient funds remaining in the 2023/2024 budget, the Board shall cause the Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund to be funded in June 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$ 50,000.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFIT
ACCRUED LIABILITY
RESERVE**

13.10 Approval of Transfer of Funds to the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, previously established an Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund authorizing a maximum funding level not including interest not to exceed \$3,000,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, in the event there are sufficient funds remaining in the 2023/2024 budget, the Board of Education shall authorize the appropriation of funds to the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve, to be funded in June, 2024, in amounts not to exceed \$150,000.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFIT
ACCRUED LIABILITY
RESERVE**

13.11 Approval of Transfer of Funds from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorizes the appropriation of funds from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve for the purposes of contractual retirement payouts of the employees listed on Confidential Schedule A (on file at District Office).

**CAPITAL RESERVE
PROPOSITION**

13.12 Capital Reserve Proposition

WHEREAS, the qualified voters of the North Bellmore School District approved the following proposition on May 21, 2024 as follows:

SHALL the Board of Education of the North Bellmore School District be authorized to expend up to (a) \$1,545,206 (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 Newbridge Road Elementary School and Jacob Gunther Elementary School and
- (c) electrical upgrades at 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District increase budget code A9950 900 10, Transfer to Capital Fund, in the amount of \$6,000,000 for the purpose of funding the above voter authorized proposition approved on May 21, 2024.

**2024 SUMMER
TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACTS**

13.13 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the new 2024 Summer Transportation Contract with Suburban Bus Transportation Inc.

13.14 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the renewal of the following 2024 Summer Transportation Contracts at the revised CPI rate for private school transportation with:

- First Student, Inc.
- Suburban Bus Transportation, Inc.
- We Transport, Inc.

13.15 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the new 2024 Summer Transportation Contracts for transportation with Nassau BOCES.

NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS

13.16 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the renewal of DebtBook Lease and Subscription for three years (on file at District Office).

**NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS
(continued)**

13.17 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a contract with Applied Data Services for the 2024/25 school year (on file at District Office).

PERSONNEL

13.18 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore School District, pursuant to New York State Civil Service Law Section 73, hereby terminates Paul Shevlin, food service worker, effective June 26, 2024.

DONATION

13.19 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a legacy gift from the Park Avenue School Sixth Grade Committee of a six-foot outdoor steel bench with backrest from the graduating class of 2024 to be installed on the Park Avenue School grounds for use by the Park Avenue community (approximate value \$410.91.).

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Malloy raised for BOE consideration writing a letter to the state regarding the issue of mixed athletic competition and the subsequent approval by the Regents to allow males to participate in select female sports indicating some districts are sending letters in opposition. She recognized that while North Bellmore does not have sport programs, the students are heavily involved in sports and move onto the middle and high school levels to participate. Mrs. Testa spoke to her awareness of various organizations, advocacy groups, and districts writing letters, and voiced a concern of a possible Title IX issue. Mr. Powers reflected on the sensitivity of the issue and the importance of gathering all information before making this decision, i.e. review the suggested letters, take into consideration information provided by Mrs. Testa with respect to statewide associations, etc. Mrs. Malloy reported suggested letters were provided to the BOE for consideration, asked them to review the information, and to provide feedback so an informed decision can be reached with respect to this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guidelines for Public Comments was communicated by Mrs. Malloy on behalf of the Board of Education. There were no public comments.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the BOE entered Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The next Business Meeting will be held on July 8, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk