



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2025**

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, March 13, 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:

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

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Richard Cunningham, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Business
Christopher 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. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

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

MISSION STATEMENT Mr. Cunningham read the District’s Mission Statement.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Music in Our Schools Month Mrs. Testa, in honor of Music in Our Schools Month, welcomed faculty, staff, and families, and invited Mr. Madden, Assistant Principal at Saw Mill Road School and Music Liaison for the District with the support of Mrs. Brugge, Principal at John G. Dinkelmeyer, to open the festivities this evening. Mr. Madden thanked the BOE and Mrs. Testa for their invitation this evening and proudly shared in celebration of the arts the North Bellmore Festival Band to showcase their musical talent. Mr. Madden spoke of North Bellmore’s dedication to inspiring students to be passionate learners, meeting new challenges, and expressed gratitude to the BOE for their support of the arts and for recognizing the value of it in student development.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:***Music in Our Schools Month
(continued)***

Mr. Madden introduced Mr. Christopher D’Orio and Ms. Skylar Berkley, North Bellmore’s dedicated band directors. In celebration, the North Bellmore Festival Band, under the direction of Mr. D’Orio and Ms. Berkley, performed two musical selections as a public demonstration of their talent and appreciation of the arts. In closing, Mr. D’Orio on behalf of himself and his colleagues expressed gratitude to the BOE and Administrators for their continued support of the program, and to the parents, for opening their homes to music.

Mrs. Testa congratulated the students on their phenomenal performance, a true illustration of teacher and student collaboration and hard work. She spoke of the exemplary program that started close to 30 years ago in North Bellmore and applauded the music faculty in appreciation and gratitude.

***Recognition – Park Avenue
Nurse, Elizabeth Ferreri***

Mrs. Testa addressed North Bellmore’s core values and mission, the foundation of the district, and proudly spoke of the inspirational staff, students, and faculty who emanate those values daily. In discussion with the BOE, Mrs. Testa expressed it was decided to institute an award to honor those who highlight those exemplary actions.

In furtherance of this, Mrs. Testa spoke of the compassionate and dedicated service of the North Bellmore nurses who ensure the health and wellbeing of students, faculty, and staff daily throughout the buildings creating a safe and supportive environment while performing routine health needs and emergencies with professionalism and care. Mrs. Testa introduced North Bellmore staff of nurses:

- Kathleen Pekoff, John G. Dinkelmeyer School
- Helena Terzulli, Martin Avenue School
- Eileen Turner, Newbridge Road School
- Elizabeth Ferreri, Park Avenue School
- Kira Grange, Saw Mill Road School
- Melida Moustouka, Saw Mill Road School

In recognition of the North Bellmore Mission, Mrs. Testa spoke about the actions of one nurse, Elizabeth Ferreri, highlighting two medical emergencies whereby she illustrated the value of human life, compassion, competence, and dedicated service to her profession and the North Bellmore community of students and faculty. She in unison with the BOE honored Ms. Ferreri by presenting her with the first North Bellmore BOE Mission Award. Ms. Ferreri expressed gratitude to Mrs. Testa, the BOE and extended a special thank you to all the nurses. Mrs. Testa congratulated Ms. Ferreri again, and all the nurses for their “*grace and love shown each and everyday.*”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Business meeting of February 13, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(Agenda Items only)

Guidelines to 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 relating to agenda items only.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Lanci advised that the Board received correspondence.

TREASURER’S REPORT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer’s report for the month ending January 31, 2025 (on file at District Office).

BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS

Mrs. Corless said the BMCHSD met last week. The BOE honored the Rifle Team and the Bowling Team for winning the Nassau County Championships, the first for the Rifle Team since the year 2000. She was excited to report the Middle School and High Schools will be hosting their musicals in the upcoming weeks and indicated you can check the website for dates and other information with respect to these performances. In planning, she spoke of the upcoming Capital Project work for Calhoun High School this year. The next meeting will be held on April 2.

FINANCE

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

PERSONNEL REPORT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Malloy, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report dated March 13, 2025 (on file at District Office).

- A. Appointments
- B. Leave Requests
- C. Change of Status
- D. Resignations/Retirements
- E. Termination

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Malloy, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Staff Development Report dated March 13, 2025 (on file at District Office.)

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Testa happily announced the appointment of Rose Scammell to the position of Director of Special Education and Student Support Services, welcomed her to the North Bellmore community and introduced her to all present this evening. She proudly spoke of Mrs. Scammell's outstanding qualities and devotion to special elementary education, and shared excitement for Mrs. Scammell's arrival into the District on April 22. Mrs. Testa expressed gratitude to all that participated in the rigorous selection process and recognized and extended gratitude to Mr. Howard Bernstein for his dedication and service as the interim.

Mrs. Lanci on behalf of the BOE welcomed Ms. Scammell, and shared Mrs. Scammell's history as an alumna of North Bellmore, and extended gratitude to all the Committee members who participated in the hiring process.

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mr. Cunningham presented a detailed power point presentation of the proposed budget for 2025/26 school year and indicated a copy will be available on the website for review. He addressed the core values/mission of the district in relation to the budgetary goals and highlighted the areas of focus including continued growth in Curriculum and Instruction, promoting new and existing program expansion through professional development, safety and security, supporting existing Special Area Programs, i.e., library, computer science, language, music, art, etc., and technology and network enhancements.

Mr. Cunningham detailed a breakdown of the budgetary components:

- 76.17% Programs
- 10.59% Administration
- 13.24% Capital Projects

He shared the budget contains a proposed tax levy increase of 2.55 percent and a budget-to-budget increase of 2.46 percent citing rising costs in transportation, special education, insurance, and professional development. Included also in Proposition I are budgetary capital projects districtwide, i.e. air conditioning and associated electrical upgrades, stage curtain replacement, select floor replacement, playground repairs, in addition to masonry type work at Newbridge.

Moving on, Mr. Cunningham spoke of Proposition II seeking voter approval to expend from Capital Fund 2022 for the reconstruction of select restrooms districtwide with no increase to tax levy. If approved, he detailed the process moving forward with a projected start date in the summer of 2026.

In conclusion, Mr. Cunningham reminded all of the upcoming budget-related meeting dates:

- March 22 -PTA Coordinating Council, Virtual Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- April 10 - BOE Meeting Budget Adoption, Martin Avenue School, 7:30 p.m.
- May 6 - Annual I Budget Hearing, Martin Avenue School, 7:30 p.m.
- May 20 - Annual Budget Vote, Newbridge Road School, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA
(Item Nos. 13.1 to 14.4)

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 13.1 through 14.4.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
CPSE/CSE REPORTS

13.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the CPSE and CSE reports dated March 6, 2025 (on file at District Office).

NEW BUSINESS
CONTRACTS

14.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2024/25 school year (on file at District Office):

- Cooper Power and Lighting Corp.
- Educational Data Services, Inc. (2025/26)
- Island Trees UFSD
- Merrick Woods Country Day School (UPK)
- Plainedge UFSD
- Lydia Qiu
- Seaford UFSD
- Richard Zawislak

EXCISE DISTRICT MUSIC
INSTRUMENTS

14.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education excess the following instruments at Saw Mill Road School that have been deemed and assessed as either too expensive to repair and no longer rented due to age, contain non-repairable brass rot or bent or damaged.

Instrument	Case #	Serial #	Brand Name	Year
Valve Trombone	03tbnv	759836	Olds Ambassador	1974
Valve Trombone	06tbnv	846578	Olds Ambassador	1974
Valve Trombone	07tbnv	825923	Olds Ambassador	1974
French Horn Bb	01fh	299838	Olds 041 (+ trigger)	1962
French Horn Bb	02fh	No Serial	Olds Ambassador	1977
Alto Saxophone	20asx	7116789	Conn 18M	1983
Alto Saxophone	09asx	175729	Conn 24M	2000
Alto Saxophone	11asx	1073797	Bundy 1242	1990
Cornet	11tpt	792200	Olds Ambassador	1963
Cornet	02tpt	417261	Olds Ambassador	1963
Cornet	23tpt	B70920	Bach 1531	1998
Trumpet	26tpt	B70320	Bach 1531	1998
Trumpet	NE12tpt	966969	Bundy	1990
Trumpet	S14tpt	a39634	Olds Ambassador	1980
Cornet	S8tpt	236678	Olds Ambassador	1957
Trumpet	10tpt	C71303	Bach Student Model	1998
Cornet	19tpt	B39222	Bach 1531	1995
Clarinet	44cl	P0134240	Selmer	2009
Clarinet	20cl	98339	Bundy Student	1978
Clarinet	S3	B3703	Martin Frere	1959

EXCISE DISTRICT MUSIC INSTRUMENTS
(continued)

Clarinet	S41	1275	Revere	2000
Clarinet	S8	81527	Martin Frere	1960
Clarinet	S5	680083	Bundy	1972
Clarinet	S11	680928	Bundy 1400	1994
Clarinet	G2556 (s4)	2556	Carl Fisher	1971
Clarinet	S17cl	E2351	Martin Frere	1961
Tenor Saxophone	02tsx	N248547	Armstrong	1974
Cornet	56tpt	395181	Armstrong	1958

DONATIONS

14.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the donation of the following instruments to the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD:

Instrument	Case #	Serial #	Brand Name	Year
Sousaphone	01spn	c93195	Conn 36k21	1965
Sousaphone	02spn	c39086	Conn 36K2	1963
Sousaphone	04spn	5-692053	King	1999
Sousaphone	D 1	C92895	Conn	1980
Sousaphone	D 1b	50545	Bundy II	1980
Sousaphone	NE1	C92925	Conn	1964

14.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Jim Breslin of a student model alto saxophone, Brand: Glory, to be used for Saw Mill band students in grades 4-6. (approximate value \$275.00)

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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There were no public comments.

POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOE did not adjourn into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk