



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – AUGUST 14, 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, August 14, 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
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Nina Lanci
Christine Malloy

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Christopher Nardo, Vice President

Also present:

Marie Testa, Superintendent of Schools
Janet Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Amy Joyce, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Steven A. Goodstadt, 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. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Lanci to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 4-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:42 p.m.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Mrs. Corless led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
MISSION STATEMENT	Mrs. Cmar-Grote read the District's Mission Statement.
MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC MEETING TO ENTER PUBLIC HEARING	ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0, the Public Meeting was adjourned to enter the Public Hearing at 7:43 p.m.
PUBLIC HEARING: 2025/26 Districtwide School Safety Plan	Mrs. Testa reported the 2025/26 Districtwide School Safety Plan was available for review as per New York State Law for 30 days and no feedback was received. In furtherance, she indicated the BOE is approving the plan as written and will be available on the website tomorrow.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING	ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0, the Public Hearing was adjourned.
MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC MEETING	ON A MOTION by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0. the Public Meeting reconvened at 7:46 p.m..
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Reorganization/Business meeting of July 2, 2025.
PUBLIC COMMENTS <i>(Agenda Items only)</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>There were no public comments relating to agenda items only.</p>
CORRESPONDENCE	Mrs. Corless advised that the Board received no correspondence.
TREASURER'S REPORT	ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's report for the month ended June 30, 2025.
BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS	Mrs. Lanci reported the BMCHSD met last week, Wednesday, August 6. She proudly announced the acceptance of a generous donation from the Mephram Sports Boosters of \$17,000 to upgrade the Mephram High School weight room. In addition to the regular course of business there was discussion of upcoming events including the seventh and ninth grade orientation on August 26, and Superintendent's Conference Day on August 27 and 28. The first day of school is on Tuesday, September 2, and the next business meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3.
CONSENT AGENDA <i>(Item Nos. 13.1 to 13.3)</i>	ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Lanci seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 13.1 through 13.3.
FINANCE	<p>13.1 The Board of Education acknowledges the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of July 2025.</p> <p>13.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Budgetary Transfers dated 8/14/25.</p> <p>13.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following budget (Gross Amount) of the necessary claims and expenditures in North Bellmore UFSD (#4) in the Town of Hempstead School year 2025 – 2026, amounting to</p>

FINANCE
(continued)

\$133,051,337 School Purpose
\$ 4,077,688 Library Purpose
 TOTAL \$137,129,025 be and the same is hereby accepted.

RESOLVED that the sum of \$ 86,928,473 School Purpose
\$ 4,077,688 Library Purpose
 TOTAL \$ 91,006,161 be the remainder of

budget adopted as above and the amount which must be RAISED BY TAXATION (NET AMOUNT) for North Bellmore UFSD (#4) of the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York for the year 2025–26 be levied upon the taxable property of the said school district as said property has been certified to by the Assessor for the school year 2025-26.

RESOLVED, that the District Clerk of this School District is hereby authorized and directed, pursuant to Section 6–20.0 and amendments thereto of the Nassau County Administrative Code, to file a certified copy of these resolutions with the Nassau County Legislature and the Department of Assessment, Mineola, New York on or before August 15, 2025.

SUPERINTENDENT’S
REPORT

Mrs. Testa thanked the BOE for approving the Districtwide Safety Plan this evening. She happily reported new teacher orientation was conducted this week and indicated all staff will return on August 27 and 28 for Superintendent’s Conference Day. She expressed her gratitude to Mrs. Pollitt and Ms. McNamara for planning and organizing these events.

Mrs. Testa addressed updates districtwide:

- 2025/26 calendar is up on the website and will be handed out to family and staff the first week of school.
- The Capital Project work which includes the ceilings, lighting, and pavement at both Park Avenue and Saw Mill Road schools, is almost completed. The timeline on the pavement work at Saw Mill was pushed back (letter was sent to the community surrounding the issue) and the district is dealing with the various regulatory agencies involved on the work. The front circle will be completed by August 20, and the district is hopeful the back of the building will be finished by the start of school. Status updates will continue to be provided to the BOE and the community.

Moving on, Mrs. Testa informed the BOE the Bellmore Herald misreported on the Capital Project work in North Bellmore and spoke to the various misstatements.

- It was reported that the \$39 million bond *passed* and all schools are receiving air conditioning now. Mrs. Testa went on record to report that the bond in fact failed, and reported by budgetary means Newbridge Road, Saw Mill, and Martin Avenue did receive air conditioning units this summer in instructional learning places. The Capital Project work being performed by voter approval is the ceiling, lighting, and pavement.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(continued)**

- The paper reported security vestibules as forthcoming and Mrs. Testa corrected this misstatement to reflect the security vestibules were installed and completed in North Bellmore in 2022.
- Electrical panel upgrades in Park Avenue and John G. Dinkelmeyer will begin this fall and are scheduled to be finished in the spring/summer.

In conclusion, Mrs. Testa indicated that Mrs. Joyce has updated the Capital Project summary page on the website. Mrs. Testa spoke to the BOE's transparency and diligence in developing a very strategic Capital Project plan and the disappointment over the misstatements regarding this. She reported a letter was sent to the Editor regarding the redaction and notification of same via Parent Square to faculty, staff, and parents. To date Mrs. Testa dishearteningly indicated the Herald has provided only an online corrected article which is concerning since some community members or families do not have digital access.

Mrs. Corless expressed on behalf of the BOE their gratitude and appreciation to the staff for their hard work this summer in preparing the buildings and making them beautiful for the start of school. Mrs. Lanci reiterated those sentiments, thanking Mrs. Testa for the lovely pictures and expressing excitement over viewing the transformation of the building illustrating years of planning coming to fruition.

PERSONNEL REPORT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 3-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report dated August 14, 2025 (on file at District Office). Mrs. Cmar-Grote abstained.

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

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the Staff Development Report dated August 14, 2025 (on file at District Office.)

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

Mrs. Joyce reminded all of her report in July regarding banking interest rates, and she was happy to report in her discussions with Webster Bank they have increased their rates which will increase interest income this year. She indicated that rates could fluctuate throughout the year, but if they remain close to or the same the district will receive additional revenue.

Mrs. Joyce without reiterating Mrs. Testa's detailed summary regarding the Capital Projects wished to add she performed a walkthrough of the buildings this morning and was happy to report on the huge progress in the building over the six weeks since she started. In furtherance, she extended her gratitude to Mr. Russo and his entire team for their hard work this summer.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS	ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the CPSE and CSE reports dated August 6, 2025 (on file at District Office).
CONSENT AGENDA <i>(Item Nos. 17.1 to 17.19)</i>	ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approves Item Nos. 17.1 through 17.19.
2025/26 DISTRICT-WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN	17.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the 2025-26 District-Wide School Safety Plan (on file at the District Office).
DONATIONS	<p>17.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Saw Mill Road School PTA of signs for hallways to create an easily viewed room number assignment for navigating the building. (Approx. value \$2,370.00)</p> <p>17.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Bellmore Lions Club of a check in the amount of \$500.00 to be used to purchase food for students at the summer school program with food insecurity.</p> <p>17.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept an anonymous donation of math manipulatives including place value blocks, counters, fraction tiles, mini clocks and coins to be used for math instruction districtwide for K-6 students (approximate value: \$2,000.00).</p>
NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS	<p>17.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for the 2025/26 school year (on file at District Office):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Lisa Arbucho-Veneroni-Frontier Behave, LLC-Helping Hands Licensed Behavior Analyst Services, PLLC-Key Insights Neuropsychology and Counseling-Long Island Neuropsychological Consultants-New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc. (Academic Tutoring)-New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc. (Services)-School Construction Consultants
2025/26 LICOOP Food and Service Supplies	<p>17.6 <u>Long Island School Nutrition Directors Association, Participation in the LISNDA Long Island Cooperative (LICOOP) 2025-2026 School Year</u></p> <p>WHEREAS, It is the plan of a number of public-school districts in Nassau/Suffolk Counties, New York to bid jointly on selected Food Service Commodities, Food and Food Service Supplies for the 2025-2026 school year.</p> <p>WHEREAS, North Bellmore UFSD, is desirous of participating with other districts in Nassau/Suffolk Counties in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 and,</p>

**2024/25 LICOOP
Food and Service Supplies
(continued)**

WHEREAS, North Bellmore UFSD, wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specification, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, reporting the results to the boards of education and making recommendations thereon; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR North Bellmore UFSD, hereby appoints Long Island School Nutrition Directors Association Long Island Cooperative to represent it in all matters related above, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that North Bellmore School District Board of Education authorized the above-mentioned cooperative to represent it in all matters leading up to and entering into a contract for the purchase of the above-mentioned commodities, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that North Bellmore UFSD Board of Education agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs of the cooperative bidding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that North Bellmore UFSD Board of Education agrees (1) to abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee; (3) that after award of contract(s), it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

**DIGNITY ACT
COORDINATOR
(Park Avenue School)**

17.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Margaret Jaffa, School Psychologist, as the Dignity Act Coordinator at Park Avenue School for the 2025/26 school year. (This replaces the appointment of Jillian Sears, Social Worker.)

**POLICIES FOR READING/
ADOPTION:**

Policy Nos. 0300

1050

1500

2000

5151

5695

17.8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policies for reading and adoption (on file at District Office):

0300 Accountability

1050 Annual District Election and Budget Vote

1500 Public Use of School Facilities

2000 Board of Operational Goals

5151 Homeless Children

5695 Students and Personal Electronic Devices

**POLICIES TO BE ABOLISHED:
Policy Nos. 0150**

6120

17.9 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education abolish the following policies:

0150 HIV/AIDS

6120 Annual District Election and Budget Vote

**HOFSTRA/NBUFSD
MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING**

17.10 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Hofstra University and North Bellmore School District for school years 2024-25 and 2025-26 (on file at District Office).

- EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT** 17.11 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Third Amendment to an Employment Agreement made on August 14, 2025, by and between the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District and Marie Testa, Superintendent (on file at District Office).
- NASSAU BOCES AGREEMENT** 17.12 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 Final AS- 7 agreement with Nassau BOCES as required by Education Law § 1950 (on file at District Office).
- 17.13 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Initial 2025-2026 AS- 7 agreement with Nassau BOCES as required by Education Law § 1950 (on file at District Office).
- 17.14 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Revised Letter of Intent with Nassau BOCES in the amount of \$5,258,155 for the 2025-2026 school year (on file at District Office).
- TRANSPORTATION** 17.15 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a contract with We Transport for the transportation of one student to St Martin De Porres Marianist non-public school for the 2025-26 school year.
- 17.16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve a collective bargaining agreement by and between the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District and CSEA, Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, CSEA North Bellmore UFSD Custodial Bus Driver Unity, Nassau County Educational Local 865 for the term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026 (on file at District Office).
- 17.17 RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Farmingdale Union Free School District for the 2025–2026 school year, commencing September 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, to provide transportation for certain North Bellmore UFSD student(s) by piggybacking onto Farmingdale’s existing transportation contract with Educational Bus, Inc.; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board finds this arrangement to be in the best interests of the District and its taxpayers, as it will provide the required transportation services at a cost lower than securing such services through a separate procurement; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Intermunicipal Agreement and the corresponding piggyback transportation contract, including all required signature pages, for submission to the New York State Education Department for transportation aid purposes, and to take any other actions necessary to effectuate this arrangement.
- DONATION OF EXCESS PROPERTY** 17.18 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares twenty-five (25) cafeteria tables — fifteen (15) located at J.G. Dinkelmeyer Elementary School and ten (10) located at Saw Mill Road Elementary School — as excess property, and authorizes their donation to the Town of Hempstead at no cost to the District.

NEW BUSINESS CONTRACT 17.19 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a contract with Tri-State REACH, Inc., for the period September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026 (on file at District Office).

OLD BUSINESS Mrs. Testa proudly recognized and congratulated Mrs. Pollitt on being chosen to participate in the New York State Council School for future superintendents. Mrs. Testa indicated this is a program you must be recommended for, and Mrs. Pollitt was selected to attend with other colleagues across New York State.

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. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Lanci, and carried 4-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk