



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 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, September 11, 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
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. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Lanci to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

Mrs. Corless requested a moment of silence on this 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance to honor the victims, survivors, and all those affected by the events of September 11, 2001, and in honor of the victims of the tragic school shooting in Minneapolis on August 27, 2025.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Nardo read the District's Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Business meeting of August 14, 2025. Mr. Nardo abstained as he was absent from the 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 did receive correspondence.

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's report for the month ended July 31, 2025.

**BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH
SCHOOL REPORTS**

Mrs. Lanci reported the BMCHSD met last Wednesday evening. She reflected upon the success of opening day and spoke proudly of the theme derived from a children's book *"We Can Make a Difference"*. Mrs. Lanci shared a remarkable presentation by the ASR students, and extended gratitude to the Mephram Sports Boosters on their generous donations for improvements at Mephram High School. She happily shared Homecoming events are scheduled for Saturday, September 20. The next meeting will be held on October 8.

FINANCE

The Board of Education acknowledges the review of the warrants that have been approved by the Claims Auditor for the month of August 2025.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mrs. Corless on behalf of the BOE extended gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Testa for her educational commitment to the North Bellmore School District, and for always upholding the core values and living the mission of this district. She proudly shared that Mrs. Testa was elected and appointed as President of the Nassau County Counsel of School Superintendents, a position signifying her leadership and dedication to students and education. Mrs. Testa with gratitude extended her sincere appreciation to the BOE, her esteemed colleagues, faculty, parents, and students who are and continue to be her inspiration.

Moving on to her report, Mrs. Testa happily spoke of the wonderful start to a new school year, and peering into the audience welcomed back the teachers, faculty, and staff. The message of *"UNITY"* she shared was the focus of school assemblies illustrative of a community where *all are welcome, all belong*, and expressed excitement for a new school year deeply committed to academic, social, and emotional growth.

Mrs. Testa, turning her attention to safety and security, expressed gratitude to Mr. Russo and Mr. Fischetti for upgrading the technology and security districtwide. She indicated while the particulars in many instances may not be shared, she stressed security is paramount here in North Bellmore.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(continued)**

Mrs. Testa spoke to the status of the Capital Project districtwide and indicated a detailed breakdown is available on the website under *CAPITAL PROJECTS*. Highlights included:

- The completion of the security vestibules and parameter fencing to enhance safety and security districtwide.
- Ceiling and pavement reconstruction at JGD, Martin, Park, and Saw Mill are completed. Newbridge and Gunther are scheduled to be completed by August of 2026.
- Budgetary electrical upgrades were completed this summer at Martin Avenue, Newbridge Road, and Saw Mill, and air conditioning units were added in all instructional spaces within those buildings. JGD and Park Avenue were just approved for electrical upgrades and air conditioning units will be installed between the fall of 2025 and spring of 2026.
- ADA bathrooms are scheduled to begin in August of 2026 with projected completion August of 2027.

In furtherance, Mrs. Testa said a new building condition survey will be conducted this year. She spoke about projects for discussion, consideration, and planning with the BOE, i.e. building roofs and the HVAC system (including heating).

In closing, Mrs. Testa expressed her sincere gratitude and appreciation to all who worked beyond this summer including the custodians, the maintainers, and the technological teams to bring the schools where they are today.

PERSONNEL REPORT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 4-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report dated September 11, 2025 (on file at District Office). Mrs. Corless abstained.

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

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Malloy, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Staff Development Report dated September 11, 2025 (on file at District Office.)

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

There was no independent Business Department Report this month.

**CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt was excited to share that during the July Board of Regents meeting, the Board officially adopted the updated NYS *Portrait of a Graduate*. The portrait she indicated outlines six essential attributes to ensure that students are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to thrive in school, work, and life.

**CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION REPORT
(continued)**

Academically Prepared
Critical Thinker
Global Citizen

Creative Innovator
Effective Communicator
Reflective and Future Focused

Mrs. Pollitt proudly indicated these attributes are already a part of our mission and the work we do here in North Bellmore on daily basis by developing these qualities in our students. In furtherance, Mrs. Pollitt shared Dr. Mary Hemphill, guest lector, returned in August as part of Superintendent's Conference Day to launch the Portrait of a Graduate through discussions and workshops focusing on the skills and mindset needed to thrive in the future relating to those attributes by grade level and special area.

Moving on, Mrs. Pollitt and Ms. McNamara together with Ms. Scammell are working on new programs for the ILP classes, i.e. Neuro Net and Teach Town, and spoke about continued professional development and coaching in these areas in addition to PD for new and continuing co-teaching pairs. In closing Mrs. Pollitt was excited to share that the district has 204 students partaking in the Universal Pre-K program and extended her gratitude to the local Pre-Schools in the area for their continued partnership.

Mrs. Corless happily spoke about attending Superintendent's Conference Day and commented proudly that in the lecture it was shared that North Bellmore's mission statement, in existence long before the *Portrait of a Graduate* was developed, contains many of the same characteristics. She extended her gratitude on behalf of the BOE to all for their hard work this summer to ensure a good and successful start for the children.

CPSE/CSE REPORTS

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Malloy, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the CPSE and CSE reports dated September 3, 2025 (on file at District Office).

**CONSENT AGENDA
(Item Nos. 14.1 to 14.12)**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approves Item Nos. 14.1 through 14.12.

NEW BUSINESS CONTRACTS

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

- Always Compassionate Home Care, Inc. (Related Services)
- Always Compassionate Home Care, Inc. (Skilled Nursing)
- Amergis Healthcare Staffing, Inc. (Skilled Nursing)
- Amergis Healthcare Staffing, Inc. (Related Services)
- Capital Markets Advisors, LLC
- Emerald Investigation
- Mind Prep Tutoring, LLC (Skilled Nursing)

**2025/26 NYSSBA
AGREEMENT**

14.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an Agreement by and between the New York State Boards Association and the North Bellmore Union Free School District to provide State Aid Review services for the 2025/26 school year (on file at District Office).

**2025/26 SUNY OLD
WESTBURY AGREEMENT**

14.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an Agreement by and between North Bellmore Union Free School District and SUNY Old Westbury for the 2025-26 school year (on file at District Office).

DONATIONS

14.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Martin Avenue School PTA of fence cups "Lions Pride" for use at Martin Avenue School. (Approximate dollar value: \$275)

14.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Abigail Ptacek of 75 backpacks filled with school supplies for students in need of supplies and three bins of school supplies for new teachers. (Approximate dollar value: \$4,000).

14.6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accept a donation from Kathleen Avanzato of assorted school supplies for North Bellmore students who are in need of supplies. (Approximate dollar value: \$300)

**CARDIAC EMERGENCY
RESPONSE PLAN**

14.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve District's Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (on file at District's Office).

**JOINT MUNICIPAL
COOPERATIVE BIDDING
PROGRAM**

14.8 JOINT MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVE BIDDING PROGRAM: Security Services
WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and

WHEREAS, the North Bellmore UFSD, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the "Participant") is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the "Program") in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES' standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, evaluating bids, awarding via Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board approval, and reporting the results to the Participant.

**JOINT MUNICIPAL
COOPERATIVE BIDDING
PROGRAM
(continued)**

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges that “additional insured” status shall be secured by signing a risk transfer/Indemnification Agreement when engaging services through the Cooperative Bidding Program with each awarded vendor when Services are requested. Said agreement must be signed by both parties and will remain in effect for the current term of the Bid. In the event the Bid is extended, and a Participant requires Service, a new risk transfer/Indemnification Agreement must be executed.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

This Resolution solely applies to the Cross Contract for bid: Security Services.

**DISPOSAL OF EXCESS
PROPERTY**

14.9 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of 32 cafeteria tables (64 pieces) that are broken, surplus and/or obsolete.

**2025-26 NYSED NON-
RESIDENT TUITION RATE**

14.10 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Bellmore Union Free School District hereby approves the NYSED non-resident tuition rate for the 2025-2026 school year.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM:
COOPER POWER AND
LIGHTING CORP.**

14.11 WHEREAS, the North Bellmore Union Free School District (the “School District”) requested sealed bids for the project entitled 2024/2025 Capital Improvement Program at Park Avenue Elementary School and John G. Dinkelmeyer Elementary School, (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the District received and opened bid proposals for the provision of labor and materials for Contract No. 1 Electrical Reconstruction; and

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM:
COOPER POWER AND
LIGHTING CORP.
(continued)**

WHEREAS, the School District's Architect reviewed and evaluated said bid proposals; and

WHEREAS, based upon said review and evaluation of the submitted bid proposals by the Architect, the District Administration recommends that the Board of Education award Contract No. 1 Electrical Reconstruction to Cooper Power and Lighting Corp. as the lowest responsible bidder; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the District Administration, the Board of Education awards Contract No. 1 Electrical Reconstruction in the amount of \$656,000.00 for Contract No. 1 Electrical Reconstruction to Cooper Power and Lighting Corp. (on file at District Office.)

**LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT:
INGERMAN SMITH LLP**

14.12 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Letter of Engagement for legal services with Ingerman Smith LLP for the 2025-2026 fiscal year (on file at District Office).

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

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.

Mrs. Malloy commented on the beautiful new parking lots and wished to address parking procedures especially for those schools that are close to public streets and businesses. Mrs. Testa in response spoke about difficulties over the years at Newbridge Road School with respect to the adjacent lot shared with North Bellmore Public Library in addition to the lot by the hockey rink. While these lots she indicated were tagged for district and library usage, other local organizations were utilizing them causing issues for staff parking. Mrs. Testa spoke of the efforts put forth by Mr. Russo, Ms. Licci, and herself closely monitoring the situation, and through diligent oversight and working together with the Police Department, were able to identify and subsequently notify the local organizations in the surrounding area both in writing and/or verbally thus improving the conditions. Mrs. Testa spoke to monitoring the Saw Mill parking lots in a similar fashion located both on Jerusalem Avenue and Roger Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(continued)

Secondly, Mrs. Malloy raised concerns regarding the amount of traffic and speed on Jerusalem Avenue causing hazardous conditions for walkers going to Saw Mill Road School. She indicated there is only one crossing guard on that road at the intersection of Pea Pond and Jerusalem Avenue. She requested a new survey be conducted to see if another crossing guard is warranted. Mrs. Testa indicated a survey was done a couple of years ago and a crossing guard was removed from that area. She explained the district did write a letter at that time to the Nassau County Police Department asking for a traffic survey and were denied the request for a crossing guard. In furtherance, Mrs. Testa indicated she will write another letter requesting that a new survey be conducted and will keep the BOE apprised of the status.

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 8:31 p.m. The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk