



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

---

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

---

The Business meeting of the North Bellmore Union Free School District Board of Education was held on Tuesday evening, December 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 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**

Mrs. Lanci read the District's Mission Statement.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**  
***Newbridge Road  
Sixth Grade Board  
Representatives***

Mrs. Licci, Principal of Newbridge Road School, extended gratitude to Mrs. Testa and the BOE for inviting evening. In preparation, she shared the students brainstormed together and wished to present for the BOE what makes Newbridge Road School unique. Mrs. Licci turned the floor over to the sixth grade Board representatives.

- Vincent Bloise
- Marion Chelsea DeJesus
- Joshua Flores
- Emily Serio
- Jack Toledo

***Newbridge Road  
Sixth Grade Board  
Representatives  
(continued)***

The sixth-grade representatives prepared a slideshow and presentation to share and illustrate why Newbridge Road is special in their eyes. Starting with the HEART of Newbridge (honesty, empathy, acceptance, respect, and teamwork), they demonstrated through photos and words a positive environment modeled through the kindness of the Principal, Mrs. Licci, the faculty, and staff, various clubs and assemblies, i.e. Spirit Club, Smile, Café Group, to name a few, and intramurals, to facilitate learning and socialization through play, fun group activities, and field trips. Focusing on promoting leadership, they spoke of the upcoming opportunity for students to be morning and birthday greeters to further foster a positive atmosphere. In closing, the students reflected upon North Bellmore and Newbridge's grandeur history, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, and the overall community consisting of the dedicated faculty, staff, parents and students who make up the heart and soul of Newbridge.

Mrs. Testa happily extended gratitude to the students for incorporating the history of Newbridge Road School, speaking to its glorious design commemorative of 1924, and reflecting on the history of the town, historically known as Smithville to Little Neck to North Bellmore. Mrs. Testa shared the importance of the student voice, and extended gratitude to the principals and teachers districtwide for promoting student leaders. Leadership certificates were presented.

Mrs. Corless on behalf of the BOE, congratulated the students on a wonderful job, and while she expressed knowledge of Newbridge's HEART, was excited to learn of the various activities and events, and the new addition of student greeters in the future.

**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 November 13, 2025. Mrs. Corless abstained as she was not present that evening.

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 17, 2025.

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

**BOARD COMMITTEE / HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS**

The BMCHS met last week on Wednesday evening, December 3. Mrs. Lanci shared the BOE proudly honored Makayla Bowman, a senior at Kennedy High School, selected as a 2026 Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalist, and Brad Seidman, a teacher also from Kennedy High School, was celebrated as one of the recipients of the 2025 Long Island High School Hero Award. In addition to items in the regular course of business, Mrs. Lanci happily reminded all to check the schedule of upcoming holiday events and concerts at the Middle and High School levels this month. The next BOE meeting will be held on January 7.

**FINANCE**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Testa was excited to share the holiday concerts have begun in North Bellmore, congratulated the faculty staff and students on the magical feelings illustrated through the musical programs produced, and extended gratitude to the BOE for listening and supporting ideas and events such as these in the community. Speaking of the holiday spirit, Mrs. Testa reminded all of the upcoming annual Polar Express fundraiser and extended her thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Lanci who runs and oversees this event each year in the North Bellmore community and other Long Island districts in support of families and students in need. Mrs. Testa verbalized her pride as a leader of a district in a community built on kindness, empathy, and collaboration of spirit.

Moving forward, on a sad note, Mrs. Testa shared that the Bellmore-Merrick Child Care Program, who have serviced the North Bellmore community since the 1970's, will effective the end of the 2025/26 school year, terminate their program in the North Bellmore School District community. Mrs. Testa spoke to her surprise, disappointment, and sadness upon hearing the news shared by Mrs. Smith, the Director of the program. Knowing the importance of the program to the community, she indicated Mrs. Pollitt and herself will be investigating options for families and students. Mrs. Testa informed the BOE that a letter will be sent out to the North Bellmore community sharing this news tomorrow and will keep them apprised of their efforts moving forward.

In closing, Mrs. Testa advised the BOE of her meeting in Albany as part of the New York State Commissioner's Advisory Council. She informed them she spoke on behalf of the school district and New York State on current educational topics with the Commissioner of Education and the Director of NYS Council School Superintendents and advised she will speak more to the advocacy efforts addressed once more information is available.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

**PERSONNEL REPORT  
(continued)**

- 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 December 9, 2025 (on file at District Office).

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT  
REPORT**

There was no independent Business Department Report this evening.

**CURRICULUM AND  
INSTRUCTION REPORT**

Mrs. Pollitt shared highlights districtwide:

- The Bellmore Merrick component districts, consisting of all five districts, met on a zoom last week with their respective Technology staff to discuss, compare, and strategize what is done at the elementary and high school levels, and the relationship between them, i.e. STEAM, robotics, coding, etc.
- In partnership with the PTA, all five buildings contracted to participate in *Limitless Learning*, a cultural arts assembly, focusing on the power of words utilized towards an individual, and the effects words can have on a long term basis.

Mrs. Pollitt shared NYS has lifted the embargo on the NYS assessments and indicated the report cards by district will be forthcoming in Newsday. She distributed a Proficiency Percentage comparing the 2023/24 and 2024/25 school years for North Bellmore to illustrate the growth. Mrs. Pollitt discussed the importance of the data and how principals and teaching staff meet and analyze it by building, grade and cohort levels. Mrs. Pollitt proudly shared the district is on track and the data will be utilized to assess areas where improvement may be needed.

In closing, Mrs. Testa proudly shared her gratitude and recognition to the North Bellmore teachers as leaders in the classroom, inspiring academic growth, and competent and passionate learners. Mrs. Corless on behalf of the BOE reiterated Mrs. Testa's sentiments and thanked Mrs. Pollitt for the data.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded Mrs. Lanci, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the CPSE and the CSE reports dated December 4, 2025 (on file at District Office).

**CONSENT AGENDA  
(Nos. 15.1 through 15.4)**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approves Item Nos. 15.1 through 15.4.

**2025/26 CONTRACTS**

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

- ACDS (SEDCAR)
- Adelphi University

**2025/26 CONTRACTS  
(continued)**

- BusRight
- Lawrence Public Schools
- Metro Therapy, Inc. (SEDCAR)
- Caryl Oris, MD
- Strong Kids, Inc.

**DONATION**

15.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Donohue of four \$50 Stop and Shop gift cards to be used to help families in Need at Saw Mill Road School.

**TRANSPORTATION**

15.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a contract with We Transport awarded to the lowest bidder from the BMCHSD Transportation Consortium Bid of 06/04/25 for the 2025/2026 for the transportation of a displaced student residing in Suffolk County.

**2026/27 BUDGET  
CALENDAR**

15.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2026-27 Budget Calendar as presented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves that the North Bellmore Union Free School District Annual Budget Vote for the 2026-2027 School Year shall be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education acknowledges the following required dates associated with the budget process:

- BOCES Budget Vote and Trustee Election shall be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.
- The Annual Public Hearing on the School Budget shall be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026

**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.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

The BOE did not adjourn into Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels  
District Clerk