



**NORTH BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – MAY 6, 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 Tuesday evening, May 6, 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
Steven 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. Corless to move into an executive session. Motion was carried 5-0. The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Mrs. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
MISSION STATEMENT	Kylie Allen, one of Martin Avenue’s sixth grade BOE representatives present this evening, read the District’s Mission Statement.
SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Martin Avenue 6th Grade BOE Representatives	Mrs. Lanci welcomed Martin Avenue’s sixth grade BOE representatives, faculty, families, and friends present this evening, and called upon Dr. Yannucci, Martin Avenue’s Principal, for the introduction. Dr. Yannucci graciously thanked the BOE, Mrs. Testa, and the central administrative team for the invitation this evening, an illustration of their continued support for student voices to be seen, valued, and heard. He described Martin Avenue as a <i>small, but mighty school community</i> , and proudly introduced the BOE representatives to share their insights.

Kyle Allen
Brielle Boone

Charlotte Brigandi
Erik Gschweng

The student representatives described Martin Avenue as a small school but one large in spirit, a true community/home of faculty, staff, and students supporting each other through kindness and respect. To illustrate their spirit the students shared participation in planned events (i.e. Community Cupboard, Crayon Collection, PS I Love You Day, and Red Ribbon Week), or just simple gestures like a smile and/or happy greeting to describe the value of good choices and the importance of love, respect, and support creating a positive impact upon their school and community.

In closing, the students happily thanked all present for listening and allowing them to share their experiences describing Martin as more than just a school, but rather a second home where they can be themselves...*GO LIONS!* Dr. Yannucci applauded the students this evening on their presentation illustrating a true testament of Martin Avenue's wisdom, joy, and heart.

Mrs. Testa praised Dr. Yannucci, faculty, staff, and families on their extraordinary work as shown through the students this evening, a true illustration of Martin's spirit and united community. The students were presented with Leadership Certificates.

**MOTION TO CONVENE TO
PUBLIC HEARING:
2025/26 SCHOOL BUDGET**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Corless, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education convened into a Public Hearing of the 2025-2026 School Budget.

Mr. Cunningham presented a detailed power point slide presentation of the budget and provided an explanatory narration. He encouraged all eligible voters to vote on Tuesday, May 20. The presentation is available for your review on the website under the Business Department. In summary:

PROPOSITION 1:

- The proposed budget-to-budget increase is 2.52 percent with a proposed tax levy increase of 2.55 percent which is within the tax levy limit.
- The three main components of the budget are Administrative, Capital, and Programs, and a budgetary breakdown was discussed and is included in the presentation.

Administrative	10.59%
Capital	13.23%
Programs	76.18%

- The budget supports curriculum and instruction goals, special area programs, computer science, professional development, enhancement of network and security, maintaining buildings and grounds, support social and emotional well-being of students, etc., with focus on continued long-term planning in mind.
- Factors that are driving the budget include cost of insurance (property and casualty insurance), transportation due to contractual increases and the addition of one bus route, and special education needs and services, factors not specific just to North Bellmore.

- Budgetary capital improvements include enhancing the district's facilities, i.e. electrical upgrades to accommodate expanded air conditioning, replacements of stage curtains and select flooring, foundation/masonry work at Newbridge Road School, and playground repairs as necessary.

PROPOSITION 2:

- Authorization to expend *existing* Capital Reserve funds up to \$3,348,000 for restroom reconstruction in all schools and it was stressed this does not increase the tax levy. If approved, this project is proposed to begin in the summer of 2026.

In the event the budget fails twice, Mr. Cunningham shared a contingency plan that the BOE would implement which would result in staff reductions, increase class size, reduction in enrichment limit, equipment purchases, fewer administrative services, and defer capital improvements impacting maintenance and repair work.

In closing, Mr. Cunningham provided updates to Capital Projects. The ceiling/lighting and pavement work at Saw Mill and Park Avenue began over the last break, and it is scheduled to be completed over this summer. Newbridge and Gunther projects were delayed at the state level due to a software update causing a backlog in approvals. Approval is expected shortly, but due to the delay, Newbridge ceiling, lighting, and paving is now planned for the summer of 2026 along with Gunther which was previously scheduled for that timeframe.

Mr. Cunningham reiterated the importance of voting, and again invited all eligible voters to the polls on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at Newbridge Road School, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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 April 10, 2025.

ON THE MOTION regarding the Special Meeting minutes of April 15, 2025, and April 23, 2025, Mrs. Lanci, Mrs. Corless, and Mrs. Malloy voted in favor, and Mrs. Cmar-Grote and Mr. Nardo requested to abstain as they were not present for those meetings. Motion carried three votes in favor and two abstentions.

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 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 ended March 31, 2025 (on file at District Office).

**BOARD COMMITTEE /
HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS**

There was no report this evening as the next meeting for BMCHSD is scheduled for tomorrow night, Wednesday, May 7.

FINANCE

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

In celebration of Teacher and Nurse Appreciation weeks, Mrs. Testa recognized the North Bellmore teachers and nurses. Mrs. Testa expressed they are not just celebrated for a week but appreciated EVERY SINGLE DAY for their dedication to the academics, heart, health, and wellbeing of the students of the North Bellmore community proudly reminding them there are *"no better teachers and no better nurses anywhere"*.

Mrs. Testa addressed briefly highlights district wide:

- The Capital Project work began over the April break at Saw Mill and Park replacing portions of the second-floor ceiling and lighting replacement in both buildings.
- Mr. Fischetti is currently working on the North Bellmore website creating a new look soon to come.

Looking into the audience, Mrs. Testa was excited to welcome and introduce Mrs. Amy Joyce, the newly appointed Assistant Superintendent for Business, present this evening. Mrs. Testa extended gratitude to all who participated in the long rigorous interview process, and announced Mrs. Joyce is scheduled to join the North Bellmore team on July 1. She spoke about the transition process to take place between Mr. Cunningham and Mrs. Joyce and extended sincere appreciation to Mr. Cunningham for the amazing job he has performed, spoke of his dedication and attentiveness shown to the needs of North Bellmore, and expressed gratitude in having had the pleasure of working with him over the past few months.

In closing, in recognition of Principal's Appreciation Day earlier this month, Mrs. Testa also took a moment to celebrate the principals, the *"guiders"* of the ships as she portrayed them. She described the complexity of their position compromised of a multitude of jobs, leaders with kind and empathetic ears while maintaining their convictions, a steadfast protector of students, all of them a proud example of North Bellmore's mission and core values.

PERSONNEL REPORT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report dated May 6, 2025 (on file at District Office).

**PERSONNEL REPORT
(continued)**

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

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Corless, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Staff Development Report dated May 6, 2025, (on file at District Office).

**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**

Mr. Cunningham reiterated Mrs. Testa's sentiments and welcomed Mrs. Amy Joyce, expressed excitement on behalf of the Business Department to have her join their team, and spoke highly of the North Bellmore school district and community for which she will soon come to know.

Mr. Cunningham addressed the partial ceiling replacement work that was performed at Saw Mill and Park during the April break. He explained it was unbeknownst to the District, the Architect, and/or the vendor that the lights would be unable to operate on a timer until the whole system was in place. All Parties are currently in conversation with the manufacturer to see if there is a temporary solution to the issue until the system is completely installed over the summer.

In closing, Mr. Cunningham thanked the BOE for welcoming him here for the past six months and shared his delight in having had the pleasure of working with them. He emphasized how impressed he was to work with a board operating with the mindset as both a *parent* and a *financial steward*, and the complexity of that when looking not only at the impact today but toward the future needs of the district, students, and the community.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
CSE REPORTS**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the CSE report dated May 1, 2025 (on file at District Office).

**CONSENT AGENDA
(Item Nos. 15.1 to 15.9)**

ON A MOTION made by Mrs. Cmar-Grote, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved Item Nos. 15.1 through 15.9.

**NEW BUSINESS:
SECOND READING AND
ADOPTION:**

Policy Nos. 0111
8113

15.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policies for a second reading and adoption:

- Policy 0111: Sexual Harassment Grievances Under Title IX
- Policy 8113: Extreme Heat Condition Days

**BOE REORANIZATION/
REGULAR MEETING DATE**

15.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education set the date for the Board of Education reorganization and regular meeting for Wednesday, July 2, 2025.

DONATIONS

15.3 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Saw Mill Road School PTA of 12 Saw Mill Road umbrellas to be used for the arrival and dismissal crew at Saw Mill Road School. (Approximate value: \$300.00)

DONATIONS
(continued)

15.4 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of education accept a donation from the Saw Mill Road School PTA of a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to help offset the cost of the sixth grade Caumsett trip.

15.5 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Newbridge Road School PTA of a check in the amount of \$1,974.00 to be used to cover the cost for 47 Newbridge Road sixth grade students to attend the canoe trip (\$42.00 per person).

15.6 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Cernuto family of a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be used for sixth grade student awards for students who exemplify strength in the arts.

EMPLOYMENT
AGREEMENTS

15.7 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an Employment Agreement between the North Bellmore UFSD Board of Education and Kristina Spithogiannis (RTI Coordinator) for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years (on file at District Office).

15.8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an Employment Agreement between the North Bellmore UFSD Board of Education and Amy Joyce for the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 school years (on file at District Office).

APPOINTMENTS

15.9 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following appointments for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year:

ROSE SCAMMELL: Title IX Investigator
District Health and Wellness Coordinator
Homeless Liaison
Dignity Act Coordinator
District-Wide Safety Team member
CSE Chairperson
CPSE Chairperson
504 Committee Chairperson

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTSGuidelines to 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 Mr. Nardo, seconded by Mrs. Malloy, and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m. The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurice Gunnels
District Clerk