

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Town Meeting
October 22, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Webb at 7:30 pm in the High School Alumni Room. Present were Trustees Beyer, Genovesi, Kolkhorst, Pombar and Sharkey. Trustee Berliner was absent. Also present was Dr. Melnick, Ms. Buatsi and Mr. Chlebicki.

Executive Session

At 7:30 pm, on motion of President Webb seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the high school faculty room for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and convened a town meeting in the alumni room. There were approximately 10 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Webb led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the minutes of October 8, 2009 were approved as amended.

Tenure Appointment - Administration

Dr. Melnick commended Dr. Smyth for her many accomplishments and gave his recommendation that she be granted tenure.

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, it was:

Resolved: To grant tenure to Carol Smyth, Director of Science, effective October 23, 2009

Town Meeting

President Webb opened the floor to residents who wished to make a comment or ask a question of the Board. As there were no public comments the Board moved on to the regular business portion of the meeting.

Allergy Policy

Dr. Melnick explained that State Education requires school districts to have an Allergy Policy in place. The policy sub committee reviewed the draft of a policy and regulations written by the wellness committee and recommended some revisions; the board reviewed these documents. Trustee Beyer inquired whether there needed to be a policy for medical conditions such as diabetes and seizure disorder. Dr. Melnick responded these are covered under a 504 plan which is reviewed with parents by Nurse Coordinator Janice Nunziata. The Board discussed ways of educating parents of non-allergic children; currently letters are sent home to parents of classmates of a student with food allergies. However, parents have reported these letters are somewhat confusing and need to be more specific to help them make good choices

when sending in snacks. Dr. Melnick explained under the FERPA law we must be careful to protect confidentiality of students. The policy sub committee will meet again prior to the meeting of November 5th to implement all suggestions and present a finalized draft for Board approval.

Although the town meeting portion of the meeting was over, President Webb allowed questions and comments from the public in regard to the allergy policy.

Karen Greene, Glenwood Landing has a child with allergies. She expressed that the issue becomes adversarial with parents who do not have children with allergies and feels information which comes from the schools needs to be more specific. She also suggested that the school nurse address parents at back-to-school night.

Leti Barbetti, Glenwood Landing also has a child with food allergies. She said parents whose child does not have an allergy become anxious about what is and is not allowed in the classroom. She suggested sending specific directions to parents to make them more comfortable about the situation.

Gail Martin, Glenwood Landing also has a child with allergies. She also felt the current letter that is sent home is confusing. She usually contacts parents of classmates to explain the issue. She also expressed that as a teacher herself she knows how difficult it is to monitor all of the snacks children bring in.

Amy Mandel, Glenwood Landing has a child with allergies and commented on the regulation portion of the policy which deals with Student's Responsibility. She feels it is important that we teach these children to be their own advocate.

Hand Washing/Installation of Sinks

Due to the recent outbreaks of H1N1 and MRSA, and the recommendation of frequent hand washing, John Hall did a survey of the buildings to determine the availability of sinks throughout the district. He found there are 22 elementary classrooms that do not currently have sinks. Children in classrooms without sinks are brought to the closest bathroom to wash their hands. The construction steering committee investigated what would be involved to install sinks in all classrooms. It was determined to be a considerable cost and disruption to the buildings. One sink alone could cost between \$10,000-\$12,000 due to excavation, cesspool and piping needed. The Board had a brief discussion about the possibilities of placing sinks where plumbing already exists. They discussed the benefit of installing the additional sinks, the cost and the system for hand washing now in place. In response to a parent's question about a policy on hand washing, Dr. Melnick explained there is a policy and he would send it out to all faculty, staff and parents. Mr. Hall reported he is in the process of replacing paper towel and soap dispensers in all buildings. The Board thanked Mr. Hall for investigating this fully and there was consensus not to move forward with the installation of additional sinks.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items C-N.

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, it was:

Personnel

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Kimberly Cunneen, Elementary, effective February 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Kelly Gorman, Elementary, effective February 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Sandra Maciel, Speech, effective February 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Jennifer Perrotta, Speech, effective November 20, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Increments for Advanced Study - Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Krista Hoffman, Biology, from Step 2 of the BA salary schedule to Step 2 of the BA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Amy (Usis) Mueller, Elementary, from Step 15 of the MA+45 salary schedule to Step 15 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Elanit Rabbani, Special Education, from Step 6 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 6 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Neelima Reddy, English, from Step 9 of the MA salary schedule to Step 9 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Lauren Benzoni, Speech, on Step 4 of the MA salary schedule effective February 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Caitlin Cocks Cregan, Speech, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule effective October 20, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Denise Goldberg, Elementary, on Step 4 of the MA salary schedule effective February 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Ruth Haukeland, Latin, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule effective October 24, 2009 through November 24, 2009

Part-time Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve the part-time (.4) appointment of Rachel Resnick, Music, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule effective October 26, 2009

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List:

Resolved: To approve the additions of the following names to the per diem substitute list:

Julia Blad	Elementary
Ryan Gibson	Student Worker
Stephanie Fenimore	Secondary
Pamela Halpin	Secondary
Charles Scholl	Secondary

Jordan Raechel Silver Secondary

Extra Curricular Activity Supervisor

Resolved: To add Thomas Gordon to the list of supervisors for the 2009-2010 school year

Allocation of 2008-2009 Undesignated Fund Balance

a) Resolved: To approve the allocation of \$40,000 from the 2008-2009 undesignated fund balance for the purpose of covering the cost of evaluating the Fine & Performing Arts Department

b) Resolved: To approve the allocation of \$775,164.82 from the 2008-2009 undesignated fund balance to the Capital Reserve Fund

Approval of Agreement with Night Sky Educational Services

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Night Sky Educational Services for performances at each of the elementary schools at a cost of \$560 per school for a total of \$1,680

Approval of Agreement with Erik's Reptile Edventures

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Erik's Reptile Edventures for a Nature & Science Assembly at each of the elementary schools at a cost of \$325 per school for a total of \$975

Award of Bids for Music Supplies

Resolved: To award bids for miscellaneous music supplies to the following low bidders:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount Awarded (Not to Exceed)</u>
Advantage Music	\$8,000
Wright Music	\$6,000
West Music	\$6,000
Catalano Music	\$2,000

Approval of Agreement with Knight Guard Security

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Knight Guard Security for district wide Burglar Alarm Service and Repairs in the amount of \$4,284 plus the cost of emergency calls, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014

Award of Carpentry Supplies Bid

Resolved: To award Carpentry Supplies bids to the low bidders, Sorenson Lumber and Pioneer Building Materials for a total amount of \$25,000

Award of Turf Maintenance Bid

Resolved: To award the Turf Maintenance Bid to the low bidder, Tri Turf in the amount of \$65,000

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

Resolved: To declare as obsolete and approve of the disposal of the inventory items on the attached list:

Approval of Change Order

Resolved: To approve change order GC #2 from Baruti Construction Corp. for Ceiling & Lighting Replacement at the Glen Head Elementary School in the amount of \$149 (deduction)

Approval of Agreements with Special Education Service Providers

- (a) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010
- (b) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Positive Behavior Support Consulting & Psychological Resources, P.C., effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010
- (c) Resolved: To approve an agreement with RCM Health Care, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010
- (d) Resolved: to approve an agreement with TEAM Therapy Placement Services, Inc. effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Claim for Reimbursement

Resolved: To approve a claim for reimbursement from Melanie Lisberg for charges incurred at the UPS Store without prior approval in the amount of \$108

Old Business

Dr. Melnick explained a letter was sent to Commissioner Steiner, Chancellor Tisch and Regent Tilles inviting them to visit our schools. Regent Tilles' office responded that he would be available for a district visit on November 4th and would be forwarding an itinerary. Dr. Melnick will inform the Board once the visit was confirmed. He also explained that we have not heard back from the Commissioner or Chancellor but would follow up to be sure they received the letter.

Trustee Webb reported on a conversation he had with John Gross, district counsel, in regard to the open meetings law and how it pertains to Board committee meetings. According to counsel it does apply to Board committees; these meetings will need to be posted and minutes must be taken. Dr. Melnick will request that Mr. Gross or a representative be present at the meeting of November 5th to discuss whether this applies to committees consisting solely of board members or to committees which include outside members as well.

Trustee Webb asked the Board to give their opinion on the recent Webinar that took place at a PTA/PTSA joint meeting. Those members who participated in the Webinar felt it was valuable but may not be beneficial for the purpose of offering the community a way of participating in Board meetings. Dr. Melnick explained he will be bringing three options for broadcasting Board meetings to the next meeting scheduled for November 5.

Although it was not a public comments portion of the meeting, Trustee Webb allowed resident, Tobi Kuperfman, to make a comment on the value of the Webinar and the different possibilities it offered.

New Business

Dr. Melnick reported he had a meeting with a representative from St. John's University and a representative from Dream House, a bi-lingual school from Vietnam. They are interested in doing a PILOT program with our district for a student and teacher exchange to learn about their curriculum and to give them the opportunity to learn about ours. Students who participate in this program would earn 3 credits from St. John's University at no cost. He requested permission from the Board to move ahead with this venture. There was consensus on the Board to move forward.

Trustee Kolkhorst requested that retiring staff members be honored at a Board meeting in the spring.

Trustee Webb reported that he attended a meeting of the local business associations and said there is much misinformation about the district in the community. He said there was

agreement for them to work together to lobby legislators on Tier V and to co-sponsor a future meeting.

Trustees congratulated Shelly Newman for her 2009 Communication Merit Award from New York School Public Relations Association for North Shore's Community Newsletter.

Adjournment

At 9:20 pm on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk