

Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
November 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Webb at 7:00 pm in the High School Library. Present were Trustees Berliner, Beyer, Genovesi, Kolkhorst, Pombar and Sharkey. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Ms. Buatsi and Mr. Chlebicki.

**Executive Session**

At 7:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Berliner seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst 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 matters leading to the appointment, dismissal or removal of a particular person.

**Audit Committee**

At 7:15 pm on motion of Trustee Beyer seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and convened a meeting of the Audit Committee in the high school library.

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Genovesi seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board adjourned the meeting of the Audit Committee and resumed the regular meeting in the library. There were approximately 20 people in the audience.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Webb led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, the minutes of November 5, 2009 were approved.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

On motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Beyer, with Trustees Berliner, Beyer, Genovesi, Kolkhorst, Pombar and Webb in favor, and Trustee Sharkey abstaining, the treasurer's report of June 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009 was approved.

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Melnick reported on the first organizational meeting of the North Shore Coalition to address underage drinking and substance abuse. There were 35 people present, including local clergy, board of education members, faculty and administrators, local officials, representatives from local civics and organizations, the police department as well as a number of agencies. A steering committee is forming to plan the next meeting and guide our efforts in this area. The first quarter has ended and report cards are scheduled to be mailed out tomorrow. The first meeting of the Nassau Superintendent's BOCES Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday morning. Tom Rogers, whose official start date will be in January, was in attendance. Issues discussed were initiating a BOCES supported program of professional review panels to assist districts in the observation of second year teachers based upon a series of criteria; and continuation of the work undertaken by the County group in order to find additional ways to save on duplication of costly services. The next meeting is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>. The tutoring survey has been sent out and responses are beginning to come in. A survey will be sent to all 9th grade students to assess their feelings about their preparedness for 9th grade.

### **Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public**

Charles Sharkey, SGO Representative, reported on events and activities at the high school, including The Viking Masquers production of The Laramie Project which will be presented this weekend, and the Athletic Booster Club will sponsor a 5K run on Thanksgiving; a \$15 donation will go to support the high school athletic teams.

Jerry Romano, Sea Cliff asked if the budget process had begun and what the philosophy would be in regard to salaries. He asked if there was a circuit breaker in the North Shore contracts and said in his opinion the district is management heavy and questioned the significant raises given to administration. He asked that the Board keep in mind community members who are working for less or have lost their jobs.

Trustee Webb responded that the budget process will begin in January, and said the Board will look at all areas and try to come up with a budget that is best for the children and is also fiscally responsible. He also explained that all of the salaries in the district are in the mid range across the County.

Christine Shatz, Sea Cliff, agreed it is a difficult economic time and although she is happy with the district and the teachers she thinks it might be time for talking about increasing classroom size and asking for pay freezes.

Trustee Pombar responded that as the Board goes through the budget process they keep in mind what is best for the community as well as the children. He went on to say that the district had just received their audit report and was commended for their accounting practices and fiscal responsibility.

Dr. Melnick invited community members to meet with him to go through each line of the budget and share with him their priorities. He went on to clarify some of the statements made in reference to salaries by explaining that no administrator received a significant raise and the central office administration took a half year pay freeze this year. He also explained that the four year contract with teachers was negotiated prior to the economic down turn. Teachers went from being in the 95 percentile in county salaries to the 70 percentile and agreed to increase their portion of health insurance from 10% to 20%. He then explained that if the budget is not passed this year, contingency will mean a zero percent increase resulting in the excessing of 30-40 teachers. He also asked that community members contact him directly with any questions they may have.

Mr. Romano asked why a zero percent increase in the budget would result in eliminating teachers. He suggested administrators should be eliminated first and stated that when he was in school there was very little administration and students did fine.

Trustee Webb responded that a few years ago when hiring an Assistant Principal a study was done and it was found that our management staff is well below many districts in the County. He went on to say this Board makes decisions about what is current and not what was done 30 or 40 years ago. He said nothing is off the table and the Board is not against making cuts, they are committed to providing the best education for our students as well as being prepared for what may be coming down the line.

Trustee Beyer explained that much of our budget is state mandated and this Board along with other local districts are trying to get relief from the state by addressing issues as a group rather than individually.

Trustee Genovesi explained that although circuit breakers are not part of the contract, we are the only district that had a clause in our contracts to reopen negotiations if Tax Caps were initiated. She went on to explain that the Board continually requests relief from the State.

Paul Eschause, Glen Head, asked about a discussion at the last board meeting in regard to the Open Meetings Law and asked if the Board was found to be in violation of that law with regard to taking action on recommendations from subcommittees.

Trustee Webb responded subcommittees are working committees of the Board, they do not make policy or take action and there was no violation. Those committees that do fall under

the Open Meetings Law have complied with the regulations as described by the attorney who was present at the meeting. Trustee Webb added that the Board does not have secret meetings; all decisions are made in public.

Dr. Melnick went on to say he had GONE through the record with the district's counsel and there has been no violation.

Mr. Eschause asked specifically about the meetings that were held with the Town of Oyster Bay in regard to the artificial turf field and whether that violated the open meetings law.

Trustee Beyer clarified that the meeting Mr. Eschause referred to was a meeting of the Construction Steering Committee and consists of architects, engineers, staff, and representatives of outside agencies. It does not consist solely of trustees nor is the majority of members trustees, therefore it does not come under the Open Meetings Law. However, there are minutes taken of these meetings and the minutes are on file in central office for review.

Trustee Beyer also noted that it was the Board who requested counsel look at their subcommittees to make sure they were complying with the law. The reason for subcommittees is for the Board to operate more efficiently; nothing goes on behind closed doors.

Mr. Eschause suggested when outside groups are invited to a meeting with Board representatives, all sides should be invited together.

### **Regular Business**

#### **Acceptance of Independent Audit Report**

Prior to accepting the Independent Audit Report, it was noted that our auditor expressed what an excellent report it was with no material weaknesses or deficiencies and the district has received the best opinion possible. The Board publicly acknowledged the Business Office for their cooperation and professionalism during the audit. It was also noted that the District has done everything it can to prepare the community and schools for the future in the current financial climate.

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

Resolved: To accept the independent audit report from RS Abrams for fiscal year ended June 30, 2009

#### **Grant Writing - Paulette Long**

Paulette and John Long of Not-For-Profit Grant Writing were present at the meeting to discuss their plan for investigating and soliciting grants for the district. There was a brief discussion and the Board shared their suggestions for areas to look for possible grant opportunities. The Longs will review material about the district, suggestions made at the meeting, meet with the Viking Foundation and report back to the Board with their plan.

#### **Update: Implementation & Ongoing Review of the Life Skills Program at Middle School**

Special Education Director, Tom Korb, along with Assistant Director Eric Fazioli, and special education teacher Toni Ann Christie updated the Board on the implementation of the Life Skills Program at the Middle School. The plan which is broken down into three phases, follows the student from middle school through graduation. The Board commended the program and the enthusiasm of the faculty involved.

Trustee Beyer shared her personal experience and expressed her appreciation to all of the teachers involved for their commitment.

Barbara Erickson, Glen Head, shared her personal experience as well and thanked all involved for the wonderful program.

### **Policy Sub Committee Report**

The policy sub committee consisting of Trustees Berliner, Kolkhorst, Sharkey and Dr. Melnick reviewed policy numbers 3000-5450 and made recommended changes to the Board. The Board had a brief discussion and there was consensus to place these policies on the agenda of December 3, 2009 for approval.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

### **Committee and Conference Reports**

Trustee Genovesi reported on the Construction Steering Committee meeting; all projects are on schedule.

Trustee Webb reported on a meeting of the Land Conservation Group and the status of the North Shore Country Club. There has been a report that a developer has bought the club but does not intend to develop the land.

Trustee Webb also reported on a meeting of the local Business Associations. The intention is to set up a meeting with David Little to discuss a joint lobbying idea on Tier V. Trustee Beyer suggested inviting Manhasset to this meeting; they already have a community action committee.

Trustee Beyer reported on the BOCES Audit Committee. An RFP is being drafted for sharing an Internal Auditor. Tom DiNapoli's Office is helping draft the document, however with the possible change in the County administration this may slow down the process.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on Action Items F-P.

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Berliner it was:

#### **Personnel**

##### **Resignation - Certified**

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Ruth Fuller, Special Education, effective June 30, 2009

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Pamela McGorry, Elementary, effective November 27, 2009

##### **Abolishment of Position - Certified**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby abolishes one (1) FTE position at the elementary level effective June 30, 2009, due to a decrease in enrollment

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, as a result of the abolishment of said position, the probationary appointment of Briana DeAngelo is hereby terminated also effective June 30, 2009

##### **Increment for Advanced Study - Certified**

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Darlene Skaee, Elementary, from Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule, to Step 5 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Steven Uh, Music, from Step 14 of the MA+30 salary schedule, to Step 14 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Briana DeAngelo, Elementary, on Step 4 of the MA+15 salary schedule effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Recommend: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Carolyn Naldi, Elementary on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective November 30, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Karen Schwartz-Ortiz, Spanish, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule effective January 25, 2010 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Dena Weiner, Elementary, on Step 8 of the MA salary schedule effective November 30, 2009 through December 31, 2009

Approval of Teacher Overage

Resolved: To approve a .1 overage for Robert Gerver, Mathematics, effective September 1, 2009

Appointment - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the probationary appointment of Beata Markasevic, Sr. Account Clerk, on Step 6 of the Sr. Account Clerk salary schedule effective November 19, 2009 with a 26 week probationary period expiring on May 20, 2010

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Grace DeCurtis, School Monitor, Glen Head, effective November 19, 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:

Jeffrey Blackburn	Secondary
Stephen Capobianco	Teacher Aide
Frances Dial	Music Substitute
Simone Pavlides	Secondary

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Clubs, Advisors & Coaches

Resolved: To approve the following extra curricular activity clubs for the 2009-2010 school year:

The addition of a Robotics Club as a level 3 club at the High School

The change of the level 2 Technology Club to a level 3 Robotics Club at the Middle School

The change of the High School Spanish Club from a level 2 club to a level 3 club

The addition of a Sports Medicine Club as a level 2 club at the High School

Resolved: To approve the following extra curricular activity advisors and coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:

High School

Freshman Class	Charlee Cook	\$1,141.50
	Elliot Touretz	\$1,141.50
Model UN	Casey Wright	\$1,881.00

Portfolio Club	Elissa Theiss	\$1,881.00
Mock Trial Advisor	Sarah Hogan	\$1,881.00
Yearbook	Brian Rodahan	\$4,985.00
Light & Sound	Melinda Bloom	\$4,045.00
Student Book Mgr.	Greg Perles	\$4,563.00
Art Club	Jessica Donovan	\$1,329.00*
Amnesty International	Daniel Issac	\$ 664.50**
Peer Leaders	Caitlin Kirmser	\$ 976.50***
	Rachael McAree	\$ 940.50
Nat'l Honor Society	Susan Soltis	\$1,147.00***
	Caitlin Kirmser	\$1,103.00
Dance Club (Pulse)	Jessica Donovan	\$ 664.50****
*replaces Elissa Theiss	**replaces Susan Krugman	
***change to co-advisors	****replaces Melissa Hanser	

#### Middle School

Grade 8 Class Bd.	Andrew Richter	\$1,661.00
Yearbook	Damien Chillemi	\$2,072.00
Vocal Music Director	Joseph Demarest	\$2,425.00
Accompanist	Joseph Demarest	\$1,131.00

#### Glen Head School

Art Club	Lisa Giurlanda	\$ 998.00
Mock Trial	Brian Kline	\$1,329.00*
*replaces Janet Goldberg		

#### Glenwood Landing School

Art Club	Seth Hayes Oakley	\$1,881.00*
*replaces Lauren Vione		

#### Coaches

Middle School		
Girls Volleyball (7th)	Stephanie DeBonis	\$4,455.00

#### Approval of a Student Association

Resolved: To approve the creation of the North Shore Sikh Association, a student association which will require a chaperone of meetings and activities, effective November 19, 2009. (This association is not considered a club and therefore does not require an advisor).

#### Approval of Proposed 2010-2011 School Calendar

Resolved: To approve the proposed 2010-2011 school calendar

#### Approval of Agreement with Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein PC

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. to represent the District in relation to possible future development of the North Shore Country Club property.

#### Acceptance of Donation from Athletic Booster Club

Resolved: To accept a donation from the Athletic Booster Club to the High School Baseball Team of materials and service to replace the home run fence and to raise the backstop at an approximate value of \$9,900

#### Approval to Dispose of Inventory

Resolved: To declare as obsolete and approve of the disposal of the following inventory

items:

Glen Head School  
Xerox Copy Machine  
Wooden Chair  
7 Computers

Sea Cliff School  
9 Computers  
1 Dell Server

Approval of Change Orders

Resolved: To approve change order #Electric 3 from Eldor Contracting Corp. for Ceiling & Lighting Replacement at the High School in the amount of \$1,800 (deduction)

Resolved: To approve change order #GC3 from Hi-Lume Corp. for Ceiling & Lighting Replacement at the High School in the amount of \$1,000 (deduction)

Approval of Agreement with BBS Architecture

Resolved: To approve an agreement with BBS Architecture to provide Architectural/Engineering Services effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Agreement with Savin Engineers, P.C.

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Savin Engineers, P.C., for construction management services for miscellaneous capital projects effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Special Education Services Contract

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Port Washington UFSD for Special Education Services for 2 parentally-placed students with disabilities attending Vincent Smith and St. Peter's School located within the Port Washington UFSD and residing within the North Shore School District during the 2009-2010 school year

Approval of Special Education Consultant Agreement

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Lisa Schilowitz, Occupational Therapist, for Occupational Therapy services for the 2009-2010 school year

Prior to approving special education services, IEP #363623178 was pulled and not approved

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

Resolved: To approve special education services (IEP) as per attached:

**Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**Old Business**

Dr. Melnick reported that there were no findings in the cause of the high school fire.

Trustee Webb reminded the Board at the next meeting there will be a final discussion about the track and field and asked Trustees to communicate with Dr. Melnick if any further information is needed for that discussion.

Dr. Melnick reminded the Board that the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be video taped.

Trustee Webb inquired as to when John Hall will have information on the parking issue. Dr. Melnick responded he will report at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Trustee Webb also inquired if the action plan from the PRIDE report has identified a list of goals it expects to achieve and if so when the Board can expect to receive it. Mr. Chlebicki will follow up on that.

### **New Business**

Trustee Beyer volunteered to serve on the BOCES Budget Committee.

Trustee Pombar asked that the Board have a discussion about public relations and the budget process. The Board had a lengthy discussion about having a pre-budget discussion prior to the actual budget being presented to the public in January. It was suggested to reach out to the community early to gauge what their priorities are when formulating the budget either by direct communication or through focus groups. Dr. Melnick will look into targeting some focus groups for this purpose.

Trustee Beyer brought up the issue of fundraising for a gift or donation to the district. The Board had previously pre-approved the gift of an outdoor classroom at the middle school, however the middle and high school are governed by the National PTA and are not permitted to raise more than \$6,000 for one item. She suggested the Board should be careful about pre-approving gifts. Trustee Webb suggested the Board revisit their current policy and come up with a more comprehensive policy in regard to accepting gifts.

### **Adjournment**

At 11:05 pm on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk