

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Webb at 7:15 pm in the Glenwood Landing School Auditorium. Present were Trustees Berliner, Beyer, Genovesi and Kolkhorst. Trustee Sharkey was not in attendance at Executive Session but was present for the public session. Trustee Pombar was absent. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Ms. Buatsi and Mr. Chlebicki.

Executive Session

At 7:15 pm, on motion of Trustee Genovesi seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the principal's office of the Glenwood Landing School for discussions regarding proposed litigation.

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Berliner seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting in the auditorium. There were approximately 40 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 November 19, 2009 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the treasurer's report of July 1, 2009 through July 31, 2009 was approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Due to the length of the agenda, Dr. Melnick waived his report.

Report of the SGO Representative

SGO Representative, Charles Sharkey, reported on events and activities at the high school, including a toy drive to benefit Schneider Children Hospital and the upcoming concerts at the high school.

Arts Review

Consultant Carol Fineberg was present at the meeting to update the Board on the progress of the review of the fine and performing arts program and to lay out the steps ahead. She, along with her staff of professionals from both local universities and the arts field, will meet with teachers, students and parents and will present a report which will include recommendations for the future of the program. The Board had a brief discussion, suggestions to Ms. Fineberg were to reach out to recent graduates to get their input; to be sure there is a diverse group of students who are interviewed; to include residents in the process; and to look at programs outside of North Shore for areas which we do not or cannot offer within our school. Ms. Fineberg will report back to the Board sometime in March.

Track & Field Update

Trustee Webb explained this would be the fourth conversation the Board has had in regard to the track and field. He updated those in the audience on the discussions that had been held so far and explained the circumstances surrounding the Town of Oyster Bay and their exploration of installing a turf field at the high school. Dr. Melnick spoke with our architects, construction management firm, attorneys, Don Lang, Olivia Buatsi and John Hall and his recommendation is to maintain the current track and field for the next two years (2010-2011 and 2011-2012) at a cost of \$32,000 per year and replacing both the track and field in May of 2012 at an approximate cost of \$3,000,000. This would include an 8 lane track with steeple chase and a new field, either turf or natural with Cambridge drainage. During the discussion it was suggested to try and fund this project now as interest rates and prices are lower due to the economy. Dr. Melnick explained the only way to fund this project now would be to put out a bond referendum for the community to approve in May. Dr. Melnick recommends funding this project through the capital reserve and initiate a capital campaign to raise a significant portion of the needed funding. The community would need to approve the addition of this project to the capital reserve in order to utilize it. After the discussion, there was consensus on the Board to move forward with Dr. Melnick's recommendation. Dr. Melnick indicated he would consult with the District's grants consultant on fashioning a feasibility study to establish the potential of a campaign. There was concern about how to proceed with the capital campaign and it was suggested that care be taken when communicating with the community in regard to raising funds and the use of the capital reserve. The discussion also focused on whether to install an artificial turf or a natural field. Dr. Melnick explained there is not a huge difference in cost and although the turf field would need to be replaced within 7-10 years, the maintenance of a natural field would be more than the maintenance of turf, therefore the cost would be almost the same. Although a decision was not reached on the type of field to ultimately install, the Board agreed it must be made before asking the community to raise funds for this project.

Comments from the Public

Richard Beck, Glenwood Landing asked Dr. Melnick to clarify the percentage of the budget dedicated to athletics and said he feels the primary focus should be educational not athletics. He went on to say he feels we have a good school system and asked that the Board not add to the athletics program without considering the consequence to the taxpayer.

James Albanese, Glen Head asked for clarification of the Town of Oyster Bay offer to install an artificial turf field at the high school and said it still appears the Town is looking for a place to put a field in the community. He said residents are frustrated and confused by the Board's decision to not accept the gift and instead replace the current field with taxpayer funds. His understanding is that the field was turned down due to neighboring residents being against lights and wondered if this could be resolved. He asked if the board has reached out to other communities where fields have been installed with lights to see how they overcame the adversity in their community. Finally he asked if the Town would consider partial funding of the project and said it is important for the community to understand what transpired if they will be asked to fund the project.

Dr. Melnick clarified that there were discussions with the Town of Oyster Bay but they are not willing to provide any funding without lights. He also explained that if the Town were to install the field they would require usage from 5:00-11:00 pm therefore infringing on our usage. The district did request partial funding and was turned down. Another factor was the bathroom facilities which would need to be provided by the school and open during the duration of field operation. He also explained that the Town was not interested in doing this project if the community was divided on the issue.

Trustee Webb explained that he has received information that the Town of Oyster Bay is no longer looking to do a field in this community. He also clarified that there was never an offer

from the Town to the school district, it was just an exploration to see if it would be feasible. The Board raised the same questions that the residents raised and the Town has been explicit that they are not interested in pursuing this project.

Trustee Beyer added that in one community the Town purchased the land from the school district and in another there was a community group who assisted in bringing the parties together, eventually coming to consensus on the project.

Dr. Melnick explained that although the groups in this community did meet there was no consensus therefore the Town backed out.

A resident said Seaford High School just installed an artificial turf field which was done for \$2 million less than originally projected and suggested the district move on the project now. He also suggested having the company who did the project, Landtek, come to a meeting and answer any questions the Board may have.

Dr. Melnick responded the only way to proceed with the project immediately would be through a bond.

Mike Dileo, Sea Cliff, asked if the \$3 million to pay for the project could be included in the budget and what the cost per household would be if done this way. He also asked if the Board has spoken to other districts to see how they funded their fields. Finally he stated that there are no health issues associated with turf fields and suggested the district speak to other districts about that as well.

Dr. Melnick explained that Manhasset raised money through the community for their field. Other districts have done a bond but no one has put the amount in their budgets.

Mr. Dileo asked if the Board would consider changing their policy about accepting gifts from companies that includes advertising, such as a sign, as a way of raising corporate funds.

Dr. Melnick responded the board will review the policy.

Trustee Webb explained that with the change in the State formula, if the budget were to fail there would be a zero percent increase allowed. He is concerned that if the \$3 million for the field is put in the budget it may fail and that would be disastrous for the district. He went on to say the Board needs to prepare for the future for what may come in the way of additional expenses to the district and they are always working to sustain the strength of our schools.

Dr. Melnick went on to explain the formula and the additional state mandates the district will be faced with over the next few years. He stated that the Board is trying to bring the community the most conservative budget they can, taking into account the collective bargaining agreements and mandates that they have no control over.

Brian Janelli, Glen Head, expressed his belief that the athletic program along with the arts and academics, are essential for some students to be able to go to good colleges. He understands the economic situation and appreciates the board's efforts.

Paul Eschause, Glen Head, asked the board to consider a bond referendum for funding the track and field. He feels there should be only one Booster Club with all funds being split 50/50. He also stated that he is in favor of an artificial turf field but wants it to be owned and controlled by the district.

Gwen Lennon, Sea Cliff, said she feels the district does a great job of providing activities for kids. She feels replacing the field will go a long way in program building and recommends installing an artificial turf field. She does not favor funding through the budget and prefers using the reserve or a bond. She also said it is important that residents know they are being asked to only add the project to the reserve, not for additional funds.

Trustee Webb responded a bond referendum can be put forward but we need to look at the best way to fund this project. He also clarified the difference between a bond referendum and using the reserve and explained the board would like to hear from the community on which way they would like to go.

Alex Greico, Sea Cliff, was at the meeting representing the school newspaper and asked how the field would impact the students. He also asked how severe the damage to the field is.

Trustee Webb responded it would impact those who participate in athletics as far as practice and playing time but would not impact the academic experience unless the budget were to fail. He also explained that the track and field are safe and can be used, however they are not competitive and coming to the end of their usability.

Clare DeMeo, Old Brookville, suggested the board put out a survey of how to fund this project when hosting the pre-budget meetings.

Trustee Webb responded there will be pre-budget meetings with focus groups and the board will reach out to get an idea of how residents wish to pursue funding.

Trustee Sharkey was not present for the rest of the meeting.

Policy on Medicaid Compliance

Ms. Buatsi confirmed that the district does not need to have a policy on Medicaid compliance as it does not meet the \$500,000 threshold. There was consensus on the Board to table the discussion of adding a policy until it needs to be addressed.

Comments from the Public

Richard Beck, Glen Head, said he has safety concerns in regard to school buses. He feels their route out of the Glenwood Landing School is unsafe and suggested they take roads that lead to Cody which is a County Road.

Dr. Melnick responded he will speak to Frank Meditz about instructing the driver to take a different route.

Legislative Issues

Trustee Webb reported that there is a meeting scheduled with David Little for December 21 at 5:00 pm at the American Legion Hall. He explained that the focus of the meeting was to discuss Tier V lobbying, however, it was just reported that this has passed in the State legislature, therefore he asked for suggestions from Trustees on what they would like to focus on at the meeting. There was consensus for the focus to be on Senator Oppenheimer's Bill which pushes for mandate relief and ways to achieve savings.

Trustee Beyer reported on the BOCES Audit Committee. The RFP has not gone out yet and may be delayed now that there is a new administration at the County. She also reported that consolidating this service would be a savings of approximately \$10,000 to the district.

The board decided to act simultaneously on action items E-O.

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Berliner 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 Joanne Rossiter, Elementary, effective January 28, 2010 through June 30, 2010

Increment for Advanced Study - Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Tiffany (Indence) Falcone, Elementary/Math 7-12, from Step 4 of the BA salary schedule, to Step 4 of the BA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement Appointment) - Certified

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Julia Blad, Elementary, on Step 9 of the MA salary schedule, effective December 14, 2009 through January 15, 2010

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute (leave replacement) .5 appointment for Pam Halpin, Elementary on Step 7 of the MA salary schedule effective December 10, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Concert Accompanist

Resolved: To approve Jonathan Bley to serve as piano accompanist for the middle school concerts

District Appointment

Resolved: That John Hall be designated as Deputy Treasurer, to act in the absence of the Treasurer for the school district for the 2009-2010 school year (replacing Kathy Kennedy)

Acceptance of Donation from the Arts Angels to Department of Fine & Performing Arts

Resolved: To accept a donation from the Arts Angels of funding to support exhibitions of student work in the Visions Gallery at a cost of approximately \$250 per school year

Approval of Agreement Between North Shore Central School District and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Project #1-203900AP)

Resolved: To approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS: (i) the use of the Equipment and the District's participation in the Administrative Project is essential to the District's proper, efficient and economic operation of its education program to be supported by the Equipment, and is necessary to maintain the District's educational program; and that

(ii) the expenses arising under this Agreement constitute ordinary contingent expenses necessary for providing educational services and the transaction is in the best financial interests of the School District because it enables the District to utilize the equipment in a cost effective and economic manner.

BE IT RESOLVED: To approve an assignment of co-ser agreement between North Shore Central School District and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County arising under the agreement for Technology Program Project #1-203900AP to install administrative services project equipment at the North Shore Central School District and to authorize the Board President to sign the appropriate assignment and such other documents and agreements as may be necessary to effect the transaction subject to legal counsel review.

Approval of Resolution to Amend the North Shore Schools 403(b) Retirement Plan

WHEREAS, the North Shore Schools maintains the North Shore Schools 403(b) Retirement Plan ("Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Plan was duly adopted on the 23rd day of August, 2009 by the District's Board of Education ("Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to restate and amend the Plan as regards section 2.1 Eligibility; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that section 2.1 of the Plan is hereby restated and amended to read as follows:

2.1 Eligibility

Each Employee shall be eligible to participate in the Plan and elect to have Elective Deferrals made on his or her behalf hereunder immediately upon becoming employed by the Employer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Plan, as restated and amended is hereby approved and adopted

Approval of a Resolution for a Type II Determination for Proposed Improvements at the North Shore Middle School

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District is proposing the replacement of boilers, removal of a boiler, and associated asbestos abatement and installation of chimney lining at the North Shore Middle School (hereinafter the "proposed project"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District has retained VHB Engineering, Surveying and Landscape Architecture, P.C. to review the proposed project, the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617, and to make a recommendation to the Board of Education for the North Shore Central School District as to the proper classification of the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action includes the removal of a boiler and asbestos abatement, and pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(C)(1) of the implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, the "*maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility*" is a Type II action; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action includes the removal of a boiler and asbestos abatement, and pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(C)(2) of the implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, the "*replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes...*" is a Type II action;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District, as lead agency, after review of the action proposed at the North Shore Middle School, 6 NYCRR §617.5, and the opinion provided by VHB Engineering, Surveying and Landscape Architecture, P.C, hereby determines that the proposed action is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5 (c)(1) and (8) of the implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and will, therefore, by definition, have no significant adverse impact on the environment

Approval of Revised Policies

Resolved: To approve the following revised policy and regulations: numbers 3100, 3120, 3210, 4110, 4200, 4210, 4327, 4327-R, 4410, 4712,4750, 4810, 4821, 5030, 5252-R, 5450, 6255-R;and new policy #5040; new regulation #5040-R; and new exhibit #5252-E as reviewed by the Board at the meeting of November 19, 2009

Approval of Agreement with Special Education Consultant

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Barry McNamara, Ed.D to provide IST Training effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Agreement for Special Education Services

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD for Special Education Services for 1 parentally-placed student with disabilities attending St. Dominic High School located within the Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD and residing within the North Shore School District during the 2009-2010 school year

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

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

Old Business

Trustee Beyer asked that the broader community be invited to the pre-budget meetings. Dr. Melnick responded key community leaders were contacted and invited to a meeting and there will be a mailing sent out to the entire community inviting them to a general meeting scheduled for January 11, 2010.

New Business

Trustee Webb reported that he and Trustee Genovesi responded to an editorial in the New York Times in regard to school budgets and high taxes.

Adjournment

At 10:40 pm on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk