



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

BOE Meeting Summary

December 17, 2009



Discussion/Presentations:

1. At the December 19th BOE Meeting, Glenwood Landing Elementary School Principal Bridget Finder was recommended for Tenure by Superintendent Dr. Melnick. Unanimously, tenure was granted to Principal Finder by the Board of Education effective January 1, 2010.

2. BOE President Dr. Igor Webb and Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick along with Coach Neal Levy and Athletics Director Don Lang recognized members of the Women's Cross Country Track Team who won the Nassau County Championship. They defeated all 55 teams in Nassau County to win their fourth straight County "B" Championship and second overall title.



2. Review of Senior Programs: High School Principal Albert Cousins gave an overview of the changes made to the senior experience program as well as his plan for the future. Teacher Chris Halloran discussed the process and procedures for setting up the senior internships for the 118 students currently involved. Seniors Austin Simpson, Dominique Corraza and Sandra Kret spoke about their individual experiences. Additionally, Assistant Principal Kevin Kurrus reviewed the senior projects while seniors Alex Steinman and Dominique Troy gave examples of their recent fundraiser.
3. Chris Zublionis, Director of Social Studies, shared the plan that has been developed to review the grade nine and ten social studies course offerings. The evaluation plan includes consulting colleges as well as other high schools to see what programs they are offering and the impact any changes might have on college admissions. Trustees asked

him to reach out to recent graduates. The BOE commended his work on this thorough review.

4. Discussion on Budget Goals: Dr. Webb explained that in the past the goal of the Board was to maintain what they currently have by enabling programs to be reviewed and improved without adding expenses or new programs. Questions to fellow trustees included whether to continue this primary goal or how to move forward if this was not financially possible.

Dr. Melnick communicated that he was conducting Pre-Budget Focus Groups with residents to explore how the community feels and what they want to prioritize. Additionally, he stated that he received notification from the NY State Teacher's Retirement System informing the district of an increase in contributions of approximately \$833,000 next year, a 6%-9% increase which would severely impact the upcoming 2010-11 school budget. Additionally, he mentioned that in 2011-2012 contributions would continue to increase to approximately \$1.5 million (upwards of 13%) and that it will be extremely difficult to find additional funds needed to cover expenses while keeping the budget below a 4% increase. He reiterated that the BOE has control over only 7% of budget costs and at the current level, just to maintain what we have would result in a 5% budget increase.

After a lengthy discussion, Dr. Melnick said, approximately 15-20 positions will need to be cut from all areas in order to achieve a budget increase of less than 4%. Trustees felt that they needed more specifics on what would be lost in both positions and programs. Additionally, they agreed that they needed to hear more from the community about their priorities during this difficult budget year. There was consensus to approach the bargaining units about re-opening the negotiations before cutting positions.

(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for December 17, 2009 at www.northshoreschools.org)