

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 31, 2008

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

Executive Session

At 7:30 pm on motion of president Beyer and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board moved to go into Executive Session in the high school faculty room for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation, matters leading to the employment of a particular person or persons and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 8:00 pm on motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting in the Alumni Room. There were approximately 10 people in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

On motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the minutes of January 17, 2008 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, the Treasurer's Report of October 1, 2007 through October 31, 2007 was approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported on the completion of Grade 3-8 ELA exams, start of the 3rd quarter, elementary parent education evening, senior play, foreign language and music students' trips abroad and upcoming meetings throughout the district. He also reported on the Governor's proposal of imposing tax caps on districts and his proposal that local districts assume the cost for pre-school special education services, currently funded by the County. A rough estimate of the cost will be forthcoming.

Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public

Alex Romano, SGO Representative, reported on activities and events in the high school including the senior play, and the upcoming Relay For Life Team Captain meeting scheduled for February 5.

There were no comments from the public.

Report from Maureen Curis, Director of English & Literacy Studies

Maureen Curis, Director of English and Literacy Studies updated the Board on English Language Arts K-12, but focused first on Elementary Literacy. She went on to breakdown some of the areas of focus for the elementary and secondary schools. Some questions from the Board included concern that expectations are too high for kindergarten children and that they may be losing social interaction time. There was also concern that assessments such as DIBELS take up too much time of the day. Ms. Curis explained the curriculum is taken from

New York State standards and that DIBELS assessments are very short and students are not aware of the results of these assessments. In answer to a question in regard to literacy coaches, Ms. Curis explained that coaches support instruction, work with small groups of students, talk with teachers and provide leadership for the professional learning team.

Report from Regina Newman, Curriculum Associate for Mathematics

Regina Newman, Curriculum Associate for Mathematics demonstrated a new calculator students are using that has interactive capability with computer-like screens. They also have the capability of drawing and measuring angles as well as importing word documents and it can be used with the SmartBoard. Ms. Newman also demonstrated the use of Algebra Tiles, manipulatives used to teach the fundamentals of Algebra in the middle school and upper elementary schools.

Budget Review

The Board discussed three sections of the budget, Board of Education, Central Administration and Regular Instruction. Dr. Melnick made recommendations on possible reductions. The Board had discussed the addition of Mandarin electives at the high school. Dr. Melnick explained that electives are chosen from student interest and that 26 students have shown interest in the addition of Mandarin. After discussing all of Dr. Melnick's recommendations the Board decided to remove the addition of a full time teacher of Mandarin from the budget and to implement Mandarin as an elective on the high school level requiring a part-time (.2) teacher without benefits; a reduction of \$71,200. It was also decided to reduce the amount for high school general supplies, elementary science supplies and math district wide by \$5,000 each for a total of \$15,000. The total amount removed from the budget at the meeting of January 31, 2008 was \$86,200.

Preliminary request of Middle School PTA for the Board to accept the Donation of an Outdoor Classroom

Dr. Melnick explained the process that has taken place, at the request of the middle school PTA, for proposing the construction of an outdoor classroom. The PTA is requesting that the Board indicate their intention of accepting such a large donation prior to beginning the fund raising effort. Co-presidents of the PTA, Rosie Foley and Eileen Gettleman, were present at the meeting and provided pictures of what the classroom might look like and answered questions from the Board. The Board discussed the proposal and questioned what cost, if any there would be to the district. Dr. Melnick explained that once the gift is accepted, the cost of maintenance is the responsibility of the District but all costs associated with the construction of the classroom would be assumed by the PTA. There was some concern that construction costs may exceed the amount raised by the PTA; the PTA is aware they would need to raise additional funds to cover any cost of the project. Trustee Pombar noted that he was surprised to receive an email from Mr. Ferris announcing that the project was off and running prior to the Board having met to discuss it. He felt it would put the Board in a poor light if they were to decide not to pursue the project. Those Trustees who had seen the email felt it was clear that Mr. Ferris was referring to the PTA having approved the allocation of funds for the project. Although no formal vote was needed at this time, there was Board consensus to have the PTA move forward with fund raising for this project.

Comments from the Public

Leslie Sgaglione, Old Brookville, addressed a comment from Trustee Pombar about an announcement to the middle school community of the approval of the outdoor classroom. She explained that all middle school parents were already aware of the proposal and parents voted

on using PTA funds for the construction of an outdoor classroom at their last meeting. The announcement was to make middle school parents aware of the outcome of the vote and was not an indication of the Board's intent prior to the meeting.

Transportation for North Shore Boys & Girls Club Beyond the Bell Program

Dr. Melnick explained that he was approached by Ed Moffet, Executive Director of the North Shore Boys & Girls Club, requesting North Shore Schools provide transportation to those students who participate in the Beyond the Bell Program. The district currently sub-lets busing for the swim program that North Shore Boys & Girls Club facilitates for our students, but providing transportation for this program would be considered a gift of public funds and would therefore not be legal.

Computer Controls Policy

The Board had a brief discussion on the proposed computer controls policy. Dr. Melnick explained that it had been reviewed by our auditors and counsel. There was consensus on the Board to place it as an action item on the next agenda.

Committee & Conference Reports

Trustee Sharkey gave a written report to the Board from the BOCES Budget Advisory Committee meeting she attended. She noted that BOCES will be purchasing a gymnasium size map of Long Island which Districts will be able to rent.

Trustee Beyer reported on a conference on Internal/External Auditing and sent out a copy of the notes. She reported that 80% of District's Audit Committees originally consisted of the Board as a whole, now that number has dropped to 50%; some have decided to allow outsiders who have expertise in the field join their committee.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items H-P

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

Personnel

Tenure Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To grant tenure to Kelly Ater, Elementary effective February 1, 2008

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes of Patricia McGivney, Librarian, effective July 1, 2008

Change of Status - Certified

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Rachael Brown, Social Studies/Psychology from a part-time (.7) appointment to a full time appointment (.7 probationary, .3 regular substitute [leave replacement]), effective November 13, 2007 (if Rachael is moved to a probationary position, her anticipated tenure date would be September 1, 2010), replacing Robert LaBlanc (.3 child rearing leave)

Increments for Advanced Study

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Michelle Cochrane, Physical Education, from Step 4 of the BA+15 salary schedule, to Step 4 of the BA+30 salary schedule, effective January 28 2008

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Kelly Gorman, Elementary, from Step 6 of the MA+15 salary schedule, to Step 6 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective January 28, 2008

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Susan McLaughlin, Reading, from Step 15 of the MA salary schedule, to Step 15 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective January 28, 2008

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Non-Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes for Richard Mercadante, Head Custodian, Sea Cliff, effective March 20, 2008

Appointments - Non-Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Anna Burguss, School Monitor, Middle School, effective January 22, 2008

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Kathleen Kapuscinski, School Monitor, Glenwood Landing, effective January 16, 2008

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Megan McCormack, Teacher Aide, Glenwood Landing, effective January 22, 2008, replaces LeighAnn Hubbard

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Jill Regolini, Teacher Aide, Middle School, effective January 31, 2008, replaces Joseph Alario

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

Resolved: To approve the addition of the following names to the per diem substitute list:
Timothy Borchick School Monitor

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Club Advisor & Coaches

Resolved: To approve the following extra curricular club advisor and coaches:

Middle School

Global Citizens Club Michelle Berger

Coaches

Baseball

Varsity	Dominic Gatti
Assistant	Robert Trenkle
Junior Varsity	Sean Austin

Men's Lacrosse

Varsity	Aaron Kozlowski
Assistant	Joseph Gallina
Junior Varsity	John Savage

Women's Lacrosse

Varsity	Kellie Moritz
Assistant	Daniel Agovino
Junior Varsity	Megan McCormack

Softball

Varsity Nicole Porter
Assistant Lauren Georges
Junior Varsity Thomas Granieri

Tennis

Varsity Brian Kline \$5,216

Golf

Varsity Andrew Richter

Men's Spring Track

Varsity Edward Corona

Women's Spring Track

Varsity Neal Levy
Assistant Clifton Schultz

Acceptance of Donations from the Glen Head PTO to the Glen Head School

Resolved: To accept the donation of material for 25 benches for each classroom from Glen Head PTO to the Glen Head School at an estimated value of \$2,500

Acceptance of Donation from the Arts Angels to the North Shore High School Art Program

Resolved: To accept the donation from the Arts Angels of 3 visual art showcases to the North Shore High School Art program, to be installed by the custodial staff, at an estimated value of \$2,437

Approval of Donation of Chemistry Textbooks to the North Salem School District

Resolved: To approve of the donation of 25 Chemistry Textbooks, no longer used by North Shore, to the North Salem School District in Westchester County

Approval of Change Order

Resolved: To approve change order Furniture #1 from J.S. McHugh for Science Lab Reconstruction at the High School in the amount of \$292 (additional)

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$96,011 effective January 31, 2008

Award of Nassau BOCES Cooperative School Bus and Auto Parts Bid

Resolved: To award items from the Nassau BOCES Cooperative School Bus and Auto Parts bid to the low bidders as per attached list

Approval of Special Education Tuition Agreements

Resolved: To approve special education tuition agreements with Harmony Heights for five (5) resident students for the summer of 2007 in the amount of \$3,908 per pupil and for the school year 2007-2008 in the amount of \$23,450 per pupil

Approval of Special Education Services

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

Old Business

Dr. Melnick reported that the LIPA Board of Trustees voted down the agreement that Kevin Law and Counsel had proposed for providing the district with a \$700,000 grant. He is waiting for an explanation as to why it was turned down.

Trustee Beyer reported that Jamie Pappas has sent a quarterly report and she will forward it to all Trustees. She also reported that the New York State School Boards Association has requested that she represent them at the NYSSBA State Legislative Network Conference on March 2-4. She will not be able to represent North Shore while there. Trustee Genovesi volunteered to attend as North Shore's representative. It was suggested that our Board draft a resolution in regard to lifting the energy restrictions so it may be included with those to be presented at the October convention.

New Business

Trustee Vollmer received an email from a district resident, Anne Dubin, who lives on the corner of Main Street and Franklin Avenue, across from the Sea Cliff School parking lot. She has had trouble with parents parking in front of her driveway and has asked for assistance from the District. Trustee Vollmer asked if signs could be placed on our fence to discourage parents from parking there. Dr. Melnick explained that Mr. Torossian has sent out emails to parents asking for cooperation. He suggested that staff presence during drop off and dismissal may be the best deterrent.

Trustee Vollmer expressed his feeling that schools should eliminate perfect attendance awards. He believes it encourages sick children to attend school and would like to see this practice ended.

Trustee Pombar commented that Jamie Pappas had recommended not carrying outstanding checks for an extended period of time, other than employee checks, and noted it was not mentioned in his report. He would like to know if we have changed our policy in this regard.

Trustee Glassman attended a conference with Alfie Kohn as a guest speaker. She would like to investigate the possibility of him speaking to our parents. She suggested the parent organizations look into arranging this. Trustee Beyer will bring his literature to the Coordinating Council meeting to see if there is interest. Trustee Glassman also recommended expanding the summer reading list to give students a wider range of choices.

After a brief discussion, the Board decided to cancel the regular meeting scheduled for February 14, 2008. If there are any pressing items that need Board action prior to February 13th, the Board will convene a business only meeting for that purpose. The next regular meeting of the Board will be on February 28, 2008.

Adjournment

At 11:20 pm on motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk