



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

BOE Meeting Summary

March 27, 2008

Discussion/Presentations:



BOE Adopts 2008-09 Proposed Budget

One of the Lowest Budget-to-Budget Percentage Changes in Many Years.

1. At the March 27th meeting of the North Shore Board of Education, Trustees officially adopted the proposed budget for 2008-09. In a conscientious effort to remain sensitive to the current economic climate, Trustees worked diligently to provide relief in school property taxes by cutting \$2,892,636 from the initial 2008-2009 proposed school budget while still maintaining the quality of our current academic programs. Trustees eliminated any expenses that:

- **Did not cover growth in enrollment**
- **Help to more effectively meet the needs of our children**
- **Protect the health and safety of our students and staff**
- **Maintain the condition of our buildings and grounds**

2. **PROPOSITION 1:**

The fiscally conservative budget proposal for 2008-09 is \$80,933,385 or a 4.9% increase over the 2007-08 budget - *one of the lowest budget-to-budget percentage changes in many years.*

The difference between the contingency budget and the proposed 2008-09 budget is less than 1%. This small difference will allow us to:

- **Maintain class sizes at the Nassau County average**
- **Provide North Shore students and faculty with access to up-to-date instructional technology and software**

If the proposed budget does not pass, the New York State contingency budget cap would limit the budget to \$80,189,539, a 4.0% increase over the last year's budget. This would result in the elimination of:

- **Up to 25% of all interscholastic athletics, arts and extracurricular clubs and activities**
- **All new instructional technology and equipment**
- **Up to 4 teaching positions; and a reduction of funds for school security**

Additionally, the loss of technology equipment would put North Shore students at an academic disadvantage compared to other school districts.

3. PROPOSITION 2:

There will be one other proposition on the ballot for May 20th. In their continued effort to proactively plan ahead to control long-term costs, Trustees at the 3/27 meeting approved to ask the permission of district residents to establish a Capital Reserve Fund (Proposition 2), to be funded up to a maximum of \$8 million dollars for capital projects to be completed during the next 10 years. The Capital Reserve Fund would be funded by:

- **An initial transfer of \$2.6 million from the District's Repair Reserve Fund (currently contains \$5 million resulting from a PILOT agreement between LIPA and Nassau County for the Glenwood Landing Generators.)**
- **In subsequent years, a portion of the unspent monies that the district is able to save from the previous year's budget (otherwise known as the Fund Balance.)**

If approved, the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund will be used for the following costly maintenance projects to be completed during the next 5-10 years:

- **Replacement of the internal ceilings in the older portions of the High School, Middle School, Glen Head and Glenwood Landing**
- **Replacement of the original boilers in Sea Cliff and the Middle School**
- **Replacement of the Middle School Library and Cafeteria roof**
- **Upgrading, repair and replacement of heating and ventilation systems in the Older portions of Glen Head, the Middle School and High School**

Instead of incorporating these costs into future budgets which will likely raise property taxes, a Capital Reserve Fund will result in long-term budget savings

for district residents. On May 20th, residents will vote on each of these two propositions separately.

This is yet another example of how the North Shore BOE has conscientiously planned ahead for long-range savings to benefit our community residents. Similar to the development of the new Transportation Facility (resulting in savings of approximately \$30 million in taxes during the next 25 years) and the Energy Management Contract (representing savings of \$5-\$10 million in taxes over the next 18 years while making our buildings more energy efficient.)

District residents will have an opportunity to vote on **Tuesday, May 20, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the High School Gymnasium. Voter registration will take place in the High School Lobby on Saturday, May 3rd from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Monday, May 5th from 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.** If you have any questions, please call Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick at 516-277-7801 or email him at melnicke@northshoreschools.org. For the latest budget news, please visit www.northshoreschools.org

4. At the 3/27 meeting, Carol Smyth (Director of Science) gave an update on the Science Program. She introduced 5th and 6th graders at GH Elementary School who presented examples of Magnets and Levitation as well as Cell Structures respectively (see photos below).





5. Additionally at this meeting, Toni MacDonald, Director of the Guidance Department gave an overview of the College Process and Albert Cousins, Director of Social Studies, updated the BOE on the Social Studies program.

(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for March 27, 2008 at www.northshoreschools.org)