



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

BOE Meeting Summary Town Meeting/Budget Reading May 8, 2008

Discussion/Presentations:

1. To begin the meeting, Math students from both the High School and the Middle School were praised for their high performance at the recent 2008 Long Island Math Fair. North Shore Schools received more gold medals than any other school.



2. Budget Reading: Superintendent Melnick began the meeting with the reading of the 2008-09 Budget Proposal (Proposition 1). He reviewed that it was a fiscally conservative budget of \$80,933,386 or a 4.9% budget increase from 2007-08. He discussed that the difference between the contingency budget and the proposed 2008-09 budget was less than 1% or a difference of approximately \$5 per month for the average District home.

Additionally, he added that there will be Proposition 2 on the ballot asking permission to establish a Capital Reserve Fund. It would be funded with monies that the district already has - up to a maximum of \$8 million for capital projects in the next 10 years. It would include an initial transfer of \$2.6 million from the District's Repair Reserve. In subsequent years, a portion of the unspent monies the District is able to save from the budget (otherwise known as Fund Balance) would be used to fund this Proposition. Instead of incorporating the costs for these capital projects into future budgets which will likely raise property taxes, a Capital Reserve Fund provides the ability to fund these costly projects without increasing the tax levy.

3. In this Town Meeting, many members of the community spoke and raised questions regarding the BOCES High School of the Arts. At the end of the meeting, Trustees had the opportunity to discuss their decision in this matter and why they came to their conclusion (Please see the minutes from 5/8 for further details).

4. Enrichment Program Specialists in all three Elementary Schools including Janet Goldberg (GH), Audra Marcantonio (GWL) and Diane Krupin (SC) presented the new Enrichment Program and gave examples of the activities that the students are involved in during lunch and after school. These *alternate learning experiences* include students from K-5 and comprise of Outreach Programs, Seminars, Research Roundtables and Clubs. Examples include exciting special interest topics chosen by the students as well as themes that enhance the curriculum. Some topics this year included Slime Goo & Ooze, Insects in Winter, Trash to Treasure, Dinosaur Discovery, Dance Clubs, Theatre Arts, Gardening Club, Ancient Civilization of America, Mock Trials, Computer Clubs, 2nd Grade Symmetry, Crafts Using Nature and Community Service Projects.



(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for May 8, 2008 at www.northshoreschools.org)