



# North Shore Schools

*Discovering Your Dreams*

## BOE/Town Meeting Summary

January 15, 2009



### Superintendent Melnick Presents 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget: *“The Most Conservative Budget-to-Budget Proposal in 15 Years”*

With the current state of the economy on all of our minds, Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick presented the 2009-2010 preliminary budget proposal to the Board of Education at a Town Meeting on January 15th. He said, *“This preliminary budget proposal is the most conservative budget-to-budget increase in the last 15 years, and it is only the beginning. Trustees will vigorously look at every line of the budget draft over the next few months to reduce costs even further.”*

At the Town Meeting, Superintendent Melnick said the following:

- In building the initial budget proposal, department heads and principals were instructed to **reduce their proposed budgets by 5% from the amount that was approved last year due to the economic climate**
- In addition to this five percent reduction, **\$350, 000 was eliminated from the initial budget proposal** prior to presenting the draft to the Board
- This proposal would maintain the range and quality of current instructional programs, **maintain current student-teacher ratios commensurate with the Nassau County average**, maintain the scope of extracurricular and interscholastic activities, and properly maintain district buildings and grounds.

Building on the Board’s reputation of prudent fiscal planning and responsibility, Superintendent Melnick emphasized the following:

- **The Board has been actively lobbying Albany to make the necessary legislative changes that would provide true tax relief to our residents** in the following areas:
  - Special Education
  - Bus Transportation,
  - Internal auditing services (instructional technology and telecommunications)



Superintendent Melnick encouraged the Trustees to plan for the long term while remaining sensitive to the economic difficulties of our residents in order to maintain the quality of the North Shore Schools. *“It is my responsibility to present a budget that takes into account the economic concerns of our residents, balanced with the educational needs of our students,”* said Dr. Melnick. *“In the months ahead, it will be up to the Board to question every line of this budget. This year especially, they will need the continued input of the community to make the very tough decisions that are ahead of them. I encourage all of our residents to make a difference and take a more active role in determining the future of our district.”* He concluded with, “We welcome you to attend our BOE meetings and to please contact us via email or phone to let us know what is important to you.”

**Trustees will review the budget according to the following schedule (meetings will take place in the High School Alumni Room on Thursdays at 8 PM):**

- **January 29: Budget Review** (Board of Education, Central Administration, Central Services, Plant Maintenance Insurance/BOCES Admin, Supervision of Instruction)
- **February 5: Budget Review** (Regular Instruction, Special Education, Other Instruction)
- **February 26: Budget Review** (Transportation, Community Service, Employee Benefits and Debt Service)
- **March 12: Comeback Items/Budget Refinement**
- **March 26: Budget Adoption**

**Residents will be able to vote on the North Shore Schools budget on May 19, 2009 in the HS Gymnasium from 7am-10pm.** Voter registration will take place in the High School on May 2nd and 4th, for those not already registered.

Please call or email Dr. Melnick ([melnicke@northshoreschools.org](mailto:melnicke@northshoreschools.org)) or the Board of Education with any questions and comments. Additionally, for the latest budget information, please visit the district website at [www.northshoreschools.org](http://www.northshoreschools.org).

**(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for January 15, 2009 at [www.northshoreschools.org](http://www.northshoreschools.org). Complete BOE Minutes are available in the Central Office.)**