



# North Shore Schools

*Discovering Your Dreams*

## BOE Meeting Summary

March 26, 2009

### TRUSTEES ADOPT 2009-10 BUDGET



1. At the March 26th meeting of the North Shore Board of Education, Trustees officially adopted the proposed budget for 2009-10. In a conscientious effort to remain sensitive to the

current economic climate, Trustees worked diligently to provide relief in school property taxes by cutting close to a million dollars from the initial 2009-2010 proposed school budget. Early in the budget process, resident input clearly communicated the desire to maintain the quality of the instructional/academic programs and class sizes at or near the Nassau County average. Trustees worked very hard to provide residents with a fiscally conservative, yet responsible budget that keeps North Shore Schools on a prudent and steady course.

At the March 26th meeting, the Board adopted a final budget proposal of \$83,682,596, or a 3.39% increase from last year – *the most conservative budget increase in 15 years*. **The difference between the contingency budget and the proposed 2009-10 budget is less than 1% or \$2 per month for the average North Shore home owner.**

If the proposed budget does not pass, the district will be forced to be on a contingency budget (the maximum budget permitted by the State to cover the costs of all essential services should the school budget not pass) which will result in the following for our students:

- **Elimination of teaching positions resulting in class sizes larger than the Nassau County average**
- **Reduction of funds for security outside of the school day**
- **Limited public use of our school buildings or grounds during non-school hours (before/after school and weekends) which could result in:**
  - **Reduction of school plays, concerts, dances, student run organizations and community service activities**
  - **No parent association after school enrichment programs**
  - **No parent association programs or activities (i.e., parent group meetings and fundraising events)**
- **Removal of up to 25% of budgeted funds for all interscholastic athletics, extracurricular arts and clubs**
- **Elimination of all new instructional technology equipment (including all new computers and Smartboards)**

- **No community education or recreation programs**

Passing the budget allows the community (through the BOE) to maintain local control over many aspects of our school finances. Being on a contingency budget moves much of the control from our local Trustees to the State. If the proposed school budget fails, it will be very difficult to get these items back.

In addition to the 2009-10 Budget Proposal (Proposition 1), there will be one other proposition on the ballot for May 19th. In their continued effort to proactively plan ahead to control long-term costs, Trustees are asking the permission of district residents to use existing funds from the Capital Reserve (Proposition 2) for the following projects:

- 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 the Middle School
- Replacement of the Middle School Library and Cafeteria Atrium roofs

**Last year, the Capital Reserve Fund was established with approval from residents to help provide long-term savings for our community. Since this money is already in the Capital Reserve Fund, taxes will not increase for our residents.** 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.) On May 19<sup>th</sup>, residents will vote on each of these two propositions separately.

2. At the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Rob Chlebicki, and Curriculum Associate of Science Dr. Carol Smyth presented an update on District Goal I.



3. Additionally, two students were recognized for their achievements in athletics. Robert Grabher received the James J. Regan Male Student Athlete Award and also won the Nassau County Wrestling Championship. Samantha Nadel was named the New Record Holder for the New York State 5000m and also achieved the National Freshman Record. Pictured are Director of Athletics, Don Lang, and Coach Neil Levy.

4. **Upcoming BOE Meeting Schedule:** Additionally, we encourage you to attend all upcoming budget meetings at the High School Alumni Room at 8 p.m. (unless noted otherwise) on the following dates:

- **April 21:** BOCES Budget Vote/ Meet the Candidates Night
- **April 23:** North Shore High School
- **May 7:** Town Meeting/Budget Reading

**The budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.** If you have any questions regarding the budget, please contact Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick at 516-277-7801 or email him at [melnicke@northshoreschools.org](mailto:melnicke@northshoreschools.org). Additionally, please join us at any of the following upcoming informal budget coffee gatherings where you can ask questions and learn more about the 2009-10 school budget: 4/20 (SC Resident at 1 pm), 4/22 (Harbor Child Care, GH at 7pm), 4/27 (NSSFE, NSHS at 5 pm), 4/27 (SC PCA, SC Elementary, 7:30 pm), 4/29 (MS PTA/HS PTA Meeting, NSHS at 8 pm), 4/30 (GH Resident at 7:30 pm), 5/4 (GH Resident at 7 pm), 5/12 (GH Resident at 7pm), 5/13 (Gold Coast Public Library hosting at American Legion, 7 pm), and 5/14 (SC Village Library, 7 pm). Public participation is welcome at our North Shore BOE meetings and the informal budget coffees! If you would like to attend a budget coffee, please email Shelly Newman at [newmans@northshoreschools.org](mailto:newmans@northshoreschools.org). 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 from March 26, 2009 at [www.northshoreschools.org](http://www.northshoreschools.org). Complete BOE Minutes are available in the Central Office.)**