



North Shore Schools

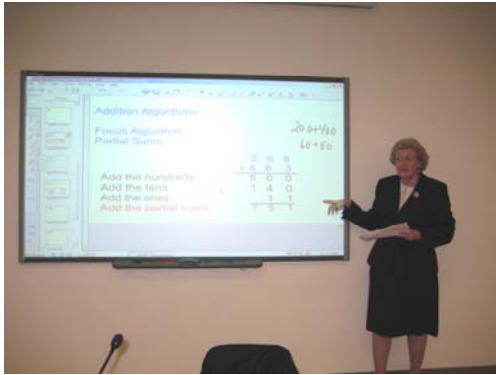
Discovering Your Dreams

BOE Meeting Summary

September 25, 2008

Discussion/Presentations:

1. An elated Regina Newman, Curriculum Associate for Mathematics, along with Tina Whyte (Kindergarten teacher at Glen Head) and Jill Machado (First grade teacher at Glenwood Landing) gave an exciting overview of the “Everyday Math Program K-2.”



They emphasized that this *well-rounded program* was a better conceptual form of mathematics that encouraged lessons based on discovery and discussion and not just drills and practice.

They explained that it differed from the past for a number of reasons:

- Utilizes an instructional approach that revisits concepts regularly and allows students to develop mastery of concepts in mathematics over time
- Allows students to investigate/solve problems in mathematics and not just memorize information
- Links literacy through mathematics (i.e., utilizes common vocabulary and literature that students see in other areas of learning)
- Teachers spend time emphasizing what numbers really are
- Uses games to develop skills and encourage interaction and participation. The students think they are having fun and forget that they are actually learning!



During the meeting, Trustees were asked to solve typical mathematical problems involving partial sums (adding numbers) and partial products (multiplying) as well as participate in a fun game which the students play in class involving dice and pennies.

Teacher Tina Whyte explained, “There are three components to the Everyday Math Program K-2.” She explained:

- 1) The program was comprehensive (it raises the bar by incorporating a lot of concepts and everyday tools including word problems, money, dominos, calendars, games, etc.)

- 2) The program was student centered (it's a hands-on approach where the teaching starts with the students.) Students learn through repetition and take ownership of the lessons.
- 3) The program focuses on modalities (it appeals to auditory, visual and tactile learners.) Students make patterns, learn number lines, sort and utilize movement and music. Students learn by having fun!

- Teacher Jill Machado said, "Math isn't just adding $2 + 2$, it is everywhere." For example, students count the days of the week by utilizing straws, learn negative numbers on a number line, sing songs to help learn patterns in numbers (i.e., "2, 4, 6, 8, first graders are really great!")

- Trustees asked "What role should the parents play at home when it comes to homework and how can they give guidance to their children?" The teachers responded that there are "Parent Reference Pages" which are available and go home for the respective assignments. To help parents at home, Dr. Melnick suggested that the teachers outline the role (if any) that parents should take at home.

2. Representatives from Bold Systems, LLC gave a presentation on their Election Management System (utilized in school elections.) They emphasized the following advantages to their system:
 - Instrumental in collecting voting data and statistics (including voter demographics)
 - Reduces voter fraud, prep time for elections, voter lines and wait times
 - Corrects poll placement assignments
 - Trains clerks and workers (can cut staff up to 50% with system)
 - Creates data while actual election is occurring (data is available to the public)
 - Ultimately, can help cut election costs and provides up-to-date information while generating voter history and statistics

Additionally, other facts about the company include: it has been in business for 17 years, their election management system is utilized in 74 districts in Nassau and Suffolk counties and they have a 97% success rate (for passing school budgets) Trustees agreed to make this an action item in an upcoming meeting.

3. Discussion regarding evaluations for the Superintendent and Board of Education took place at the end of the meeting. Please refer to the Board of Ed minutes for September 25th for further information on this topic.

(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for September 25, 2008 at www.northshoreschools.org. Complete BOE Minutes are available in the Central Office.)