



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

BOE Meeting Summary

September 4, 2008

Discussion/Presentations:

1. Dr. Melnick discussed that all five North Shore Schools had a very smooth opening day. He said that total enrollment was 2,927 (with 846 students at the HS, 703 at the MS and 1,378 at the three Elementary Schools).



2. Presentation on “Sitton Spelling”- Brian Nelson, the newly appointed Director of English /Literacy along with Linda Klion gave an informative (and fun) overview on the “Rebecca Sitton



Spelling Program” for grades 4-6. They discussed that our students would be become “investigators and thinkers of words” and that they would be “learning word patterns” and “discovering how words work.” They confirmed that “spelling would not just be the traditional memorization of a list of words.” He added, “Word work would include the investigation of how words are used in concept and not just the ability to “spell” a given word correctly (he referred to this as a “conceptual shift.”) To demonstrate his point, the Board was asked to list words that have “oy” and “oi” in them (i.e., boy, toy and soy or toil, soil, boil, etc). After “investigation,” it was realized that there is a pattern in words and that more words have “oi” in them than “oy.” Additionally, Trustees were asked to spell “supersede” –one of the only words with a suffix of “sede.”

3. Director of Special Education Thomas Korb led a discussion on the Special Education Two-Year Plan. He discussed the “Procedure of IEP (Individualized Education Program) to regular education teachers. Trustees expressed concern that teachers were not given support for understanding and implementing modifications in the IEP of their individual students.

(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for September 4, 2008 at www.northshoreschools.org. Complete BOE Minutes are available in the Central Office.)