

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Minutes  
January 29, 2009

The meeting was called to order by president Beyer at 7:30 pm in the High School Alumni Room. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Kolkhorst, Pombar, Sharkey and Webb. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Mr. Chlebicki and Ms. Buatsi.

**Executive Session**

At 7:30 pm on motion of president Beyer and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board moved to go into Executive Session in the High School Faculty Room for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 8:00 pm on motion of Trustee Webb and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting. There were approximately 20 people in attendance.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**Teacher Recognition**

Dr. Melnick and Trustee Beyer recognized Lori Reichel for being named the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance, recipient of the Eastern District's Association Health K-12 Teacher of the Year Award as well as being nominated for the American Association of Health Education, Health Educator of the Year award.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the minutes of January 15, 2009 were approved as amended.

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Melnick reported on a meeting of the steering committee of the Nassau County School & Municipal Savings Initiative which has been exploring centralization of certain non-instructional district services. The meeting was also attended by several Trustees and information on the meeting was sent to the rest of the Board. The next steering committee of the Diversity Task Force Work Group is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to begin composing a draft of a report that will be sent to the Board of Education for review in March. He also reported that the senior class play "Making It" was very successful as was an evening of Jazz at the Sea Cliff School. The second quarter ends on Friday, January 30. Finally he reported that a careful review of the Governor's school aid proposal for 2009-10 in addition to the reduction in State Aid includes a proposed exemption of school districts from Wicks Law for the next 5 years; a proposal to allow districts to withdraw excess amounts in the employee benefits accrued liability reserve to maintain educational programs in 2009-10; a proposal to increase the threshold for bidding and a proposal to have districts assume 15% of the cost for preschool special education services which in our case would amount to approximately \$175,000. The district awaits the legislative response to the governor's proposal, as well as information regarding President Obama's recommendation that the IDEA be funded at a higher rate which would presumably result in a two year increase in Federal Aid of close to one million dollars.

### **Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public**

Charles Sharkey, SGO Representative reported the Interact Group, under the guidance of the Rotary Club, is beginning a water project to fund a water well in Haiti where there is no access to drinking water. He also reported that the Key Club sponsored a safety day at Glenwood Landing.

There were no comments from the public.

### **Regular Business**

#### **Budget Review**

Dr. Melnick explained that the budget is only 0.37% higher than the contingency cap of 4%. If the Board was to cut nothing from the preliminary budget, there would be a difference of approximately \$500,000 between the budget and the contingency cap; this amount will change as cuts are made. However, the difference between the contingency cap and the budget amount may not reflect the total amount of cuts due to items being prohibited under contingency. Dr. Melnick will update the Board after each budget review as to where they are in relation to the cap and what items would need to be removed if we were to be on a contingency budget. He also noted that our buildings and grounds are in good shape because the Board has been prudent in not making major cuts in this area allowing for continued maintenance of our facilities.

The Board discussed six sections of the budget, Board of Education, Central Administration, Central Services, Plant Maintenance, Insurance/BOCES Administration and Supervision of Instruction. Dr. Melnick made recommendations on possible reductions. The Board reviewed each line of these sections of the budget and discussed the reduction recommendations by Dr. Melnick. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to reduce the amount in arbitration & legal hearings by \$2,000 each; eliminate \$14,520 from meetings & consultants; this amount was budgeted for a demographic study which will be postponed; reduce business office other expenses by \$1,007; reductions of \$1,900 from Grounds Maintenance Contracts, \$5,000 from DW Computer Wiring, \$20,000 from Middle School Special Projects for lockers which are now not necessary; \$299,353 from High School Special Projects for projects that can be delayed a year or more; and \$4,000 from Insurance. The total amount removed from the budget at the meeting of January 29, 2009 of \$359,780. The Board also decided to revisit two line items in the budget that they felt deserved more scrutiny; Personnel-Help Want Ads and DW Security Costs.

#### **Ninth Grade Experience Update**

Mr. Chlebicki updated the Board on the ninth grade experience. He explained that 114 students out of 237 eighth graders applied for the program; 80 were accepted. He reviewed the selection process which ensured a range of students, representing the whole population of the grade, were included in the program. He also explained the process for the selection of teachers who have not yet been chosen. There will be one teacher from each discipline chosen from the applicants by Dr. Melnick. He then gave a sample of the structure of a typical day and explained the flexibility of the schedule with possibilities for 2 and 3 period blocks of teaching.

Dr. Melnick publicly thanked Mr. Chlebicki for bringing this program to reality.

#### **Comments from the Public**

Kevin McBride, Glen Head asked what the Board's position was on the governor's proposal of a 4% property tax cap.

Dr. Melnick explained that the 4% cap would be on the tax levy, not on the budget and would be devastating to the district. Currently 80% of our revenue comes from tax payers and only 5% comes from State aid. The 4% cap would mean eliminating 25-30 teaching positions and would limit a budget increase to approximately 1.5%. The Board is looking for alternative ways of reducing costs to the district including consolidation of goods and services through the County. They do not support a property tax cap and are looking for alternative proposals from the state legislature.

### **Policy Review**

The Board policy subcommittee, consisting of Trustees Genovesi, Kolkhorst and Sharkey along with Dr. Melnick met and reviewed policies 0000-3000 as identified as one of the tasks for the current school year. The committee made recommendations to modify or revisit policies 0110-R, 0320-R, 0320E.1, 1120, 1220, 1230, 1440, 1511, 1810 and 2120. The Board discussed the proposed changes and agreed with the recommendations of the committee. It was also decided to increase the per page cost of copying for FOIL requests from .25 cents to \$1.00. The Board will further discuss policy numbers 1511 and 1810 at the meeting of February 26, 2009.

### **Committee & Conference Reports**

Trustee Pombar sent a written report to the Board on the Coordinating Council meeting.

Trustee Webb reported on the construction steering committee meeting and updated the Board on the issue with Global and the efforts to find a law firm interested in pursuing litigation for the district; the energy performance contract is proceeding; Middle School library proposal has been sent to State Education Department, report to the Board at the March 26 meeting; Victorian house is up, the Viking Foundation is donating the windows for it; Town of Oyster Bay representatives attended the meeting and reported they have not be able to find space for any additional fields, they are suggesting a turf field on an existing field, when more information is available, the sub-committee will determine if it should be brought to the Board for discussion.

Trustee Beyer sent a written summary to the Board of the meeting from the County School and Municipal Savings Initiative and Trustee Genovesi sent a slide show from the meeting. One of the recommendations is to share an internal auditor, this is being considered. Dr. Melnick is on the steering committee and will keep the Board apprised of ongoing efforts. He reported that 43 of the 56 districts have shown interest in participating.

Trustee Glassman reported that the Safety Committee will meet tomorrow.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items E through L.

Prior to acting, Dr. Melnick asked that the appointment of Janice Nunziata as Health Coordinator be tabled until the amount of the stipend could be determined.

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, it was:

### **Personnel**

#### **Resignation for Retirement Purposes**

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes from Noreen Strassenreiter, Coordinator of Health Services, effective January 30, 2009

#### **Increment for Advanced Study - Certified**

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Jessica Berner, Elementary, from Step 7 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Raymond Chaputian, Physical Education, from Step 3 of the BA salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Eileen Clark-Brady, Reading, from Step 9 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Debra Henneberger, Reading, from Step 9 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Robert Hert, Elementary, from Step 17 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2008

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Joanne Stein, Special Education, from Step 30 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Change of Status - Certified

Resolved: To extend the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Lynn Leslie, Elementary on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule effective January 13, 2009 through February 10, 2009 replacing Mia Ramirez (FMLA) (Lynn is a North Shore retired teacher)

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Lindsay Bennett, Elementary, on Step 7 of the BA salary schedule, effective January 16, 2009 through February 16, 2009 replacing Michele Van Ardsdale (sick leave)

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Donna Reihing, Elementary, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule through March 30, 2009 replacing Elizabeth Donovan (FMLA)

Appointment - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Elaine Polidori, School Monitor, Middle School, effective January 20, 2009, replacing Lisa Cangemi

Approval of Spring 2009 Community Education Instructors

Resolved: To approve the following spring 2009 community education instructors:

Susan Gill	Jessica Zimma
Phyllis Hintze	Maram Mabrouck
Helen Bauer	Scott Cairns
Stephen Goldstein	Jennifer Horton
Karen Swett	Simone Pavlides
Michelle Tanner	Richard Bartlett
BOCES -Cornell Cooperative	Dennis Kelly
Eugene Artemyeff	Maria Whisenand
Mayer Weisen	Anne Marie Giambrone
Kirsten Guerin	White Mountain Do Jo
Jerome Vivona	Patricia Mitchell
John Manzone	Janice Nunziata
Jennifer Miller	Elizabeth Cassidy
Peter Wass	

Approval of Music Consultants for Pit Orchestra for the High School Musical

Resolved: To approve Rick Wilson as a music consultant for services provided for performances in the pit orchestra for the high school musical, EVITA

Approval of Health Services

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Seaford UFSD for 1 student residing within the North Shore Schools and attending St. William the Abbot School for the 2008-09 school year at a cost of \$597.88 per student, as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

Resolved: To declare as obsolete and approve of the disposal of the following inventory items at the Middle School:

- 1 - TV - Model 19R9P59
- 1 - Monitor - Model XC3315C

Addition of Parent Members to the Committee on Special Education

Resolved: To approve the addition of the following parent members to the Committee on Special Education:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Amy Pedolsky  | Iris Eplam    |
| Denise Reiner | Kim McMahon   |
| Lynn Kramer   | Laura Blunnie |
| Suzanne Dulak | Alison Smith  |
| Mandy Zapken  |               |

Approval of Special Education Services Contract

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Huntington UFSD for Special Education Services for 1 parentally-placed student with disabilities attending a school within the Huntington UFSD and residing within the North Shore School District, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Approval of Special Education Services (IEPS)

Resolved: To approve special education services (IEP) as per attached tab

**Comments from the Public**

There was no public present at this point of the meeting.

**Old Business**

Trustees Beyer and Webb will attend the State Legislative Issues Conference from March 1-3, 2009 in Albany.

**New Business**

Trustee Webb inquired what the Board's position was on the packet of materials Nassau BOCES sent in regard to a referendum being put to a vote on February 10, 2009 asking Nassau County residents to permit Nassau BOCES to borrow \$16.25 million to fund the purchase of the building on Merrick Avenue in Westbury which it has leased. Trustee Webb noted there are only 4 polling places and it would be difficult for some residents to physically go to the polls. The Board had a brief discussion about the referendum, it was determined flyers were posted in the schools and it was noted residents can vote by absentee ballot.

Trustee Sharkey asked if there could be a discussion about prohibiting gambling themes for student activities. There is currently no Board policy prohibiting gambling themed activities and there was no interest on the Board to have a future discussion.

### **Adjournment**

At 10:40 pm on motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk