

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Town Meeting
October 30, 2008

The meeting was called to order by vice president Webb at 7:45 pm in the high school alumni room. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Kolkhorst, Sharkey. Trustee Beyer arrived at 8:00 pm. Trustee Pombar was absent. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Mr. Chlebicki and Ms. Buatsi.

Executive Session

At 7:45 pm on motion of vice president Webb and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst 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.

At 8:00 pm on motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting. There were 15 people in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Town Meeting

President Beyer opened the floor for any comment or question from the audience.

Mary Artinian, Glen Head, expressed her dissatisfaction with the way the special education department handled her son's transition to North Shore at the beginning of the year. Her son is deaf and has cochlear implants. Sea Cliff School's equipment was not in place at the beginning of the year, his teacher of the deaf resigned one week prior to school opening and therefore he did not receive the services he needed. Mrs. Artinian's main complaint was the lack of communication between the family and the special education department and she wanted the Board to be aware that she feels they dropped the ball.

Chris Artinian reiterated Mrs. Artinian's comment and went on to say that his son's confidence had diminished during this time and he has fallen behind in his academics and expressed his concern that his son may not do well on the upcoming state assessments. He also commented on the lack of communication with the special education department and explained things were rectified only after he and his wife brought the issue to Dr. Melnick. The main reason for them speaking at the meeting was to be sure the Board was aware of the situation and the disappearance of expensive equipment.

Trustee Beyer expressed her appreciation that the Artinians brought this matter to the Board's attention. She apologized for their experience and encouraged them and all parents to go to the Superintendent whenever they need assistance. She explained that there has been some changes in personnel in the special education department over the last year, but stressed this was not an excuse for what happened to them.

Dr. Melnick expressed his understanding of the frustration the Artinians felt but wanted them to know the district has Peter's best interest at heart. He went on to say he is happy with the program in place, has observed the class on a few occasions and has seen that Peter is involved with the activities and he participates in class. Dr. Melnick feels Peter will be prepared for the social studies exam, but would be happy to meet with the Artinians and his teacher if

they would like to discuss their concerns. He is committed to making Peter's transition to middle school smooth and would like to begin the process in January to ensure this happens. Dr. Melnick addressed the issue of missing equipment and clarified it had gone to another school and some of it was leased from BOCES and not district owned.

With no further questions from the audience, the Town Meeting was concluded and the regular meeting commenced.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the minutes of October 16, 2008 were approved as amended.

Amended Agenda

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor the agenda was amended to include committee and conference reports.

Post Retirement Employee Liability Reserve

Susan Fine, a representative from Ingerman Smith was present at the meeting. She spoke about the history of the GASB45 ruling, which required school districts to do an actuarial study of the cost for post retirement benefits. On the advice of their auditors, many districts, including North Shore, established reserve funds to cover this liability. Beginning in the 2003/04 school year North Shore established a reserve with \$770,000 and added to it each year; the fund currently has a balance of \$800,313. Ms. Fine explained that GASB45 actually requires districts to account for the liability, it does not require that it be funded. The potential problem for districts is having a liability on the balance sheet and not have the funds to cover it; this could result in a reduced bond rating and was why auditors recommended saving for the eventual liability. Dr. Melnick explained that many districts put millions of dollars in this fund to account for unused sick and vacation time upon retirement. He noted that North Shore does not pay retirees for unused sick time and only the secretarial unit accrues vacation time; vacation accrued during the first year of employment is not used until the following year, therefore upon retirement they have a balance of vacation time accrued from the previous year (the district accrues this liability annually). Ms. Fine explained that the New York State Comptroller is suggesting these funds be returned to general fund, however this is not presently a legal option and would require legislation. If the State requires these funds be removed from the post retirement reserve, they can be moved to an existing capital reserve fund. In response to a question, Ms. Fine stated the funds cannot be used to increase the undesignated fund balance reserve. Ms. Fine recommendation is for the district to wait and see what the State Legislature decides in this regard and to leave the money in the existing reserve fund. Dr. Melnick expressed his concern that if the Board waits it may have limited control over the money. Ms. Fine feels it is not imprudent for the Board to wait a couple of months before making a decision and revisit the possibilities while planning for next year's budget. She then explained the process for moving the funds. The district would need to calculate if any of the money must be left in the reserve for a retirement liability, a certified letter from our legal officer and chief fiscal officer would be drafted stating the fund is no longer needed and should be abolished to the extent it is not needed to pay this liability. Then by Board resolution, the fund can be reduced or eliminated, and the money can be placed into the existing capital reserve fund. The Board discussed their options at length and there was consensus to leave the money in the reserve and wait for more information from the State. Ingerman Smith will keep the district informed as information is received on this subject.

Committee and Conference Reports

Trustee Genovesi reported on a meeting she and Olivia Buatsi had with Senator

Marcellino and other district Superintendents. The meeting focused on tax caps and mid year cuts in state aid.

Trustee Beyer reported on a meeting of local board presidents and representatives where they discussed the possibility that Nassau County will charge back tax certiorari's to local school districts. An opinion letter has been sent to the State Attorney General from the Nassau County attorney and a ruling is pending. North Shore's attorney has been contacted and is investigating this matter and the potential impact on the district.

Trustee Beyer reported on a meeting of the construction steering committee. It was recommended that the Victorian Studio roof be up before winter. The energy performance contract is moving well. Use of the old transportation building at Glenwood Landing was discussed. It was recommended that it be used for storage as anything else would be too costly. Middle School and High School parking is still an issue. Senior parking may need to be revoked. Glen Head School has a larger kindergarten class than originally projected by the demographic study, however, this is thought to be an anomaly and should not impact space.

Trustee Glassman reported on a meeting of the district wide safety committee; she will forward a written report to the Board

Dr. Melnick reported that at a meeting of the Nassau County Superintendent's Curriculum Committee he was informed they were successful in convincing the Board of Regents to move the date of the Geometry regents to June 16.

The board decided to act simultaneously on action items B-I

On motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst, it was:

Personnel

Abolishment/Creation of Positions - Administration

Resolved: To approve the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, Ellen Shields is currently employed by the District in the tenured position of Curriculum Associate in Language Other Than English/ESL/FLES and

WHEREAS, the Board has by this resolution created the new position of Director of Language Other Than English/ESL/FLES, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that fifty (50%) percent or more of the duties of the Curriculum Associate in Language Other Than English/ESL/FLES position are subsumed within the new position of Director of Language Other Than English/ESL/FLES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Board herewith creates the position of Director of Language Other Than English/ESL/FLES.
2. Ellen Shields is herewith appointed to the position of Director of Language Other Than English/ESL/FLES. The Board herewith acknowledges that the appointment of Ellen Shields to the aforesaid position shall be with tenure.
3. The Board herewith abolishes the position of Curriculum Associate in Language Other Than English/ESL/FLES.
4. The foregoing shall be effective immediately.

WHEREAS, Regina Newman is currently employed by the District in the tenured position of Curriculum Associate in Mathematics, and

WHEREAS, the Board has by this resolution created the new position of Director of Mathematics, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that fifty (50%) percent or more of the duties of the Curriculum Associate in Mathematics position are subsumed within the new position of Director of Mathematics.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Board herewith creates the position of Director of Mathematics.
2. Regina Newman is herewith appointed to the position of Director of Mathematics. The Board herewith acknowledges that the appointment of Regina Newman to the aforesaid position shall be with tenure.
3. The Board herewith abolishes the position of Curriculum Associate in Mathematics.
4. The foregoing shall be effective immediately.

Tenure Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To grant tenure to Tracy Chiarello, Elementary, effective November 11, 2008

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Kimberly Cunneen, Elementary, effective January 31, 2009 through June 30, 2009

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Alison Mullin, Special Education, effective January 31, 2009 through June 30, 2009

Change of Status - Certified

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Michael Lindner, Psychologist, from part-time (.8) to full time effective September 1, 2008 through September 1, 2011 (anticipated tenure date)

Regular Substitute(Leave Replacement) Appointments - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for John Christ, Special Education, on Step 4 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 31, 2009 through June 30, 2009, replacing Alison Mullin (child rearing leave)

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Joseph Melillo, Elementary, on Step 2 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 31, 2009 through June 30, 2009, replacing Kimberly Cunneen (child rearing leave)

Approval of Teacher Overage

Resolved: To approve a .065 overage for Karin Demeo, Speech, effective September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Approval of Stipend

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Noreen Strassenreiter, Teacher in Charge, effective October 18, 2008 through February 28, 2009, replacing Bridget Finder (FMLA)

Appointment - Nurses

Resolved: To approve an appointment for Sharon Schmeimann, Nurse, Glenwood Landing, on Step 4 of the nurses salary schedule, effective October 18, 2008 replacing Noreen Strassenreiter (in for Bridget Finder)

Appointments - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of George Ehmann, Sr. Account Clerk, Central Office, on Step 12 of the Sr. Account Clerk Salary Schedule, effective November 3, 2008, replacing Mathew Cheravallil (replacing Marie Titus, retired)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Americo Mendes, Sr. Account Clerk, Central Office, on Step 12 of the Sr. Account Clerk salary schedule, effective November 3, 2008 (new position)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Lisa Cangemi, School Monitor, Middle School, effective October 20, 2008, replaces Christina Rand (resigned)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Ledis Garcia-Mendez, Bus Driver, effective September 29, 2008

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

Resolved: To approve the additions of the following names to the per diem substitute list:

Zahida Aminy	Secondary
Robert Curtin	Secondary
Janet Douglas	Elementary
Carleen Hoffman	Elementary
Jessica Humphreys	Elementary
Sharon Johanson	Teacher Aide
Victoria Juhasz	Teacher Aide
Jeffrey Kunion	Secondary
Eric Logarzo	Secondary
Sara McPhail	Elementary
Janine Meliambro	Clerical
Cindy Rubin	Teacher Aide
Gricel Sarduy	Food Service
Stephanie Socolick	Teacher Aide
Maria Sutton	Art District Wide
Rosemarie Veneziano	Teacher Aide
Kimberly Vukov	Art District Wide

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Club & Advisors

Resolved: To approve the addition of a French Olympics, High School as a Level 1 Club

Resolved: To approve the following extra curricular club coaches and advisors:

Middle School Coaches

Volleyball

8 th Grade	Frank Mauro
7 th Grade	Thomas Granieri

Winter Track

John Jackson
Donna Jean Welch

Boys' Basketball

8 th Grade	Joseph Melillo
7 th Grade	Aaron Kozlowski

Advisors

Math Olympiads (GH)	Van Grasso
Director MS Play	Ryan O'Hara
Accompanist	Richard Wilson
HS Musical	
Pit Conductor	Lisa Polito*

*Replaces David Soto

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

Resolved: To approve the following music consultants for services to be provided for rehearsal and performances in the pit orchestra for the high school musical, EVITA:

Peter Deschiler
Christopher Reali
Candace Mordhorst
Dennis Moller

Approval of 2008-2009 Annual Professional Performance Review Plan

Resolved: To approve the 2008-2009 Annual Professional Performance Review Plan as reviewed by the Board at the meeting of October 16, 2008

Approval of Agreements with Special Education Consultants/ Service Providers

Resolved: To approve an agreement with John Suozzi, PhD for Behavioral Consultation & Staff Development for the 2008-2009 school year

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Allison Wiener, RTI Consultation, for the 2008-2009 school year

Approval of Change Order

Resolved: To approve change order GC#6 from Stalco Construction Corp., for the transportation facility, in the amount of \$2,715 (additional)

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

Resolved: To approve of the disposal of the following inventory items:
3 Computers - Middle School Library
1 Laminator - Glen Head School

Award of Construction Bid for Glen Head School Electrical Feed Replacement

Resolved: To award the construction bid for Glen Head School Electrical Feed Replacement to LEB Electric, Ltd., in the amount of \$49,000 as recommended by BBS Engineering and Savin Engineers, P.C.

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$91,545, effective October 30, 2008

Comments from the Public

Tobi Kupferman, Greenvale, asked that the Board consider seniors who are involved in internships before cutting their parking privilege as this would put a hardship on those students who need to get to internships off campus.

Old Business

Dr. Melnick reported that he held a meeting to discuss alternative energy with Peter

Vollmer, John Hall, Kevin Mercier, Peter Segal and representatives from LIPA/Honeywell to try and find funding for solar panels on the high school roof. Honeywell offered to enter into a lease with the district, we will purchase the power from Honeywell. We are investigating if Honeywell would be eligible for the rebates from LIPA. If not, Honeywell said it could- add it to the energy management contract as a small solar project.

Adjournment

At 9:35 pm on motion of Mary Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Glassman and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk