

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
December 18, 2008

The meeting was called to order by president Beyer at 7:30 pm in the Sea Cliff Auditorium. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Pombar, Sharkey and Webb. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Mr. Chlebicki and Ms. Buatsi. Trustee Kolkhorst arrived at 8:45 pm.

Executive Session

At 7:30 pm on motion of president Beyer and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, the Board moved to go into Executive Session in the Sea Cliff School Principal's Office for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation and matters leading to the employment of a particular person.

At 8:00 pm on motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Glassman and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting. There were approximately 30 people in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the minutes of December 4, 2008 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Reports

On motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, the treasurer's reports of July 1, 2008 through July 31, 2008 and August 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported on the Governor's budget proposal which would result in an almost 14% cut in our state aid, approximately \$538,000. He explained that the proposal includes some positive recommendations including relief from WICKS and establishing a tier 5 in the retirement system but expressed concern over the suggestion that districts take over 15% of the preschool special education costs from the County and State which would have a devastating impact on North Shore. He also reported that the 2009-2010 budget proposal is near complete and will be presented to the Board and community at the Town Meeting scheduled for January 15, 2009.

Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public

SGO representative, Charles Sharkey, reported on events and activities at the high school including planning for a talent show scheduled for March 13.

There were no comments from the public.

Regular Business

Update: Tri State Health & Wellness Report

Ms. Laura Orticelle, Director of Health & Physical Education gave an overview of the progress made on the implementation of recommendations from the Tri State report. The committee has reviewed the existing Nutrition Policy as well as the proposed Wellness Policy

and indicated what is in the process of change. The Board was also provided a chart of recommendations as well as an action plan and timeline for completion. Eileen O'Connor and Craig DeNicola physical education teachers at Sea Cliff, along with Sea Cliff students, demonstrated a Fitness Center set up in the Sea Cliff School gymnasium on Fridays. Students are able to participate in a variety of activities designed to promote a healthy lifestyle. Ms. O'Connor thanked the Sea Cliff School parents who were responsible for the funds that made the center possible.

The Board asked about including students on the Wellness Committee, Ms. Orticelle responded students will not serve on the Wellness Committee but may be asked to serve on any subcommittees that arise. Trustee Webb asked if a discussion about substance abuse could be included on a future agenda after we have received data from the student survey.

Update: Elementary Special Education

Dr. Melnick gave an update on the progress of the elementary special education proposal since the presentation to the Board in November. He explained that at this point these are only recommendations by the Special Education Department and no decisions have been made. After several meetings with administration, faculty, staff and parents, the current recommendation is to establish the new model of the blended program at grades 4/5 in each elementary school; maintain the old model of blended program for all other grade levels; eliminate the grade 4/5 ILC for next year only (as it is not anticipated that any students meet the new criteria for ILC); maintain the 2/3 ILC in its current configuration until the new blended model is expanded the following year; establish 1 section of a new model K-1 ILC, maintain current K-1 model of ILC (next year only if needed); provide 1 additional special education teacher for each elementary school; provide a teacher assistant for each new blended class and ILC; provide instructional-behavioral specialists to support new classes.

The Board had a lengthy discussion about the proposed changes including the need for professional development and support of faculty; how and when the training of faculty would take place; the cost of the proposed changes including changing to teacher assistants; whether eliminating the ILC classes would benefit those students currently in ILC; the issue of being out of compliance to regulation Part 200.1. Trustee Pombar requested that a study be done of those students who refuse services included on their IEP and the cost attached.

Special Education administrators, Tom Korb, Cindy Jacunski and Marcy Laredo explained specifics of the proposal and how the changes would be implemented. Dr. Melnick said he does not anticipate a budget impact from these changes, but if there is one it would be slight. Mr. Chlebicki explained that research shows gains are less in an ILC class than in a blended classroom.

Dr. Melnick and Mr. Chlebicki will continue to update the Board as progress is made and there may be some change in the recommended proposals as more conversations take place. Mr. Korb, Ms. Jacunski and Ms. Laredo will report back in the spring before annual reviews begin.

Comments from the Public

Robert Cerpa, Glen Head, Dale Tyminiski, Sea Cliff, Amy Marion, Sea Cliff, Arlene Yamond, Glen Head, Kim Bello, Glen Head, Suzanne Dulak, Sea Cliff, Pat Fox, Sea Cliff all spoke in favor of continuing the ILC program. They each shared their personal experience with the program and the successes of each of their children. They expressed concern about grouping students currently in ILC into the blended program and how the switch to a blended class will impact the ILC student; the class size and number of behavioral problems in each class; the scheduling of the day; the possibility of current teacher aides becoming teacher assistants; how and if current support will continue; and the social/emotional issue of shifting students to another school. It was requested that alternative assessment be defined.

Trustee Beyer and Dr. Melnick responded to residents and encouraged them to speak to administrators with specific questions to help them determine how the changes will impact their children. They explained that this model will not eliminate support that students are currently receiving and defined alternative assessment as students who are not regents bound and need to be assessed in an alternate form.

Committee & Conference Reports

There were no committee or conference reports

The Board decided to act simultaneously on Action items D-O.

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

Personnel

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Sarah Phelan, Elementary, effective December 20, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Melissa Esposito, Elementary, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 9, 2009 through June 30, 2009 replacing Sarah Phelan (child rearing leave)

Approval of Teacher Overage

Resolved: To approve an overage for Rich Ryan, Social Studies from .1 to .2 effective October 6, 2008

Appointment - Non-Certified

Resolved: To approve an appointment for Peter Helig, Cleaner-Attendant, District-wide, on Step 2 of the Custodial salary schedule, effective December 22, 2008, replaces Michael Fink (in house transfer)

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Advisors

Resolved: To approve the following extra curricular activity advisors for 2008-09

High School

Senior Play Michael Kleba

Middle School

Technical Director Melinda Bloom

Approval of Concert Accompanists

Resolved: To approve the following to serve as piano accompanists for the elementary and middle school concerts:

Steve Goldstein

Barbara Hill

Acceptance of Donation from the North Shore Middle School PTA to the North Shore Middle School

Resolved: To accept a donation of \$500 from the North Shore Middle School PTA to the

North Shore Middle School for a teacher mini grant for the purpose of purchasing fleece to make scarves for a fundraising project

Acceptance of Donation from the Arts Angels to the North Shore High School Music Department

Resolved: To accept a donation from the Arts Angel's of \$2,549 for the purchase of a Marimba for the North Shore High School Music Department

Approval of Revised Policy #6150 - Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve the revised policy #6150, Budget Transfers, as recommended by our external auditors, RS Abrams and reviewed by the Board on October 30, 2008

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$221,530

Approval of Change Orders

Resolved: To approve change order GC#7 from Stalco Construction Corp., for work at the transportation facility, in the amount of \$11,466 (deduction)

Resolved: To approve change order Electric #1 from Madhue Contracting, Inc. for work at the transportation facility in the amount of \$4,882 (addition)

Approval of Resolution to Authorize a Joint Application for a Local Government Efficiency Grant

Resolved: To approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Nassau County, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) of Nassau County, the North Shore School District, and other school districts within the county desire to assess plans for consolidation of school district support services and to seek to implement many of the ideas identified as having great potential for saving tax dollars, and

WHEREAS, the North Shore School District would like to join in submitting an application for a Twenty-First Century Demonstration Project Grant under the New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows that the School Board of the North Shore School District:

1. Authorizes the lead applicant contact person to submit an application on our behalf for financial assistance to the 2008-09 Local Government Efficiency Grant Program, and to execute all financial and administrative processes and instruments relating to the grant program.
2. Authorizes the BOCES of Nassau County to act as the "Lead Applicant" for the grant application, and Tom Stokes, Deputy County Executive for Budget and Finance, to act as the "Lead Applicant Contact Person" on the grant application form.
3. Agrees to act as a "Co-Applicant" and hereby authorizes the School Superintendent to execute all financial and administrative processes and instruments relating to the grant program. Other co-applicants will include Nassau County, BOCES and a majority of the school districts within Nassau County. A list of all participating school districts will be included in the grant application.
4. Joins in a grant application to be submitted for a Local Government Efficiency Grant award that would enable the applicant and co-applicants to identify and implement cooperative back office functions that allow school districts to save money while maintaining high quality educational programs. The project will provide for shared or consolidated back office functions in several areas, such as information technology and telecommunications, cooperative purchasing, audit services, non-public pupil transportation, and other services. The project

name is the "Nassau School and Municipal Savings Initiative."

5. Agrees that the amount of the grant applied for shall not exceed \$1,000,000, with a maximum local match of up to \$111,111. The North Shore School District may contribute up to \$1,000 of the required local share.

6. Will work with the lead applicant and other co-applicants to prepare and execute any necessary inter-municipal agreements setting forth individual responsibilities related to Nassau School and Municipal Support Services Partnership.

Approval of Agreement with Savin Engineers, P.C. to Provide Construction Management for the 2008-2009 Capital Projects

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Savin Engineers, P.C. to provide construction management for the 2008-2009 capital projects in the amount of \$96,900

Approval of Special Education Services Contracts

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD for Special Education Services for 2 parentally-placed students with disabilities attending St. Dominic High School located within the Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD and residing within the North Shore School District, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Approval of Special Education Tuition Agreement

Resolved: To approve a special education tuition agreement with the Anderson Center for Autism effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, for the approved NYSED rates

Approval of Special Education Consultants/Service Providers

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Education & Assistance Corp. for tutoring/home instruction services effective September 3, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Education & Assistance Corp for resource room services provided to North Shore Schools students at the Vincent Smith School, effective September 3, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Trustee Pombar asked that parents be notified of special education students who are declining services at the high school and requested some type of reporting on this issue.

Adjournment

At 10:45 pm on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Genovesi, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk