

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
December 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order by president Beyer at 7:30 pm in the Glenwood Landing Theater. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Kolkhorst, and Sharkey. Trustees Pombar and Webb were absent. 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 Glassman and all in favor, the Board moved to go into Executive Session in the Glenwood Landing Principal's Office for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation and the medical history of a particular person.

At 8:00 pm on motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting. There were approximately 75 people in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Recognition of Students

President Beyer and Dr. Melnick recognized the Girls Cross-Country Team for their Nassau County Championship.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, the minutes of November 13, 2008 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported on the successful high school production of EVITA and commended Michael Kleba, Michael Kerschner, Lisa Polito and all of the students and crew involved in the production. A high school orientation was held for parents of entering freshman. The second meeting of the Diversity Task Force was held, there will be a steering committee meeting on January 7th for the chairs of each committee. The District was notified that there will be an approximate 20% decrease in State Aid resulting in the loss of \$800,000 to North Shore next year. Dr. Melnick appealed to the public to come to the budget presentation meeting in January so they may be fully informed of the impact this will have.

Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public

SGO representative, Charles Sharkey, reported on events and activities at the high school including the planning of a talent show scheduled for March 13, 2009 and winter concerts scheduled for December 10, 17 & 19.

Regular Business

Interscholastic Athletics Selection/Classification Process

Dr. Melnick explained the District received an anonymous letter from a concerned individual speaking about the interscholastic athletics selection/classification process and policy of moving elite middle school athletes up and the impact this has on the high school junior and senior athletes. He is aware that there are concerns on both sides of the issue from the community and the discussion will focus on further exploration of the process as it stands and not about whether or not to continue with this process. The Board currently has a policy, #5280, and 5280R, which goes back to 1992 and deals with the process for approving selection/classification. New York State sets the guidelines and regulations for this process and local boards can make a decision to participate. Director of Athletics, Don Lang did an informational survey of other Nassau County schools; all 22 districts surveyed have a selection/classification process within their district. He went on to say that prior to the meeting, the Board received the State guidelines and a list of all student athletes who met the state criteria and were moved up during the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons.

Trustee Genovesi explained that she had been approached by many parents during the fall season about whether the selection process is being followed and concerns about the health and emotional impact on students as a result of this process. There was also concern among parents that coaches were making close calls to move up 8th graders and this was displacing 9th graders from the team. This led to her requesting a discussion by the Board to investigate if the policy is being enforced and that state guidelines are being followed. Trustee Genovesi clarified that she requested a discussion to review the current policy to be sure it is being implemented as intended and was not suggesting a decision be made about whether or not 8th graders should be able to move up.

Director of Athletics, Don Lang gave an overview of the selection/classification process. He explained that the State allows students to try out for competitive teams according to ability and readiness and not according to age or grade. The state gives the opportunity for dominant athletes who are playing at a lower level to move to a more competitive level. He went on to say that few students are selected. He explained that it is a difficult process which begins with a coach or parental recommendation. Students must meet the criteria and undergo a physical test. All aspects of the testing must be passed prior to a three day try-out. There are approximately 568 students who participate in the athletic program and only 20 students over the last 2 years were moved up. In response to a question by the Board about possible scouting by coaches or the use of selection as a motivational tool, Mr. Lang said neither of these things is occurring. The Board also expressed concern about the social emotional atmosphere and the appropriateness of 8th graders interacting with 12th graders and where this fits in to the protocol.

Mr. Lang explained that the final determination is made by him and the middle school athletic coordinator. He expressed his belief that the process works and does not feel students are brought up if they are not ready or do not meet all of the criteria set by the State. A scale is used for physical maturity and not all students who are recommended are approved to move up. He stressed that this is not an open try out for 8th grade athletes.

Trustee Beyer suggested the discussion be opened up to public comment and based upon those comments the Board would have a second discussion about how to proceed.

Comments from the Public

Rob Welch, Glen Head, spoke in favor of continuing the policy for athletic selection/classification and asked for clarification from the Board with regard to the discussion held previously and whether they would be making a decision tonight to continue this policy.

Dr. Melnick responded that the Board is not reviewing whether to continue the policy, they are having a discussion to determine whether or not the policy is being implemented

correctly and that State law for the process is being followed. Trustee Beyer added that after hearing what the public has to say, the Board will have a second discussion to see what direction they should go in.

Bill Laderer, Sea Cliff; Valerie Muoio, Roslyn Harbor; Agatha Nadell; Glen Head; Steve Grabher, Glen Head; Tom Ruane, Roslyn Harbor; each shared their personal experience with the current process and spoke in favor of continuing the policy of athletic selection/classification.

John Convey, Roslyn Harbor, asked the district to monitor athletic injuries which seem to be on the rise.

A former North Shore student spoke about the requirements for being selected and the difficulty of the testing. She shared her personal experience of being denied advancement after completing the process.

Students Marielle Genovesi, Glen Head and Danielle Muoio, Roslyn Harbor expressed their respect of their teammates and their coach and agreed that the elite athlete should be moved up, but spoke about how this process keeps high school athletes from securing spots on athletic teams and the effect it has on those athletes.

Students Brianna Welch, Charlotte Manogue, Samantha Nadel, Gabriella Vezza and Elizabeth Caldwell, students who were brought up from the middle school through the selection/classification process, spoke about their experience and were grateful that they were given the opportunity to play on the varsity level. They expressed their appreciation of teammates acceptance and support of them and felt they excelled because they were able to compete with athletes of similar ability.

Lauryn Cartagine, high school student athlete, questioned whether the social levels at the high school are appropriate for middle school students.

Mike Emmert, Glen Head resident and varsity wrestling coach explained that bringing exceptional kids up from the middle school helps the athletic program. He feels it makes teams better if there is more competition. He also stated that it is the coach's responsibility to recommend only those kids who are ready and he has never seen a student brought up who did not deserve to be. He believes this policy makes a better program.

Doug Wefer, Glen Head, suggested it should not be an easy process to move up to the next level and feels the process should insure it is appropriate for the individual student.

Robin Cartagine Glenwood Landing, asked for clarification of what a special case would be as listed in the guidelines.

Don Lang responded if a student does not pass all aspects of the testing a doctor can sign off on the student or the student can appeal to the state. This would be considered a special case.

Continuation of Board Discussion on Interscholastic Athletic Selection/Classification Process

Trustee Beyer reviewed the charge of the athletic review board which was formed as a result of community interest in building a more competitive athletic program. The report, which is available to the public at the District Office, concluded that a team at the varsity level would be very competitive consisting only of athletes who had the skills at that level even if this meant displacing high school juniors or seniors. The district implemented all of the recommendations from the Athletic Review Board and now has a more competitive program. She expressed her concern about the number of injuries and asked that this be investigated and compared to other districts. In response to a question about the number of special cases approved through the selection/classification process, Mr. Lang said there have been none approved since he has become Director of Athletics.

Trustee Genovesi explained that she was unaware her daughter would be speaking and she did not necessarily share the same views. She went on to say how important it is for students to feel comfortable contributing to the conversation and was pleased with how

respectful all of the students were when speaking. Trustee Genovesi also shared the concern of some parents at the narrow number of spots available for athletes on the Tennis Team and asked it be determined how many of these spots went to middle school athletes.

Dr. Melnick recommended that the Board continue to monitor the current policy for selection/classification but feels the policy and process should remain as is. He suggested updates to the Board on the progress of students who are moved up as well as a report on the injury rate for all middle school and high school teams.

There was consensus on the Board to continue the selection/classification process as it is currently written.

Progress on Grades 5, 8, 12 Exit Assessments

Rob Chlebicki gave an overview of the process that has begun to examine the existing summative assessments in grades 5, 8 and 12 and the progress that has been made in reviewing and revising the assessment process. In their discussions the committee of administrators is exploring the use of assessments for monitoring student progress and not just for benchmark points. Mr. Chlebicki gave a presentation on the use of digital portfolios as one way of monitoring the progress of students. He explained that Director of English, Brian Nelson has begun a pilot program with one class who are currently using these portfolios.

There was a brief discussion by the Board focusing on the possible use of digital portfolios and the way in which assessments are currently being administered.

Committee & Conference Reports

Trustee Glassman sent a written report on the Wellness Committee meeting and said there will be a report to the Board in two weeks.

Trustee Genovesi reported on the Diversity Task Force which held its second meeting. There will be a meeting of the steering committee on January 7.

Trustee Pombar sent a written report to the Board on the Health & Safety Committee meeting.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items D-N.

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

Personnel

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purpose of Carol Nucci, Librarian, effective January 4, 2009

Resignation - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Carrie Salz, Elementary, effective December 5, 2008

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Julie Cardona, LOTE, effective December 6, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Increment for Advanced Study

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Kathleen Yoo, Elementary, from Step 7 of the MA salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2008

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointments - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Lindsay Bennett, Elementary, on Step 7 of the BA salary schedule effective November 7, 2008 through December 6, 2008 replacing Michele Van Arsdale (sick leave)

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Adriana LoRusso-Vitale, LOTE on Step 1 of the BA+30 salary schedule, effective November 26, 2008 through June 30, 2009, replacing Julie Cardona (FMLA and child rearing leave)

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Shannon Mayberry, Elementary, on Step 3 of the MA salary schedule, effective December 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, replacing Carrie Salz who was replacing Kerri Giorgianni (child rearing leave)

Appointment - Nurses

Resolved: To approve the part-time (.6) appointment of Christine Qadir, School Nurse, District Wide, on Step 1 of the nurses salary schedule (.6 of \$44,486), replacing Sharon Schmiemann (assumed position previously held by Noreen Strassenreiter), effective December 3, 2008

Appointment - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Lenore Kornfeld, School Monitor, North Shore Middle School, effective December 1, 2008, replacing Marion Adomsky

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Jennifer Dardzinski	Elementary
Paola DiMarzio Ph.D	Secondary
Megan Dunphy	Elementary
Tracy Koch	Secondary
Christina Marullo	Secondary
Joe Martino	Secondary
Lisa Mintz	Elementary
Ramdat Ravi Imrith	Elementary
Chris Sabbatino	Secondary
Elisa Vasquez	Secondary
Siri Willis	Elementary

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Advisors/Coaches

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

High School

JV Gymnastics Melissa Havern

Middle School

Assistant Director-Play Elliott Touretz

Approval of Resolution Authorizing Survey Expenditure

Resolved: To approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Schools authorizes an expenditure of up to \$2,000 for its proportionate share of the cost of the survey services related to the extension of district boundaries

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$49,729.77 effective December 4, 2008

Approval of Agreement with Global Talent Associates, LLC

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Global Talent Associates, LLC for a poetry performance and workshop to be held on September 2, 2009 in the amount of \$3,000

Approval of a Resolution to enter into an Agreement with The Omni Group, Inc. to provide Third Party Administration (TPA) Services for 403b & Tax Shelter Annuity Plans

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the North Shore Central School District to enter into contract with the Omni Financial Group, Inc. for the provision of third party administration services for its 403 (b) Plan for the period covered from the effective date of the agreement through June 30, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Agreement is subject to a formal written agreement to be approved by District counsel;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.

Approval of Agreement with Fanning Investigative Services

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Fanning Investigative Services effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 in the amount of \$70 per hour per investigator

Acceptance of Monroe-2 BOCES Bid Results for Engineering & Biomedical Supplies & Equipment

Resolved: To accept the bid results for the Monroe - 2 BOCES bid for Engineering & Biomedical Supplies & Equipment effective December 1, 2008 through November 30, 2009

Approval of Agreement with WebCola Media

Resolved: To approve an agreement with WebCola Media for monthly maintenance and web design fees in the amount of \$10,740, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Approval of Agreement with Educational Data Services, Inc.

Resolved: To approve the agreement with Education Data Services, Inc. to maintain and coordinate the district's participation in the New York/Long Island Cooperative bids in the amount of \$10,850 effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

Resolved: To approve of the disposal of the following inventory items:
Snapper Lawn Mower - Middle School Singer Sewing Machine - High School

Approval of Agreement for Special Education Services

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Port Washington UFSD for Special Education Services for 2 parentally-placed students with disabilities attending Vincent Smith and St. Peter of Alcantara School located within the Port Washington UFSD and residing within the North

Shore School District

Comments from the Public

There was no public in attendance at this point of the meeting.

Old Business

The Board had a brief discussion on the issue of tax caps. Dr. Melnick reported that there has been no response from State legislators to the position paper sent on the issue of tax caps. He asked if the Board would be interested in sending a second mailing and the Board agreed.

New Business

Trustee Beyer asked for permission from the Board to sign a letter put together by a group of school board presidents and sent to Governor Paterson. She declined to sign until getting permission. The Board granted her permission to sign this and any letters sent by the group in the future.

Adjournment

At 11:15 pm on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Glassman and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk