

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
February 26, 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 Webb 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, matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 8:00 pm on motion of Trustee Glassman 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 10 people in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, the minutes of February 5, 2009 were approved as amended.

Approval of Treasurer's Reports

On motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the treasurer's reports of November 1, 2008 through November 30, 2008 and December 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported on high school student course selection for next year; he will be sharing information about courses canceled due to enrollment and class sizes as the process moves further along in building the master schedule. He reported that as a result of the current economic crisis, applications to SUNY colleges have increased dramatically making it more difficult to gain entrance. He reported that 3 of the 4 students involved in an automobile accident earlier in the week were fine the one student who sustained injuries is expected to make a full recovery; this incident has resulted in a number of parents requesting the district revisit the open-campus policy. He reported on the status of moving to the new electronic election management system for the budget vote this year and highlighted the benefits of the reporting components of the program for determining the percentage of select groups who are not participating in the election. A study has shown a large decrease in the number of residents who are coming out to vote over the last few years. He said it is important for residents to understand that if the budget does not pass, contingency will require us to reduce in the areas of community services, security, extra curricular and interscholastic programs and community use of buildings and grounds.

Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public

Charles Sharkey, SGO Representative reported on events and activities at the high school including sports night; high school band concerto night scheduled for March 6th featuring soloists by Alex Appel, Alana DeStefano, Naveetha Nandakumar, CJ Osman and Constantine Schidlovsky; and the upcoming LI Math Fair which will take place at Hofstra on March 6th.

Lisa Cassel, Glen Head, asked what budget cuts have been made in the security line. She said security is of great concern to her and she does not favor any cuts in that area. She suggested adding to the security already in place and suggested a system of buzzing in visitors and monitors in the office. She also mentioned that she has heard the security guards have already had their hours reduced. Ms. Cassel also shared that it is her understanding that the video from the camera behind Glenwood Landing is not being reviewed and the camera behind the middle school is not operating.

President Beyer responded that there have been no cuts to the security budget. She did explain that the security line of the budget will be discussed as it is a high cost area. She went on to say that the State puts a cap on what retirees can earn and many of our security guards are retired police officers; the reduction in hours would only be as a result of them reaching their maximum earnings. Trustee Beyer also encouraged community members to come out to the meetings and let their comments be heard in regard to the security issue or any other budget related question. She also suggested residents who are unable to attend the budget review meetings e-mail any concerns or comments to Dr. Melnick or the Trustees and they will be part of the discussion.

Dr. Melnick responded to the camera questions by saying the video is reviewed at the central administration building and the camera at the middle school is definitely operational. He also stated that if the budget does not pass, the State will impose cuts in the area of security.

Ms. Cassel, asked for clarification of the Everyday Math Program which she understood would be in all grade levels.

Dr. Melnick responded it was begun in the K-1-2 grades and will be expanded by one year over the next 3 years to add grades 3-4-5.

Paul Eschause, Glen Head, asked if there have been discussions with the teachers union in regard to a salary freeze for one year to minimize the economic impact on the tax payer similar to what is being done in private industry. He also asked if the teachers would be asked to take a freeze on a voluntary basis. He questioned whether class sizes could be increased in order to reduce the number of teachers employed by the district.

Dr. Melnick responded that the Board is not legally allowed to discuss collective bargaining in public. The current contract is a 4 year contract which was settled prior to the economic crisis. He explained that the teachers did take a 6 month salary freeze a couple of years ago and that over the past 10 years teachers' salaries have gone from the 90th percentile to the 70th percentile and contributions to insurance premiums have risen to 20%. He went on to say that salary agreements have been conservative compared to surrounding districts even if this is not comparable to private industry.

Trustee Beyer addressed the issue of class size. She reminded the public that during her tenure on the Board, class size has gone from below the county average to at the county average. The Board had made a decision not to go above the county average but will have further discussion on class size as they finalize the budget. She also noted that North Shore is the only district that has a clause in the teacher's current contract to allow reopening of negotiations if a tax cap is imposed.

Trustee Webb said the Board understands the concerns of the public and are actively looking for relief for the taxpayer. He stated this is a prudent budget while trying to maintain the core program and quality of our schools. He went on to say there is tremendous pressure on the Board and they are trying to look prudently over the long term to maintain the strength of education. He reiterated this is the lowest budget increase in the last ten years.

Mr. Eschasse clarified his concerns and stated he has always been involved in the community and has been supportive of the budget and the superintendent.

Trustee Beyer added that there are many pressures on the Board and they are doing their best to bring in a responsible budget; many community members do not want us to cut security. She went on to say they have made many cuts to the budget already and more cuts will be made, more touch choices will be made as well. She ended by saying that she and Trustee Webb will be attending a legislation conference in Albany where they will be lobbying for changes to relieve some of the pressure on the tax payer.

Ms. Cassel, said she is not in favor of increasing class size. She said it is difficult for teachers to meet all the needs of students when the class size is too large.

Trustee Pombar voiced his concern about using data from the electronic election management system to contact community members.

Dr. Melnick responded this is public information and anyone has the right to the poll list throughout the day.

Regular Business

Budget Review

After the budget review of February 5, 2009, the budget currently stands at \$83,959,411.89 or a 3.739% increase from the 2008-2009 budget. The Board discussed three sections of the budget including Transportation, Community Service, Employee Benefits and Debt Service. The Board reviewed each line of these sections of the budget and discussed reduction recommendations by Dr. Melnick. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to reduce the amount in transportation trips by \$11,000; Garage Maintenance-Professional Conferences by \$2,000; Tools & Equipment by \$1,000; eliminate \$8,000 for a part-time clerical position at the garage; reduce Social Security Program by \$40,000; \$10,000 reduction from Social Security Administrative costs, Health Insurance Administrative Costs, and Tax Anticipation Notes. The total amount deducted at the meeting of February 26, 2009 was \$276,816 bringing the grand total of cuts to \$794,270. This brings the budget to \$83,682,595 or a 3.397% increase over last year's budget. Dr. Melnick noted once again that this amount is below the contingency cap of 4%. The Board began the discussion on the comeback items of personnel want ads and security. On Dr. Melnick's recommendation it was decided not to cut the line of personnel want ads any further than the \$15,000 which was already removed. Dr. Melnick also recommended the security line be kept at the level it is. The Board had a lengthy discussion about the security line. They asked that Dr. Melnick provide them with a job audit of the security guards to include job descriptions and what type of training they receive, an incident report and the number of security guards employed. The Board recognizes the need for security in the schools and that these needs have evolved since security guards were first employed. They would like to hear from community members on this issue and reminded the public that on March 12 the Board will continue the review of security. The budget will be adopted on March 26.

Policy Review

The Board had a discussion about Policy #1230, Public Participation at Board Meetings, specifically the way to handle comments and questions from the public. There was consensus on the Board that it is important for the community to feel their concerns are heard and for Trustees to be able to respond directly to residents who have taken the time to come out to meetings. The current policy allows for the President to decide when it would be appropriate to respond to a comment or question or to take it under advisement after the meeting. The Board decided to leave the policy as written. The Board also discussed #1511, Advertising in the Schools specifically the sponsorship of outside agencies in exchange for exclusive use of their

products or advertising on a school owned item. The Board decided to reword the policy to give the Board and Superintendent the authorization to review and make exceptions to the policy as written. Finally, they discussed #1810, Gifts to School Personnel specifically if the \$75 limit on gifts, set by the General Municipal Law, is a per person limit and whether a class gift can exceed that amount. Dr. Melnick will draft a regulation to go along with the policy to clarify.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Cassel, clarified that her suggestion was to add a buzzer system to the schools, not to replace security guards with a buzzer system.

Anne Sheerin, Glen Head, expressed her feeling that there was too much focus on informing the current eighth graders about the ninth grade experience this year. She said the students felt they were not able to enjoy eighth grade because all they talk about is ninth grade.

Committee and Conference Reports

Trustee Glassman forwarded a written report to the Board from the Internal Auditor Sub-Committee. She stated that auditors James Pappas and Rhonda Meserole expressed how impressed they are with our district's controls. She said it was an excellent report.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items D through G.

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

Prior to approving the action items, Trustee Pombar asked that the record show that the expense for the Victorian Studio Windows will be paid with contributions from the Viking Foundation

Personnel

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.6) leave of absence for Janice Chen, Biology, effective February 23, 2009 through March 15, 2009

Increment for Advanced Study - Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Pamela Costello, Art, from Step 20 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 20 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Jessica Hoffman, Music, from Step 5 of the BA+15 salary schedule, to Step 5 of the BA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2008 (Jessica earned these credits prior to July 1, 2008 but just submitted her transcripts)

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Jessica Hoffman, Music, from Step 5 of the BA+30 salary schedule, to Step 5 of MA salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Andrew Richter, Health, from Step 6 of the MA+30 salary schedule, to Step 6 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Marnie Schleifman, Elementary, from Step 8 of the MA+60 salary schedule, to Step 8 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

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 February 17, 2009 through March 16, 2009

Teacher Overage

Resolved: To approve a .2 overage for Jessica Zima, Biology, effective March 9, 2009 through June 30, 2009

Appointment - Non-Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Beryl Hall, Assistant Bus Dispatcher, effective February 23, 2009

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Heather Berke	Elementary
Geri Blau	Elementary
Alexis Bocchi	Elementary
Leo Carlucci	Security Aide
Nicole Catapano	Elementary
Kim Deveaux	Elementary
Megan Gebhardt	Elementary
Diane Lorenzen Lanning	Elementary
Paul Miceli	Security Aide
Edwin Mora	Elementary

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Advisors/Coaches

Resolved: To approve the following extra curricular activity advisors:

	<u>Advisors</u>
<u>Middle School</u>	
Talent Club	Keri Crocco
	<u>Coaches</u>
<u>Baseball</u>	
Varsity	Dominic Gatti
Assistant	Robert Trenkle
Junior Varsity	Sean Austin
<u>Men's Lacrosse</u>	
Varsity	Aaron Kozlowski
Assistant	Joseph Gallina
Junior Varsity	John Savage

Women's Lacrosse

Varsity Kellie Moritz
Assistant Daniel Agovino
Junior Varsity Megan McCormack

Softball

Varsity Lauren Gotta
Assistant Michelle Lever
Junior Varsity Thomas Granieri

Men's Tennis

Varsity Brian Kline
Junior Varsity Craig Roslund

Golf

Varsity Andrew Richter

Men's Spring Track

Varsity Edward Corona

Women's Spring Track

Varsity Neal Levy
Assistant Clifton Schultz

Supervision - \$37.45/hr.

John Vigliotti

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$23,569, effective February 26, 2009

Acceptance of Bid for Victorian Studio Windows & Doors

Resolved: To accept the low bid from Pioneer Building Materials Corp. for Victorian Studio Window and Doors in the amount of \$15,520

Approval of Health Services

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Huntington UFSD for 2 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending St. Patrick for the 2008-09 school year at a cost of \$629.28 per student, as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of Special Education Services

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

Old Business

Trustee Sharkey has been asked by residents for a list of items the Suozzi Committee is interested in for centralizing services.

Trustee Pombar informed the Board he would like to join one of the working committees of the Suozzi group. He is reviewing the list and will e-mail Dr. Melnick with his choice.

New Business

Trustee Beyer noted there will be a taxpayer rally on February 28 at Ellmont Park in Farmingdale sponsored by the Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association. A letter was received from Senator Carl Marcellino in reference to the MTA payroll tax that Governor Paterson is seeking which would result in a 33% payroll tax on all employers.

Trustee Kolkhorst suggested a newsletter for parents to include questions submitted by parents and answers from the district.

Adjournment

At 10:05 pm on motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Glassman and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk