

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 28, 2008

The meeting was called to order by president Beyer at 7:00 pm in the High School Alumni Room. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Pombar, Sharkey, Vollmer and Webb. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Mr. Chlebicki and Ms. Buatsi.

Executive Session

At 7:00 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, the medical employment history of a particular person or corporation, collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law) and information relating to current or future investigations or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement, if disclosed.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the minutes of January 31, 2008 were approved as amended.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, the Treasurer's Report of November 1, 2007 through November 30, 2007 was approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported on the successful trips of the Foreign Language students to Spain and the Music department to Eastern Europe. He also spoke about the recent news about payment to legal firms and explained that our District was served with a subpoena for records but noted that North Shore has never paid our lawyers on payroll, they are always paid through a retainer. He went on to say that the District never had legal work done by attorney Lawrence Reich. Finally, he reported on the meeting on the proposed 8th and 9th grade curriculum.

Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public

Alex Romano, SGO Representative reported on the activities and events in the high school, including, sports night, rescheduling of the talent show and the next Relay for Life Team Captain's meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 4 at 7:00 pm.

There were no comments from the public.

Technology Report

Mr. Robert Wihynk, Director of Technology, updated the Board on the status of technology throughout the district. He explained that the District has come very far in keeping up on the latest technology with the installation of SmartBoards and use of Video Conferencing.

The goal for next year is to have a SmartBoard in every classroom. Mr. Wihnyk also highlighted some new technology introduced into the market.

Foundations in Learning Program

Mr. Marc Ferris, Middle School Principal, Mr. Tom Korb, Director of Special Education and Mrs. Barbara Cooper, Administrator for Special Education, gave an overview of the existing Foundations in Learning (FIL) Program and their recommendations for changes in the program for next year. A written report was given to the Board prior to the meeting outlining the proposed changes. Dr. Melnick explained that middle school parents had identified a gap in special education services and he feels this program will meet the needs of all the students. He went on to explain that there are 2 additional special education teachers budgeted for next year to support this program. The Board thanked Mr. Ferris, Mrs. Cooper and Mr. Korb for the comprehensive report and discussed specifics of the program. It was recommended that the written report be made available to parents.

Comments from the Public

Mary Ellen Cuomo, Sea Cliff, thanked Mr. Ferris, Mr. Korb and Mrs. Cooper for their hard work and asked some specific questions about the program. Trustee Beyer requested that Ms. Cuomo meet with Mr. Ferris individually to receive any additional information she required.

Kirk Manogue, Sea Cliff, expressed his concern on the strain this program may cause on the main stream teachers especially with the changes proposed to the 8th grade curriculum.

Dr. Melnick responded that some concerns were expressed at a meeting last Tuesday night and there will be changes to the proposed curriculum. There will be another meeting the week of March 10 to review the new changes.

Beth Greenberg, Sea Cliff, thanked everyone for the excellent presentation and for addressing the needs of the kids.

Anne Sherin, Glen Head, asked if Mr. Wihnyk would give her some information on the whether students prefer PCs or MACs.

Jeff Lavender, Sea Cliff, expressed his satisfaction with what is being proposed for the middle school special education program.

Budget Review

The Board completed its review of the budget and discussed the proposed swim program. It was decided to place this item on the comeback list until a survey of students can be completed to see if there would be enough interest to run the program. After the survey is completed, the Board will make a decision about keeping it in the budget; this would be a reduction of \$45,661 if eliminated. With reductions in Social Security, Health Insurance, Medicare Reimbursement for Retirees and Tax Anticipation Notes Interest as well as the removal of the amount budgeted to complete the middle school/high school phase of the traffic/safety study, the Board removed a total of \$2,633,775 at this meeting bringing the grand total removed to \$2,819,975.

Participation in Legal School Funding Initiative

The Board had a brief discussion about supporting the upcoming Education and Taxpayer Rally to restore cuts to Long Island education funding; Nassau Suffolk School Boards and the NYS School Boards Assn. are supporting it as well as many local school districts. Trustees who wish to attend the rally should do so on their own and not as a representative of the Board.

Trustee Beyer reported on a meeting of the Suburban School Funding Group; they will be reforming their Constitution and By Laws and a copy will be sent to Trustees.

Appropriation of Repair Reserve

The Board decided to table this discussion until the next meeting on March 6, 2008.

Committee and Conference Reports

There were no reports. Trustee Sharkey will be sending a written report for a meeting she and Trustee Beyer had with Bill Madden, the Internal Claims Auditor.

Regular Business

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items G-Q.

On motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, it was:

Personnel

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes of Donna Reihing, Elementary, effective June 30, 2008

Resignation - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Christopher Edom, Elementary, effective June 30, 2008

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Elizabeth Griffin, LOTE, effective June 20, 2008

Leave of Absence - Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for Nicole Larkin, Social Studies, effective September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Increment for Advanced Study

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Maria Giorando, Special Education, from Step 5 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective January 28, 2008

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Madel Soriano, Spanish, from Step 2 of the BA salary schedule to Step 2 of the BA+15 salary schedule, effective January 28, 2008

Part-time Appointments - Certified

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.15) appointment for Nancy Reisert, Art, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 28, 2008 through June 30, 2008, partial replacement for Lauren Vione (assumed M. Archer position through June 30, 2008)

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.2) appointment for Aimee Johnson, Art, on Step 8 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 28, 2008 through June 30, 2008, partial replacement for Lauren Vione (assumed M. Archer position through June 30, 2008)

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve of regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Elisabeth Donovan, Special Education, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 26, 2008 through March 31, 2008, replacing Kristi Keingstein (FMLA)

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Nora Haagenson, English, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule effective February 11, 2008 through March 11, 2008, replacing Rachael Donnatin (FMLA)

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Kimberly Mulligan, Special Education, on Step 4 of the BA+15 salary schedule, effective February 3, 2008 through March 28, 2008 replacing Michelle Stiffler (FMLA)

Appointments - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Aris Antonopoulos, School Monitor, High School, effective February 12, 2008, replacing Christen Connors (moved to teacher aide position)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Christen Connors, Teacher Aide, High School, effective February 25, 2008, replacing Julia Soare (resigned)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Yrsa Woodsworth, School Monitor, High School, effective February 11, 2008, replacing Dee Langone (moved to a teacher aide position)

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| David Frazer | Secondary |
| John Giardino | Secondary |
| Kara Gregorius | Secondary |
| Lindsay Harwood | Elementary |
| Michael Heit | Elementary |
| Melissa Koblin | Secondary |
| Lisa LaBella | Elementary |
| Jenna Peppaceno | Elementary |
| Ryan O'Shea | Secondary |
| Tara Southard | Elementary |

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Club Advisor

Resolved: To approve the following Extra Curricular Activity Club Advisor effective November 8, 2008

Middle School

Home & Careers Club Jeanne Incantalupo

Adoption of Computer Controls Policy

Resolved: To approve policy #6610 on Computer Controls, effective February 28, 2008

Approval of Claim for Reimbursement

Resolved: To approve the claim for reimbursement from Melissa Frank for expenses for which a prior purchase order was not completed

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$76,764 effective February 28, 2008

Approval of Agreement with Tele-Tech Associates, Inc. for Review of the District's Telephone Invoices

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Tele-Tech Associates, Inc. to review North Shore's telephone invoices and documents for the purpose of securing any credits/refunds

Approval of Health Services

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Great

Neck Union Free School District for 1 student residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Sacred Heart Academy for the 2007-08 school year at a cost of 809.92 per student, as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Hempstead Union Free School District for students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Sacred Heart Academy for the 2007-08 school year at a cost of \$940 per student, as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of Change Orders

Resolved: To approve change order Fuel #1 from American Environmental Assessment Corp., for the Transportation Facility, in the amount of \$66,013 (additional)

Resolved: To approve change order HVAC #2 from ARC Mechanical Corp., for additions and alterations at the Middle School, in the amount of \$2,100 (additional)

Resolved: To approve change order Electric #2 from Madhue Contracting, Inc. for additions and alterations at the Middle School, in the amount of \$2,827.44 (additional)

Resolved: To approve change order Electric #3 from Madhue Contracting, Inc., for additions and alterations at the Middle School in the amount of \$15,067.72 (additional)

Resolved: To approve change order Electric #5 from Madhue Contracting, Inc. for additions and alterations at the Middle School in the amount of \$1,645.58 (additional)

Award of Contracts - Pupil Transportation

Resolved: To award contracts for pupil transportation to Dell Transportation at a cost of \$2,497 per pupil per month and \$2,100 per monitor per month as recommended by Frank Meditz per the results from the phone bid of January 22, 2008

Resolved: To award contracts for pupil transportation to the low bidders from the bid of February 8, 2008 for the 2007-08 school year as per attached list

Approval of Sale & Disposal of Phone Equipment

Resolved: To approve of the sale and disposal of Comdial phone equipment, no longer used in the District, as per attached sheet

Approval of Special Education Consultant

Resolved: To approve the agreement with Richard J. Caron Foundation (dba Caron Treatment Centers) to provide Hospital Instruction for the 2007-08 school year

Approval of Special Education Services

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

Old Business

Dr. Melnick briefed the Board on a meeting with 8th and 9th grade parents in regard to changes in the curriculum beginning next year. He explained that they will continue with the plan to offer Algebra in 8th grade with an option to opt out and will investigate the possibility of making the 9th grade experience a Pilot Program giving parents the chance to apply for acceptance into the program. A second meeting will be scheduled for the week of March 10 to update parents on the recommended changes. Trustee Beyer reminded the Board that they

have no role in determining curriculum, the Superintendent is hired to set educational programs, their role is to make sure the District is in line with the Mission Statement and that policies are followed. Although the Board does not vote on these types of matters, Dr. Melnick said he would not take action without consensus of the Board.

Dr. Melnick reported that LIPA has come back with an offer of \$600,000 grant or rebate and will meet with counsel in executive session next week to discuss the offer.

New Business

Trustee Pombar requested that on a future agenda, there be a discussion about reducing the amount of paper that is generated for the Board.

Adjournment

At 11:45 pm on motion of Trustee Webb and seconded by Trustee Vollmer and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk