

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Minutes  
February 5, 2009

The meeting was called to order by president Beyer at 7:45 pm in the High School Library. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Kolkhorst, Pombar and Sharkey. Also present were Dr. Melnick and Mr. Chlebicki. Trustee Webb and Ms. Buatsi were absent.

**Executive Session**

At 7:45 pm on motion of president Beyer and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board moved to go into Executive Session in the High School Faculty Room for discussions regarding collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law) and matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed.

At 8:00 pm on motion of Trustee Sharkey 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 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 Genovesi and all in favor, the minutes of January 29, 2009 were approved as amended.

**Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public**

Charles Sharkey, SGO Representative reported on events and activities at the high school including that the Interact Club has raised over \$2,000 for their water well project and a follow up on the Key Club safety day at Glenwood Landing. He noted that last year a service project was done at Glen Head and next year a project will be done at Sea Cliff Elementary. He also reported that the SGO will be opening a school store.

There were no comments from the public.

**Regular Business**

**Budget Review**

After the budget review of January 29, 2009, the budget currently stands at \$84,117,085.89 or a 3.934% increase from the 2008-2009 budget. The Board discussed three sections of the budget including Regular Instruction, Special Education and Other Instruction. Dr. Melnick recommended reductions in some of these areas. The Board reviewed each line of these sections of the budget and discussed the reduction recommendations by Dr. Melnick. As the Board reviewed the budget Dr. Melnick noted those items that would need to be removed under a contingency budget. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to make reductions in the areas of student aides; other expenses in the areas of math, foreign language, theater, guidance, music, health, home economics and guidance; physical education dinners; supplies; audio visuals; library books; private & parochial textbooks; BOCES performing arts; and new SmartBoards. The total amount deducted at the meeting of February 5, 2009 was \$157,674 bringing the grand total of cuts to \$517,454. This brings the budget to \$83,959,411 or a 3.75% increase over last year's budget which is below the contingency cap of 4%. Dr. Melnick noted that this amount along with the nearly \$500,000 deducted prior to the Board receiving the preliminary draft of the budget, makes this the most conservative budget in recent years. He

went on to explain that if the budget were to fail and the district were forced to be on a contingency budget, the Board would lose control over what types of items are removed. He reminded the public that the Board will be having one more budget review on February 26. On March 12 they will review the comeback items of security and personnel want ads and he encouraged the public to attend that meeting when the Board will also have a philosophical discussion about cutting program and increasing class size as well as the issue of decreasing security if deeper cuts need to be made. The budget will be adopted on March 26.

### **Update Regarding Communication with Parents**

Dr. Melnick explained that at the Board's retreat in the fall, Trustees requested we continue to focus on effective communication among all constituents more specifically the perception that parents are reluctant to communicate with school personnel for fear of retribution. A letter in this regard was sent home to parents along with a communication guide for their child's school. A similar letter was shared with faculty and Dr. Melnick will report back to the Board after the faculty and parent organizations have met to discuss the issue.

### **Committee and Conference Reports**

There were no committee or conference reports.

### **Comments from the Public**

Kevin McBride, Glen Head, asked the Board to explain what it would mean for the district to be on a contingency budget.

Dr. Melnick explained a contingency budget has a cap of 4% over the prior year's budget. He also explained the types of items that would not be allowed under a contingency budget including all new technology equipment. He went on to say that if the budget fails the Board may bring it up for a second vote which costs approximately \$13,000 or they may decide to forgo a second vote and move to contingency. He reminded the public that the budget now stands lower than the contingency cap but includes items that would need to be removed if the district is forced to have a contingent budget.

Lisa Cassel, Glen Head, asked for clarification of the proposed changes in the special education program for next year, specifically changes for grades K-3.

Dr. Melnick explained there would be no changes in grades K-3 and asked her to give either him or SEPTA president Dawn Blacharski a call to go over the details.

Dale Tymnski, Sea Cliff, told the Board that there are many rumors in the schools about the proposed changes to the special education program and specifically it is rumored there will be large class sizes.

Dr. Melnick stated there is no intention to raise class size and asked that anyone who hears these rumors encourage parents to call him for clarification. He went on to explain that class size in the primary grades averages 18 and in the middle and high school the average is 24.

There was some discussion between the public and the Board as to the benefit of having additional meetings to address these rumors. It was decided Dr. Melnick would send an e-mail to parents clarifying any misconceptions.

Ms. Cassel, Glen Head, also expressed her concern about cutting the security budget. She considers security in the schools to be light and does not see how it can be cut.

Dr. Melnick responded that at the last meeting the Board put security on the comeback list of items to be reviewed more closely. He encouraged Ms. Cassel and community members to come to the March 12 meeting when this portion of the budget will be discussed so the Board can hear their concerns. Trustee Beyer added if major cuts are needed, the security line represents a large expenditure in the budget and cuts there will not affect program so the Board must take a close look at it. She reiterated how important it is for the public to come to the meeting and let their concerns be heard before the Board makes a decision.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items D through F

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

Personnel

Increments for Advanced Study - Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Rosea Filone, English, from Step 13 of the MA+45 salary schedule to Step 13 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Ann Koch, Foreign Language, From Step 25 of the MA salary schedule to Step 25 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Madel Soriano, Spanish (LOTE), from Step 3 of the BA+15 salary schedule, to Step 3 of the BA+30 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Lynn Volp, Social Studies from Step 18 of the MA+60 salary schedule, to Step 18 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Change of Status - Certified

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Krista Hoffman, Biology, from a part-time (.4) appointment to a part-time (.4) and a .6 regular substitute leave replacement appointment, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule effective February 23, 2009

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Frank Mauro, Physical Education, to extend his (.7) appointment effective February 13, 2009 through June 30, 2009

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment-Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Jennifer Lewis, Special Education, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule effective February 23, 2009 through June 30, 2009

Appointment

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Janice Nunziata, Coordinator of Health Services, effective February 2, 2009

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

Resolved: To approve the addition of Damien Cabrera, Secondary Teacher, to the per diem substitute list

Approval of Extra Curricular Activities Advisors

Resolved: To approve the following extra curricular activity advisors:

High School

Dance Club	Rachael Brown*
Mock Trial	Ronald Schwartz

Entrepreneurial Club Norma DiDamo  
(School Store)  
Environmental Club Jessica Zima  
\*removing Charlee Cook as co-advisor

Middle School

School Store Robert Hert  
Neelima Reddy  
Ski Club Daniel Chemnitz  
French Olympiad Lillian Rubin

Glen Head

Math Olympiads Van Grasso

Acceptance of Donation from the Glenwood Landing SCA to the Glenwood Landing School

Resolved: To accept the donation from the Glenwood Landing SCA to sponsor a fourth grade trip to Lincoln Center on May 21, 2009. Donation includes the cost of the program and transportation at an approximate value of \$4,100

Approval of Special Education Consultants/ Service Providers

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Lisa Guiliano, Special Education Teacher, for participation at CPSE Meetings, for the 2008-2009 school year

Resolved: To approve an agreement with RCM Health Care Services for Occupational Therapy services for the 2008-2009 school year

**Comments from the Public**

There was no public present at this point of the meeting.

**Old Business**

Trustee Beyer noted that during the policy discussion at the last meeting the Board decided to raise the cost of copying material for FOIL requests. After further investigation, it was found that there is a cap of .25 cents per page for copying charges therefore the policy cannot be changed.

Trustee Genovesi asked Trustee Pombar to clarify a statement he made at the last meeting when he stated he was not against a 4% property tax cap. She wanted to be sure that the public is aware that the Board is not in favor of a 4% property tax cap and cautioned against Trustees sharing their personal views when acting in an official capacity. Trustee Pombar responded he did not intend to give the impression he is in favor of a property tax cap and in his statement he said he couldn't support a cap without mandate relief. He stated this was his personal view and understands the Board's position of not being in favor of a property tax cap.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment**

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

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk