

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
March 26, 2009

The meeting was called to order by president Beyer at 7:00 pm in the High School Library. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Kolkhorst, Pombar, Sharkey 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 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 and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

Audit Committee Meeting

At 7:15 pm on motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and convened a meeting of the Audit Committee.

At 8:00 pm, the Board resumed the regular meeting. There were approximately 15 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Recognition of Students

Dr. Melnick and president Beyer recognized student Robert Grabher for being the Recipient of the James J. Regan Male Student Athlete Award and for Winning the Nassau County Wrestling Championship. They also recognized student Samantha Nadel for her achievement of being the new record holder of the New York State 5000m as well as the national freshman record holder.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Glassman and all in favor, the minutes of March 12, 2009 were approved as amended.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Webb and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the treasurer's report of January 1, 2009 through January 31, 2009 was approved

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported on the spring athletic season, college admissions, faculty for the ninth grade experience, budget information gatherings, update on the search for a new Director of Technology, screening process for the Sea Cliff School Principal and a joint meeting of the MS/HS PTA & SEPTA.

Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public

Charles Sharkey, SGO Representative, reported on events and activities at the high school including the upcoming spring play Measure for Measure.

There were no comments from the public.

Regular Business

Update: District Goal 1

Robert Chlebicki & Carol Smyth updated the Board on District Goal 1. A written report was sent to the Board prior to the meeting which outlined the progress made since the first version presented at a prior meeting. A plan of action was presented which included information on the partnership with 21st Century Skills and there was a demonstration that focused on the restructuring of assessments.

The Board had a brief discussion and thanked Mr. Chlebicki and Ms. Smyth for their presentation.

Tutoring Policy

Dr. Melnick met with a group of teachers from each building to discuss the issue of tutoring throughout the district. He would like to do a study to get actual data of how many students are being tutored, the rationale for tutoring and who is doing the tutoring. The present policy does not allow a teacher to tutor a child in his/her class, however, the practice of students being tutored by teachers in the same building is allowed and can pose a conflict in regard to placement for the following year. Dr. Melnick recommends writing a regulation to go along with the policy to address issues such as (1) elementary teachers would not tutor students in the grade below the grade they are teaching; (2) any tutoring would need to be funneled through the building principal on the elementary level and through guidance on the secondary level. Principals and Guidance Counselors would then be able to make sure tutoring was in order and that parents are aware of the resources within the school. If a tutor is warranted, a list of tutors, their certification and contact information would be maintained to assist parents in finding a suitable tutor.

The Board had a discussion about how the study would be designed and expressed concern that the study may not reflect an accurate picture. There was also concern that keeping a list may be perceived as an endorsement or recommendation from the District. Trustees felt knowing the motivation for tutoring would be an important component of the study, but also expressed that parents feel this is a private decision and they may not be comfortable having the school intervene. It was suggested that a protocol and/or guidelines for parents and teachers be prepared. After the discussion, Dr. Melnick recommended having this as a task for next year with the study done early in the year. There was consensus on the Board to move in this direction.

Comments from the Public

Christina Schatz, Sea Cliff asked why there is concern that teachers are tutoring students in their building. She said she has not heard that parents are concerned and stated the issue of a teacher recommending placement for the following year is common practice. She also felt deciding to tutor your child should be a parental choice.

Dr. Melnick responded the issue varies by building. Trustee Beyer responded that the purpose of the study would also determine why there seems to be an abundance of tutoring.

Legislative Issues

Dr. Melnick and Shelly Newman put together a list of legislative issues of concern for the Board to review in an effort to inform the public of issues directly affecting the schools and impacting the budget. The Board discussed which issues they were interested in advocating for. The Board agreed that the MTA payroll tax would be beneficial to community members, but also agreed that if imposed school districts should be exempt. They further decided to put the list of legislative issues on the District web site and to draft sample letters linked to each issue to enable community members to contact legislators directly. During the discussion, it was suggested that perhaps the parent organizations throughout the district could coordinate such efforts and review which legislative issues are currently in need of attention as part of their agenda. Another suggestion was that the call to action e-mails sent from NYSSBA be forwarded to the community.

Prior to adopting the budget, Trustee Webb asked to make a statement in which he said that members of the community, some struggling because of the state of the economy, had expressed to him their view that the upcoming budget should include a reopening of the teachers' contract to obtain a pay freeze from the teachers. He said that it was therefore important for the community to understand why reopening the teachers' contract is not an option. First there is the practical matter that the regional and state heads of the teachers' unions have instructed their members not to reopen contracts (the Glen Cove teachers refused the request of the Glen Cove Board for a pay freeze) and so any request to our teachers would not only be fruitless but would needlessly antagonize our teachers. After two prudent contract settlements, our teachers are now paid at about the level appropriate for North Shore, that is, around the 75th percentile in Nassau. More important, we have a close, collegial relation with our teachers, who are our partners in advancing the welfare of the district and improving the education of our children. Due to the prudent and forward-looking financial management of the District by the Board and the Administration, the District is in excellent financial shape to withstand the present turmoil in the state and the nation. We are not in peril, and have no need to reopen the teachers' contract. On the contrary, it should be our strategy at this time, to sustain the educational and budgetary gains we have achieved, to protect class size, compensation of teachers, high morale, and planned repairs and maintenance to insure the safety of our children. We know that we face significant cost increases just down the road, especially in the form of required contributions to the pension system. We should today as in the past plan ahead so as to keep costs in line. Although we should not neglect in any way the struggle of many in our community to make ends meet, we also should not allow the present troubles to be taken out on our children.

Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Pombar and Sharkey each expressed their agreement with Trustee Webb's statement. Trustees stated that the Board and Administration is always planning for the future and preparing for expenses which may be coming; the Capital Reserve Fund, Energy Performance Contract and Transportation depot are just some of the initiatives that are providing long term savings. Trustees recognize how difficult it is for members of the community and were mindful of this when reviewing the budget.

Dr. Melnick added that he also agreed with Trustee Webb's statement and reminded the public that the teachers have given back in their last 2 contracts in the form of higher percentage paid into health insurance premiums, longer school day and school year and their salaries are now ranked at about 70% county wide. He also stated that due to the Board's prudent and steady course the district is in good fiscal shape. At the community's urging, they have maintained class sizes and program and have brought in a budget at a 3.39% increase; lower than the contingency cap. He noted that although some surrounding districts will have a budget increase of 1% or less, they will need to lay off teachers and administrators to get to that

point. He explained it is important for the community to understand that the difference between the adopted budget (which will maintain program while keeping local control of what is in the budget) and contingency is approximately \$2 per month for the average homeowner.

Trustee Beyer reiterated what was expressed by fellow Trustees and Dr. Melnick and added the district has a mutually respectful relationship with their unions. She stated that the Board has been fiscally responsible and does not need to take drastic action in order to present a conservative budget, however, she recognized that the Board may need to discuss this issue in the future as they continue to act in the best interest of the community.

On motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Genovesi the Board was polled as to their vote on the adoption of the 2009-2010 budget, with all Trustees voting for and none voting against, it was:

Adoption of 2009-2010 Budget

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget in the amount of \$83,682,596 for the 2009-2010 school year be adopted for submission to the qualified voters of the School District at the annual election to be held on May 19, 2009.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items E-R.

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

Approval of Resolution to Authorize an Expenditure from the Capital Reserve Fund

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District be authorized to expend out of the previously established Capital Reserve Fund a sum not to exceed \$3,010,824, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of (1) replacing ceiling tiles at North Shore High School, North Shore Middle School, Glen Head Elementary School and Glenwood Landing Elementary School; (2) roof Replacement at the Middle School, and (3) boiler replacement at the Middle School, including all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus, and incidental costs thereof.

Approval of Resolution for the Annual School District Meeting & Election

Resolved: To approve a resolution for the annual school district meeting & election to be held May 19, 2009

Personnel

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Jaclyn Kepke, English, effective March 30, 2009 through June 30, 2009

Increment for Advanced Study - Certified

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

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Julie Uanino, Elementary, From Step 3 of the BA+15 salary schedule, to Step 3 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 2, 2009

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Damien Cabrera, English, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule effective March 23, 2009 through June 30, 2009

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Lynn Leslie, Elementary, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective April 1, 2009 through May 29, 2009,

Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Aimee Ackell	Elementary
Jacob Beck	Physical Education
Melanie Gaffin	Elementary
Nicole Gigante	Elementary
Stefanie Giosa	Elementary
Michael Gordon	Secondary
Jamie Hoffmeister	Elementary
Jeffrey Ian Moore	Secondary
Anne Iveagh	Elementary
Valentina Kalmeta-Thomaidis	Secondary
Justin Pasternak	Secondary
Rebecca Ramsey	Physical Education
Caitlin Uihlein	Secondary
John Worth	Secondary

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Club Advisors & Coaches

Resolved: To approve the following advisors & coaches to the list of extra curricular activity clubs

Advisor

High School

National Foreign Language	Chris Whalley
Honor Society	

Coaches

High School

Men's Spring Track (*Pro-rated)	Avinash Thomas
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Middle School

Baseball

8th grade	William Melillo
8th grade	Dennis McEvoy
7 th grade	Joseph Bonaventure
7 th grade	Frank Mauro

Girls' Lacrosse

8th grade	Jean Hodermarsky
7th grade	Kelly Ater

Boys' Lacrosse

8th grade	Jeffrey Butt
7th grade	John Pace
Third team	Christopher Vitucci

Softball

8th grade	Jaclyn Grillo
7th grade	Christine Punch
Third team	Keith Freund

Spring Track

John Jackson
Donna Jean Welch
Greg Perles

Gymnastics

Melissa Vassallo

Supervision

Jethro Cardona

Approval of Concert Accompanists

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

Jonathan Bley

Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement Between The North Shore Schools Federated Employees-Secretarial Unit and The North Shore Central School District

Resolved: that the Board of Education herewith ratifies a Memorandum of Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and the North Shore Federated Employees Secretarial Unit, which Memorandum provides the terms and conditions of a labor agreement between the parties effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2013

Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement Between United Public Service Employees Union-Part Time Bus Drivers Unit and The North Shore Central School District

Resolved: that the Board of Education herewith ratifies a Memorandum of Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and the United Public Service Employees Union - Part-time Bus Drivers Unit which Memorandum provides the terms and conditions of a labor agreement between the parties effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2012

Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement Between United Public Service Employees Union-Cafeteria Unit and The North Shore Central School District

Resolved: that the Board of Education herewith ratifies a Memorandum of Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and the United Public Service Employees Union - Cafeteria Unit which Memorandum provides the terms and conditions of a labor agreement between the parties effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2012

Approval of Agreement with Long Island Fiber Exchange, Inc

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Long Island Fiber Exchange, Inc. (LIFE) for remote data backup service in the amount of \$2,025 per month effective April 1, 2009 through April 1, 2014

Approval of Agreement with CSDNET

Resolved: To approve an agreement with CSDNET for phone maintenance in the amount of \$21,607.00 effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Approval of Agreement with Business Information Solutions

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Business Information Solutions to provide a Textbook Management Database at cost of \$4,875

Approval of Resolution to Participate in a Cooperative Transportation Bid

Resolved: To approve the attached resolution to participate in a cooperative transportation bid

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$118,755, effective March 26, 2009

Approval of Health Services

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Garden City UFSD for 7 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending the Waldorf School for the 2008-09 school year at a cost of \$700.33 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 Hicksville Public Schools for 3 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Our Lady of Mercy School and 6 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Holy Trinity School for the 2008-09 school year at a cost of \$512.12 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

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Old Business

Trustee Sharkey supplied an updated list of old business items. There was no additional old business discussed.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment

At 9:45 pm on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk