

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
April 10, 2008

The meeting was called to order by president Beyer at 7:15 pm in the Glenwood Landing Theater. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Pombar, Sharkey, Vollmer and Webb. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Mr. Chlebicki and Ms. Buatsi.

**Executive Session**

At 7:15 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 Glenwood Landing principal's office for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation.

**Audit Committee Meeting**

At 7:30 pm on motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Vollmer 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 10 people in the audience.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Glassman and all in favor, the minutes of March 27, 2008 were approved as amended.

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Melnick announced the following: 7 of our Winter Varsity Teams were named Scholar/Athlete Teams with an overall Team GPA of 90 or greater; three students were acknowledged at the North Shore Young Author's Writing Competition, Emily Kianka, Samantha Carraro and Colin Hamberger; and high school math teacher Chris Halloran has been selected by the Fullbright Program to participate in the Japanese educator exchange program. He reported on the recent budget presentations, meetings with the County Executive and a workshop he attended sponsored by NYSCOSS and facilitated by Grant Wiggins.

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

SGO representative, Alex Romano reported on events and activities at the high school including, the end of the third marking period, lacrosse day scheduled for April 12 and senior fashion show on April 18. He reminded everyone that team sign ups for Relay for Life ends on May 29.

Jill Fortunato, a high school 10<sup>th</sup> grader, asked the board about a rumor she and several students have heard about closing campus next year.

Dr. Melnick responded that it is only a rumor, there are no plans to close campus next year, although the open campus policy will be reviewed in a year or two.

Trustee Beyer thanked Ms. Fortunato for attending the meeting in order to get the correct information.

### **Evaluation of the Community Service Program**

Julia Salat gave a Powerpoint presentation on the numerous community service projects throughout the district. Richard Rozakis reported on the types of community service and what opportunities are available. He explained that community service is not mandatory, there are no club affiliations and the focus is to make sure service is valuable. He stressed that the quality of service does not take second to the quantity. He would like to see students take on more local projects to mix with the big fund raisers such as Juvenile Diabetes and Relay for Life. He is recommending the creation of an administrator to over see the senior experience and community service district wide beginning 2009-10. The Board had a lengthy discussion and questioned the combining of senior experience with community service. There was some concern that students are involved just for the amount of hours they accumulate to enhance their college application. There was also concern about the enormous variety and whether the student is properly prepared for the projects they volunteer for such as tutoring. Suggestions included, more information on the web site, stress the importance of community, and including a reflective piece for feedback from students. From a student perspective, Alex Romano commended Ms. Salat and explained that most students want to be involved in community service. He noted that students feel they get life experience and are involved because they want to be. It was noted that all fund raising through community service must be compliant with the Board policy for fund raising.

### **Evaluation of the Senior Programs**

Dr. Melnick gave an overview of the history of the senior programs and said these programs are unique to North Shore. Mr. Rozakis explained there is a difference between the senior programs and the senior experience. He expressed his belief that the senior programs are very successful, have a rigorous curriculum and are of the highest quality. His only areas of concern are in the structure and scheduling of the programs. Currently senior programs meet 3 times per week for 3 periods a time. He went on to explain the senior experience is done on the off time from the senior program. His recommendation would be to make the senior experience more structured and monitor the internships more closely.

Dr. Melnick explained further the IPA program and math/science research programs that are current models for the senior experience. All other students do internships or independent projects with a mentor. He feels there needs to be a strengthening of the rubric for these projects as well as more guidance and closer monitoring of students.

There was a brief discussion by the Board and some concern about seniors losing the independence that graduating students say helped prepare them for college and learn to manage their time. Mr. Rozakis emphasized it would be a restructuring of time, not time management and that the teachers are in favor of this. There was also concern that trying to monitor the internships will be time consuming and require several staff members.

### **Comments from the Public**

Alan Geller, Sea Cliff, made comments from a letter filed with the District Clerk. He was at the meeting to appeal to the Board of Education to subscribe to BOCES Long Island High School of the Arts in order for his step daughter to attend the program. He asked for clarification of whether it is a Board policy or practice not to subscribe to this program and went on to request that the Board change their policy or practice in this regard. He explained that over 25 other Districts support the Long Island High School for the Arts and wondered what benefits these other districts recognize in the program that North Shore does not. He went on to say that there are kids that do not fit in the box and the District has an obligation to find a place for every student. He asked for reasons why the District is opposed to subscribing to this

program and conveyed his hope that the Board would change their practice or policy. He offered additional information that he and his wife had compiled in support of the Long Island High School for the Arts.

Trustee Beyer explained that the Board had discussed his request in executive session and would continue the discussion and get back to him as soon as possible. She then asked for a show of hands in the public who were there in support of Mr. Geller and Ms. Mindich. There were 4 people in the audience in support.

Ron Rizzo and his wife Irene were there in support of Mr. Geller and Ms. Mindich's appeal. Mr. Rizzo spoke of his son Ryden who is an art student at North Shore High School. He felt the additional support his son received at home is why he is succeeding and thinks this program would benefit those students who do not fit in the programs at North Shore.

Lesley Lipton, Sea Cliff, has a son who will be entering middle school and is already interested in theater and dance. He feels the Long Island High School for the Arts would benefit his son down the road. He is also in support of the District subscribing to this program.

Melisa Mindich, Sea Cliff, the mother of the student in question, investigated other Districts who subscribe to this program and read a letter from a teacher in Jericho who not only supports the program, but shared the experience of one of her students who attended the Long Island High School for the Arts.

Mr. Geller submitted a letter from Senator Marcellino in support of the program.

#### **Review of the Before/After School Program**

Dr. Melnick gave an overview of the highly successful before and after school program run by Laurie Petroske. He explained that after five years the District will need to put out an RFP once again but recommends continuing with Ms. Petroske for next year. Trustee Beyer explained that it is mandated to send out RFPs for all contracted services every five years and this is no indication of the Board being dissatisfied with the current program. There was a brief discussion about there being no program at the middle school and Ms. Petroske explained this was due to a lack of interest. She will send out information to middle school parents again next year to give incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to participate in this program. Trustee Vollmer noted that Maggie Tanchuck was the resident who brought the need for this type of program to the Board's attention and he was sorry she wasn't present to hear how successful it is. Trustee Beyer thanked Ms. Petroske for the comprehensive report.

#### **Committee and Conference Reports**

There were no committee or conference reports. Written reports from the Construction Steering Committee and Audit sub-committee were emailed to the Board. Trustee Glassman reminded the Board that the Tri-State visit will be next week Wednesday-Friday.

#### **Regular Business**

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

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

##### **Personnel**

##### **Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Certified**

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

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purpose of June Grutzner, Special Education, June 30, 2008

Resignation - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Kathleen Capogrosso, Music, effective June 30, 2008

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Rachel Donnatin, English, effective April 7, 2008 through June 30, 2008

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement Appointment) - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Nora Haagenson, English, Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule (no benefits) effective April 12, 2008 through June 30, 2008, replacing Rachael Donnatin (child rearing leave)

Appointments - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the probationary appointment of Douglas Arena, Head Custodian, Sea Cliff School, on Step 8 of the Custodial salary schedule, effective April 14, 2008 with a probationary period ending October 10, 2008, replacing Richard Mercadante (retired)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Christina Boyce, Teacher Aide, Glen Head, effective April 11, 2008, replacing Karen Mandart (replacement for Kelly Gorman-FMLA)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Nancy Fein, Teacher Aide, Glenwood Landing, effective April 3, 2008, replacing Heather Ostipwko (resigned)

Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Maria D'Ammora     | Elementary    |
| Michelle Hagen     | Elementary    |
| Susan Levy         | Elementary    |
| Richard Mercadante | PT Bus Driver |
| Carrie Preston     | Elementary    |
| Ryan Shaw          | Elementary    |
| John Vigliotti     | Teacher Aide  |

Approval of Change Order

Resolved: To approve change order GC#3 from Stalco Construction, Corp. for New Transportation Facility, which reflects no change in the contracted amount

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$31,500, effective April 10, 2008

Approval of Special Education Consultant/Service Provider

Resolved: To approve Sheila M. Bilko, Speech/Language Pathologist, to provide Speech-Language Therapy at Green Vale School for the 2007-2008 school year

Prior to approving Special Education Services, the following IEPS were pulled and not approved: #363623463, 363622253 and 363620552

Approval of Special Education Services

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

### **Old Business**

Trustee Sharkey asked if kindergarten will definitely be full day next year. She has been approached by parents claiming they have not yet been informed.

Dr. Melnick explained that a letter went out via email informing incoming kindergarten parents that kindergarten will be full day next year. There was a brief discussion about how parents are notified on important issues and it was decided that in this case a letter should be mailed home as well.

Trustee Glassman noted for the record her appreciation of the efforts to repair the Board table.

Trustee Glassman asked about the BOCES budget vote. The vote will take place on Wednesday, April 16th at 8:00 pm in Central Office.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Executive Session**

On motion of Trustee Sharkey 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.

### **Adjournment**

At 11:45 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 the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk