

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order by president Beyer at 6:45 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 6:45 pm on motion of president Beyer and seconded by Trustee Glassman and all in favor, the Board moved to go into Executive Session in the high school faculty lounge for discussions regarding matters leading to the employment of a particular person or persons.

Audit Committee Meeting

At 7:15 pm on motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Webb 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 100 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Recognition of Students

Dr. Melnick and Trustee Beyer recognized 25 middle school students and 23 high school students who received medals in the Long Island Math Fair as well as 3 students who received journalism awards in the Young Author's Writing Competition and 2 students who received sports writing awards from the Long Island Press Journalism Competition.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the minutes of April 10, 2008 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Vollmer and seconded by Trustee Glassman and all in favor, the treasurer's report of February 1, 2008 through February 29, 2008 was approved.

Budget Reading

Dr. Melnick read the following statement:

The proposed budget for the 2008-09 school year is \$80,933,385.70 a total increase of 4.9% over the 2007-08 budget. We anticipate revenue of \$8,350,275.80. This will result in a tax levy of \$72,583,109.90. The proposed contingent budget is set at \$80,189,521.70 a 4% increase over last year. The difference between the proposed 2008-09 budget and the contingency budget is less than 1%. The District Clerk will include a copy of the budget proposal as a record of the minutes of this meeting. Copies of the adopted budget proposal are available on the back table at this evening's meeting and at the Central Office, 112 Franklin Avenue, Sea

Cliff. The election of Trustees and vote on the budget will take place on Tuesday, May 20 from 7:00 am – 10:00 pm in the North Shore High School gymnasium.

Town Meeting

Alex Romano, SGO Representative reported that Battle of the Bands is scheduled for May 9 with proceeds being given to charity and reminded all that the deadline for signing up a team for Relay For Life is May 29, 2008 and asked all to come out and support this event.

Alan Geller, Sea Cliff, attended the last board meeting on April 10, 2008 to speak about allowing his daughter to attend the Long Island High School for the Arts (LIHSA). At that meeting he asked the Board to review their practice or policy of not subscribing to this BOCES program. He has met with Dr. Melnick and publicly thanked him for his efforts and appreciates the time given in trying to find an appropriate program for his daughter. He asked that the Board consider what values the Boards of the 37 districts who support the LIHSA see in this program that this Board does not and why. At the previous meeting he asked the Board to reach out to the 37 districts and he does not see any evidence that this was done. He expressed his disappointment that the Board decided not to subscribe to the program and said he felt that although the State mandates an appropriate but not optimum level of education for every child, he believes we are settling for mediocre. He feels the program at North Shore is underdeveloped in theater and dance and asks that the door be left open for students to audition to this program. He understands students are allowed to attend BOCES for vocational purposes and that the programs at LIHSA are not termed vocational.

Mr. Geller then filed a petition in support of participating in the BOCES Long Island High School of the Arts, signed by 153 residents.

Dr. Melnick clarified that the 37 districts who subscribe to this program represent only 20% of all districts on Long Island which leaves 80% who do not subscribe to the program.

Martita Goshen, Sea Cliff, is a professional dancer and teacher since 1989. She expressed her belief that art is part of an education that makes the whole child and that dance is not frivolous. She would like the Board to find the money in their budget to pay for this program.

Merryl Lipton, Sea Cliff, supports subscribing to this program, she believes our community should encourage any child who wants to go to a special school and does not feel a child should be denied an opportunity to explore their passion.

Debra Dumas, Sea Cliff, works at the Long Island High School for the Arts but was at the meeting not as a representative of the school but as a resident. She noted that a lot of districts who do not subscribe to the program are from far out in Suffolk. She explained the program has more advanced vocal and dance classes and does not feel the drama department at North Shore is strong. She explained that this program gives access for art students to interview for art schools and to get scholarships. She noted that most of the students attend only half a day and graduate from their home schools and work on their home school productions. She expressed her feeling that some children find their path through academics and through sports and some through arts and feels it is important that we support that as a community and district.

Richard Cuneo, Sea Cliff supports what has been said and read an article from the Oyster Bay guardian from April 25, 2008 about a student who attends Oyster Bay High School and LIHSA and how that program helped this student.

Kelly Talcott, Old Brookville, has several children in the district, his oldest has a passion and gift for ballet and started dancing at an early age. He equated her years of dance to the road for an athlete. He supports subscribing to this program and expressed his feeling that it is a wonderful resource that would provide these students a chance to pursue their passion

John Kle, Sea Cliff, and graduate of North Shore supports subscribing to the program and noted that the budget does not have much money allocated for the arts. He asked if money

could be shaved from somewhere else.

Melinda Bloom, Glen Head and teacher at North Shore. She is a founding member of Arts Angels and parent of 3 children in district. She has produced many productions for the theatre program at North Shore in the last 4 years and feels the program has improved. She would like to see the program expand and to include additional space and staff and asked that more funds be allocated to the program.

Anne Collins, Sea Cliff, has one child in high school and is also a member of Arts Angels. She said this issue was discussed at their last meeting and she acknowledged that they realize the Board cares about the students but feels it is the district's responsibility to expand the arts program.

Maria Stieglitz, Sea Cliff, she has no children in the district and this the first time she had attended a Board meeting. She supports participating in the LIHSA program and expressed her feelings that there is a world class facility so close and we should not deny students the opportunity to go.

At this point in the meeting Trustee Beyer asked that a break be taken from the Town Meeting in order to allow for a presentation by some of our teachers on the gifted program which was scheduled for 9:00 pm. She explained that the Board and Dr. Melnick would like to respond to the questions from community members and would hear from anyone else who cared to speak at that time. She allowed a few more residents to speak prior to the break

Kevin McDonagh, Glenwood Landing, asked about the cost of the program.

Mark Starr, Sea Cliff, supports subscribing to the LIHSA program and asked that the Board not deny this student the opportunity to attend. He feels the Board devotes funds to other special needs programs and would like them to do the same for this program.

Ron Rizzo, Sea Cliff, asked who decided the arts is not a vocation.

Trustee Beyer explained that vocational programs are set by the State and the Board does not make those decisions. If a student is interested in a particular vocation as set by the State and the district does not provide it, the district must provide one through an outside program. She noted that a technical theatre program was added to the vocational list set by the State.

Ron Rizzo, Sea Cliff, expressed his belief that there has never been a better time for artists to pursue their careers and make money at their craft and feels this is a way to force the State to recognize these programs as vocations.

Rich Bloom, Glen Head, supports subscription to the LIHSA and would like to see the district provide a way to send students to this program as well as enhancing the program at North Shore.

Leslie Lipton, Sea Cliff, has a son in district and supports participating in LIHSA. He feels the task of the district is to provide the best academic program for a student's interests and stated that if the Board does not change their decision he may need to move out of district.

Update on REACH

Rob Chlebicki introduced Enrichment teachers, Janet Goldberg, Audra Marcantonio and Diane Krupin. He recognized their hard work and turned the presentation over to them. The teachers gave a power point presentation highlighting the elements of the school-wide enrichment program and how this helps all students no matter their academic standing. Trustee Beyer expressed her appreciation to the teachers and apologized for having to cut the presentation short in order to continue the Town Meeting. She asked that the Board email questions to Mr. Chlebicki who will bring the answers to the next meeting.

Town Meeting Resumed

Melissa Mindich, Sea Cliff, in response to a question from the public, reported that the price of the program for a half day is \$13,300 per student, the full day cost is \$33,000 per student and provides academics. She is asking the Board to consider the half day program. She then read a letter from a former North Shore Student, Leslie Kincaid who did attend a half day cultural arts program at BOCES in 1979. Ms. Mindich went on to say that each district that subscribes to this program goes above and beyond what the State mandates.

Judy Mazzola, Glen Head, moved from a district that does subscribe to this program and did not realize there is no dance program at the high school. She asked if the dance club will be cut next year as rumored. She feels when student's are not able to pursue their passion they become at risk kids and she asked the Board to please look at this issue again.

Elizabeth Weinstein asked why the Board decided not to subscribe to the program and asked that think they not only of the cost but of what is best for our kids.

Trustee Beyer responded that although the Board would love to provide everything that every child needs, unfortunately their charge goes beyond that. She added that while they care deeply for every child and are not insensitive to this issue, the district cannot possibly offer an optimum program for every child as this would not be fiscally responsible. The Trustees must ensure a safe and quality education and must make wise financial decisions for all of the community. As explained to Lily's parents, many students do not fit inside the box and the district does everything to provide the best education here at North Shore. She feels we have a rich fine and performing arts program. She could not answer why other districts subscribe to the Long Island High School for the Arts but stated that many districts, because of the pressures from the State, have done away with their Art/Music programs. She added that the cost of the LIHSA program does not include transportation costs and that if we were to offer this program to students, we must offer programs for any student interest. She explained that these decisions are not easy and that most of the budget is mandated costs. She went on to explain that every component in the budget competes with other parts and the Board seeks to reach as many children as possible with the funds they have.

Dr. Melnick expressed his feeling that Trustees, Administrators and Teachers the want to do the very best for every child. He said the challenge in public school is to provide the resources for the interests in community. He explained that when he was Director of Fine and Performing Arts there were only 7 art teachers district wide, now there are 25, there was no theatre program and now there are 4 electives. He stated that when there is student interest in a program, electives are added and the Board has not denied an elective program. He went on to say that there is a tremendous success rate of getting students into art/music/theatre programs and we are one of first districts that offer Project Lead The Way, a production design program. He has tried to create as many areas of interest as possible and tries to be as flexible as possible when designing schedules so State standards and regulations can be met. He expressed his understanding of the needs of parents but he must meet the needs of all students. He remains committed to Lilly and all students to provide a program within this scope and framework

The Board explained that they had lengthy discussions about this issue and debated many of the points the community raised. They stressed that they do not take these things lightly and the issues are not simple. They must take into consideration the interests of all community members and although the decision included cost consideration, it was not the only reason for deciding against subscribing to the program. The Board expressed their commitment to the arts program and asked that the community not get the impressions that this decision means they are opposed to the arts. They reminded the public that the budget was voted down 5 years ago and at that point the Board made a commitment to sustain program and look for ways to save money in order to keep the annual budget increase down. Recently the State has

reduced the amount of aid our District receives which puts more of a strain on the budget. They explained that the Board has very little control over the budget and what funds they do have control over must reach as many students as possible.

Dr. Melnick went on to say that as much as we have responsibility to each individual student, we have responsibility to all our students. He explained that we are unable to accept tuition from the parents for this program and BOCES is not allowed to accept tuition from parents either. He stated that if only the 4 parents whose children are interested in attending this program participated, the tuition alone would be \$53,200 a year plus the cost of approximately \$5,000 per child for transportation and that cost of approximately \$75,000 would enable the hiring of another theatre teacher which would benefit all students.

Elizabeth Weinstein asked why the District gives special education students everything they need without thought of cost and cannot do the same here.

Dr. Melnick explained that not all services that parents request are given. They must meet CSE guidelines and the Board is mandated by the Disability Act to offer certain services. We must comply with State law regardless of whether we agree with what the State law states.

Trustee Glassman offered her help to the family to look into options outside of the district.

Trustee Genovesi suggested the family speak to their legislator about sponsoring a bill on their behalf to change the practice of allowing parents to pay tuition.

Maria Stiegletz, Sea Cliff, feels if taxes are already going to this program why shouldn't we use it and asked if it would be possible to have a fundraiser to find the money for the program.

Dr. Melnick explained that we do not pay for LIHSA; the BOCES programs are tuition based and there is no charge to the district for programs not being used. The only fees we pay to BOCES are administrative fees and operating expenses.

Merryl Lipton, Sea Cliff stated that the program is not easy to get into and the cost may not be very large.

Lesley Lipton, Sea Cliff thanked the Board for being candid and asked why other districts are able to provide this opportunity within their budget constraints.

Dr. Melnick explained that not all districts are under the same constraints we are and that North Shore is 1 of only 5 districts that lost State Aid due to our district being considered one of the wealthiest in the State.

Melisa Mendich, Sea Cliff asked about a film crew she spoke to at the high school who said they were hired by the district to film the lacrosse team and wondered how these funds were available.

Dr. Melnick clarified that the film crew was hired by the Athletic Booster Club.

Alan Geller asked about the cost of the electives programs.

Dr. Melnick responded the approximate cost is \$8000 per elective.

Deborah Dumas, Sea Cliff, stated that North Shore has 25 arts teacher for 13 grades while LIHSA has 25 teachers for 3 grades. She expressed her belief that there is an inequality between athletics and arts and would like to see the Board find more money for the arts.

Trustee Beyer responded that in a recent meeting with parents of athletes, they expressed their feelings that the District does not spend enough on athletics and she needed to explain to them that it is impossible to add any more funds to the budget.

In response to a question from a resident who did not state their name, Dr. Melnick explained that if the budget was to fail, the first item to be cut would be all new instructional technology, or the purchase of SmartBoards. The second would be the new teaching positions not required by new enrollment; next the proposed changes to the middle school special education program and finally interscholastic and extra curricular activity clubs.

Ms. Mindich, Sea Cliff, asked why there are two Directors in Physical Education.

Dr. Melnick clarified one director is for Physical Education, Health and Wellness and

the second is for Athletics.

With no further questions from the public, the Town Meeting was concluded.

Regular Business

The Board publicly apologized to the teachers who gave the Enrichment presentation and recognized the effort they put in to preparing it. It was decided to have a discussion about the program and the presentation at the next meeting and Trustee Beyer asked fellow trustees to email any questions they may have to Rob Chlebicki so he would be able to address them at that time.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items B-O

On motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Vollmer and all in favor, it was:

Personnel

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes of Harriet Lynn Leslie, Elementary, effective June 30, 2008

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes of Louise Arneson, English, effective July 1, 2008

Resignation - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Cathy Adames, Special Education, effective June 30, 2008

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Lauren Chiappa, Elementary, effective June 30, 2008

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Yong Moon, Mathematics, effective June 30, 2008

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Timothy O'Brien, Social Studies, effective June 30, 2008

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Elisabeth Donovan, Special Education, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective April 18, 2008 through May 16, 2008, replacing Christine Purpura (FMLA)

Increment for Advanced Study

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Kristi Keingstein, Special Education, from Step 2 of the BA+15 salary schedule, to Step 2 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 28, 2008

Approval of Summer Instructors

Resolved: To approve the appointment of John Pace as the summer instructor of a Pre-Integrated Algebra Course which will meet for ninety minutes per day, five days per week effective July 7, 2008 through August 1, 2008

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Anna DeNatale as the summer instructor of a Pre-Living Environment Course which will meet for ninety minutes per day, five days per week effective July 7, 2008 through August 1, 2008

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Non Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes of Rita Anzelone, Teacher Aide, effective June 30, 2008

Appointments - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Mary Armen, School Monitor, High School, effective May 5, 2008, replaces Yrsa Woodsworth (resigned)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Salvatore Giurlanda, Teacher Aide, Middle School, effective May 8, 2008, replaces Miguel Ortiz (resigned)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Nicholas Pezza, Part-time Cleaner, Glen Head, effective May 1, 2008, replaces Joe Belluci (resigned)

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Catherine Blackburn, Elementary

Michael Capobianco, Teacher Aide

Vincent DiCataldo, Security Guard

Kerry Strassenreiter, Elementary

Kathryn Maldari, Elementary

Approval of Spring 2008 Community Education Instructors

Resolved: To approve the following Community Education Instructors for the Spring 2008 session:

Stephen Goldstein – Community Chorus

Helen Bauer – Northwinds Symphonic Band

Jane Irvine – Dichroic Glass Jewelry

Scott Cairns – Guitar, Sacred Sounds Meditation

Susan Gill – Knitting, Sweaters, Cabled Bags

Phyllis Hintze – Ballroom Dancing

John Carbonara – College Expenses

Donna La Scala – Financial Myths... Demystified

Alex DiMartini - Complete Financial Management Workshop

Rita Anzelone – Computer workshops

Mayer Weisen – Beginner and Intermediate Bridge

BOCES Cooperative – Gardening Classes, Parenting Classes

Dennis Kelly (Allstate) – Defensive Driving

Richard Bartlett – Heartsaver CPR

John Manzone – Basketball

Jerry Vivona – Tennis and Broadway Show trips

Laura Orticelle – Early Morning Step Aerobics

Christine Worsdale – Kickboxing

Patricia Mitchell – Yoga, Yoga in the Afternoon

Janice Nunziata – Yoga for a Better Back

Eric Hendrics - Son Do Self Defense, Tai Chi,

Maria Whisenand – Feldenkrais

Charles Brody – Hypnosis, Biofeedback, etc.
Elizabeth Cassidy – Life Coaching
Dr. Maxine Cappel Mayreis – Doctor's Speakers Bureau
Robert Martorana - Basic Screenwriting
Michael Montouri - Exchange Traded Funds
Janice Chen - SAT II Biology
Melissa Frank - SAT II Biology
Peter Wass - SAT II Chemistry
Yong Moon - SAT II Math
Karen Swett - Buy and Sell on eBay
Howard Goldberg - Adventure on a Shoestring series

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Coaches

Resolved: To approve the following extra curricular activity coaches for the spring season:

MS Boys Lacrosse

Assistant Chris Vitucci

Supervision

Ed Parenteau

Approval of Claim for Reimbursement

Resolved: To approve a claim for reimbursement for Seth Klein for expenses incurred during a conference without authorized purchase order

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$137,750, effective May 8, 2008

Approval of a Drama Specialist Consultant for School-Wide Enrichment Services

Resolved: To approve Toni Caracci, as a Drama Specialist consultant for school-wide enrichment services in the elementary schools for nine (9) days at a cost of \$1,500

Approval of Resolution for an agreement with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA)

Be it resolved that the Board of Education hereby approves the agreement between the North Shore Schools and the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) in accordance to terms and conditions attached hereto

Be it further resolved that the Board of Education authorizes the Board president to execute the necessary documents to effectuate such agreement

Acceptance of Bid from Ferran Development Corp for Victorian House Foundation Work

Resolved: To accept the low bid from Ferran Development Corp., in the amount of \$52,500, for Victorian House Foundation Work as recommended by BBS Architects and SAVIN Engineers, P.C.

Approval to Dispose of Obsolete Equipment

Resolved: To declare as obsolete and approve of the disposal of the following inventory items:

Glen Head

Brother Fax

Poulan Chainsaw

Sea Cliff

Laser Printer

Central Office
3 File Cabinets
1 Laser Printer

Approval of Change Orders

Resolved: To approve change order HVAC#4 from ARC Mechanical Corp., for Alterations and Additions at the Middle School in the amount of \$4,892.18 (deduction)

Approval of Amended Change Order from Honeywell

Resolved: To approve the amended Change Order #1 from Honeywell for the elimination of the Sea Cliff School boilers from the Energy Performance Contract in the amount of \$600,000 (deduction)

Approval of Chase Equipment Leasing, Inc. as Lessor to fund the Energy Performance work in the District

Resolved: To approve Chase Equipment Leasing, Inc. as lessor for lease financing to fund the Energy Performance work in the district as per the recommendation of the District's fiscal advisors, Capital Markets Advisors, LLC (CMA)

Approval of Health Services

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Hicksville Public Schools District for 5 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Holy Trinity Diocesan High School, 1 student residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Trinity Lutheran School, and 4 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Our Lady of Mercy School for the 2007-08 school year at a cost of \$476.75 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 Huntington Union Free School District for 2 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending St. Patrick School for the 2007-08 school year at a cost of \$599.16 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 Jericho Union Free School District for 15 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Long Island Lutheran and 2 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Solomon Schechter for the 2007-08 school year at a cost of \$799.62 per student, as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of Agreement for Special Education Services

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Glen Cove City School District for Special Education Services for 4 parentally-placed students with disabilities attending All Saints Regional Catholic School, Congregation Tifereth Israel, North Shore Day School, and Friends Academy located within the Glen Cove City School District and residing within the North Shore School District

Approval of Special Education Consultants/Service Providers

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Accessible Learning Technology Alternatives for Assistive Technology for the 2007-2008 school year

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Kerri-Ann O'Halloran, Behavioral Consultant for Behavioral Consultant & Staff Development Training, effective 2007-2008 school year

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Albert Wolkoff, Psychiatrist for Psychiatric Evaluations for the 2007-2008 school year

Approval of Special Education Services

Prior to approving special education services, the following IEPs were pulled and not approved #363620654, 363621226, 363624237

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

Old Business/New Business

There was no old or new business to report.

Adjournment

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

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk