

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 24, 2009

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

Executive Session

At 7:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Sharkey seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the high school faculty room for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation, matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law) and the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property.

Audit Committee

At 7:40 pm on motion of Trustee Beyer seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and convened a meeting of the Audit Committee.

At 8:15 pm, on motion of Trustee Genovesi seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board adjourned the meeting of the Audit Committee and resumed the regular meeting in the alumni room. There were approximately 10 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Webb led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the minutes of September 10, 2009 were approved as amended.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported on back to school night in the elementary schools and high school. Middle School has their back to school night on September 30th at 7:00 pm. The kick-off of Respecting Each Other as Equal and Different "RED" was highlighted by the Peace sign created by the Sea Cliff School students and faculty. He thanked the principals for their on-going efforts in implementing the recommendations by the Diversity Task Force. The first meeting of the Superintendent's Leadership Council will take place on Thursday, October 1 at 4:00 pm in the Alumni Room.

Report of the SGO Representative and Comments from the Public

SGO Representative, Charles Sharkey, was absent from the meeting however he provided a written report which was read by Trustee Webb. He reported on two fundraisers; the junior class will hold a car wash Saturday, September 26 and the senior class will hold a garage sale on Sunday October 4th; auditions for the high school play "The Laramie Project" were held Monday through Wednesday; and the freshman class will hold their class officer elections on September 30th.

Joseph Capozzi, Glen Head, asked Dr. Melnick to clarify his actions in regard to

President Obama's speech; specifically why an email went out to all parents and how the speech was shown to students.

Dr. Melnick responded that he did receive calls from some parents who were against the showing of the speech, however, this did not change the plans which were already in place to show the speech live to those students who had a free period and rebroadcast it after school for those students who wished to view it and were unable to do so during the live broadcast. He further explained the reason for this decision was due to fact that it was the first day of classes and he felt it would be disruptive to students and teachers to pull students from class. He emailed parents so they would be informed of the district's decision.

Mr. Capozzi then asked if the Board is taking any steps to address the hardship many residents feel during these difficult economic times.

Trustee Webb responded that during the budget process the Board always keeps the tax payer in mind and have already initiated cost savings measures such as the transportation depot. He went on to say that the Board's goal is to maintain the highest level of education and buildings while keeping budget increases at a minimum. He explained that if the Board had not taken many of the steps they already have taxes would be even higher. Trustee Berliner added that education has its own inflation rate and many budget items are negotiated costs that the Board cannot change. Dr. Melnick asked Mr. Capozzi to make an appointment with him so he can sit down and explain the many different ways the Board has already cut costs and plans for doing so in the future.

Paul Eschause, Glen Head, asked if there were any changes made to the budget which voters approved last May, specifically in regard to the addition of teacher aides which had been eliminated in the proposed budget.

Dr. Melnick responded there were three aide positions re-instated after the budget was approved. Two were due to out of district students returning to the district which created the need for 1:1 teacher aides. The third was hired due to a new student who moved into the district and whose IEP requires a 1:1 aide. In the case of the two returning students, the budget included the amount for out of district tuition; this money will be moved to cover the cost of the aide positions and will actually cost the district less than the out of district tuition. In the case of the new student; the budget includes an amount for the possibility of new students with special needs and this amount will cover that aide position. He also explained that any monies left at the end of the budget year will be put in fund balance which is used to offset the tax levy for the following year.

Mr. Capozzi asked when the current teacher's contract expires.

Trustee Webb responded June 30, 2012.

Summer Staff Development and Curriculum Work

Rob Chlebicki, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, gave an overview of staff development and curriculum work that was done over the summer. Some of the changes this year included an added requirement for teachers to attend a workshop if they would be writing curriculum; a special education teacher was included in every curriculum project; and at the end of the projects, directors did a peer review of their colleagues' work. He demonstrated a curriculum map which included an audio explanation of the information included in the map as well as a podcast of one of the staff development workshops on differentiated instruction. Podcasts were done of Socratic Seminar, Differentiated Instruction and Curriculum Writing for those teachers who were unable to attend workshops over the summer, but wanted to participate. At the end of presentation, he thanked student Jose Lopez, Director of Technology, Paul Pelech and teacher Laura Green for their work on the podcasts.

Study of Student Achievement in Literacy

The Board had a discussion in regard to the study of student achievement and program revisions in literacy specifically how to measure the efficacy in this area. The Board discussed Foundations; DIBELS assessments; and the literacy block. Dr. Melnick reported that teachers like the Foundations program in comparison to the formerly used Slingerland program; they feel it is a more holistic program with more room for differentiation. Mr. Chlebicki provided the Board with questions to consider to assist them in measuring the success of each of these programs or initiatives. The Board agreed to have continue this discussion on a future agenda and asked that Director of English & Literacy, Brian Nelson, be present for the discussion.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Capozzi expressed his concern that according to his research, only 25% of college students graduate within four years. He went on to say that his research indicates SAT verbal scores are going down.

Dr. Melnick responded that these figures are not reflective of North Shore students and he will review the figures when Mr. Capozzi comes in to see him. Trustee Berliner also responded that there are many variables in the graduation rate including financial difficulty, changing of majors, and more rigorous graduation requirements.

Amisha Gandhi, Glen Head, asked in what grade levels the Foundations program is used and what program is used after 3rd grade.

Dr. Melnick responded Foundations is designed for early ages and after third grade Rebecca Sitton is used.

Podcasts of Board Meetings

The Board had a brief discussion about the possibility of doing Podcasts of Board meetings. There was consensus on the Board to have Director of Technology, Paul Pelech, come to the next Board meeting and discuss possibilities including a suggestion to utilize SKYPE or interactive e-mails during Town Meetings and comments portions of regular meetings.

Legislative Issues

The Legislative Action Sub Committee met and discussed lobbying individually for the issues that impact North Shore directly recognizing this may meet with some resistance from Nassau Suffolk School Boards who prefer all districts speak with one voice through them and not lobby on their own behalf. Trustee Beyer recently met with a group of local school board members and asked if they would be interested in joining together to address one or two topics. Some expressed interest. Trustee Beyer volunteered to get in touch some of the local legislators in our area. Trustee Webb explained that he is in the process of setting up meetings with the Mayor of Sea Cliff and Supervisor Venditto to discuss some of the issues. The local civics will be holding another meeting on October 6th and it was agreed that a Board representative would attend.

Trustee Beyer reported on a Nassau Suffolk School Boards Assn. meeting she attended on "Critical Issues for Nassau County Schools". John Gross (Ingerman Smith) and Greg Guercio (Guercio & Guercio) presented the history of pending litigation regarding tax certioraris liability; they are providing their services pro-bono. Should the County succeed in their pursuit to eliminate their liability in tax certioraris, it is anticipated that the potential cost to Nassau County school districts is somewhere between \$60 to \$100M (in one year); approximately \$2 to \$3 million of that would be North Shore's responsibility which would result in a tremendous increase to our budget. Should school districts become responsible for tax certiorari refunds, additional costs would include legal costs for all tax certiorari challenges. There are two cases pending, for many reasons it appears the judge will not find in favor of the County. Gross and Guercio are expecting a decision in the next 30-60 days and do not believe anything else can

be done at this point. On the chance the County does win, Nassau Suffolk School Boards will reconvene to determine the next action.

Regular Business

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items E-U with the exception of K

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, it was:

Personnel

Resignation -Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Michelle Post, Special Education, effective September 1, 2009

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Kristie Lieberman, English, effective September 1, 2009 through January 29, 2010

Increments for Advanced Study - Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Daniel Chemnitz, Elementary, from Step 6 of the MA+45 to Step 6 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Brianna D'Angelo, Elementary from Step 4 of the MA salary schedule, to Step 4 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Candice D'Auria-Brodie, Social Studies, from Step 16 of the MA salary schedule, to Step 16 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Tracy (Chiarello) Godek from Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule, to Step 5 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Susan Krugman, ESL from Step 17 of the MA+30 salary schedule, to Step 17 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Ilona Kusz, Mathematics From Step 2 of the BA salary schedule, to Step 2 of the BA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Melanie Lisberg, Social Studies, from Step 9 of the MA salary schedule, to Step 9 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Kelly (Ater) Rakeman, Elementary, from Step 6 of the MA+45 salary schedule, to Step 6 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2009

Change of Status - Certified

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Hussein Kassam, Mathematics, from a conditional appointment to a probationary appoint on Step 2 of the MA salary schedule at an effective September 1, 2009 through September 1, 2012

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Frank Mauro, Physical Education, from part-time (.8) to part-time (.9), effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Gary Meirerdiercks, Physical Education from part-time (.8) to part-time (.9), effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Part-Time Appointments - Certified

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.1) appointment for Sean Austin, Physical Education, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.1) appointment for Karen Wenz, Physical Education, on Step 2 of the BA salary schedule effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Teacher Overages

Resolved: To approve the following teacher overages effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010:

Caitlin Kirmser, Dean of Students-HS
Robert Hert, Dean of Students-MS
Bruce Fichtman, Technology

Approval of Addition to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Dana Bathie	Elementary
Jennifer Berger	Secondary
Alexa Caffiero	Elementary
Robert Coscia	Elementary
Marisa Cotilletta	Teacher Aide
Liza Dubovsky	Elementary
Bryan Gabriel	Elementary
Kevin Gail	Secondary
Danielle Helmke	Secondary
Jamie Holcomb	Secondary
Joseph Klass	Secondary
Barbara Laraia	Elementary
Amie Leggett	Elementary
Jennifer Levin	Physical Education/Health
Frank Lenoci	Secondary
Peter Marini	Secondary
AnnaMaria Salamone	Elementary
Mike Schaeffer	Physical Education
Elizabeth Starke	Elementary
Justin Sulsky	Secondary
Jennifer Unger	Elementary
Dena Groothuis Weiner	Elementary

Appointment - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Karl Budkevics, School Monitor, High School, effective September 10, 2009

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Patricia Deegan, School Monitor, Sea Cliff, effective September 14, 2009

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Pasquale Iannelli, School Monitor, Glen Head School, effective September 10, 2009

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Diana Knox, School Monitor, High School, effective September 10, 2009

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Jesse Uanino, Teacher Aide, Middle School, effective September 8, 2009

Appointment of Director of Community Education 2009-2010

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Dean Miller, Director of Continuing Education for the 2009-10 school year

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Supervisor

Resolved: To appoint Sari Siltanen as a supervisor for the 2009-2010 school year

Approval of Fall 2009 Community Education Instructors

Resolved: To approve the following community education instructors for Fall, 2009:

Susan Gill	Richard Bartlett
Phyllis Hintze	Dennis Kelly
Helen Bauer	Maria Whisenand
Stephen Goldstein	Anne Marie Giambrone
Patricia Mitchell	Janice Nunziata
Elizabeth Cassidy	Barry Lisak
Mayer Weisen	Kathy Kmonicek
Jerome Vivona	John Manzone
BOCES – Cornell Cooperative	Simone Pavlides

Approval of Special Education Corrective Action Plan

Resolved: To approve the special education corrective action plan as per the recommendation from the New York State Comptroller's Audit Report

Approval of Agreement for Demographic Study

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Ross Haber Associates to conduct demographic study in the amount of \$7,250

Approval of Change Orders

Resolved: To approve change order #GC #2 from ACL Construction Corp., for Ceiling & Lighting Replacement at the Glenwood Landing Elementary School in the amount of \$937.50 (additional)

Resolved: To approve change order #GC #2 from Hi-Lume Corp. for Ceiling & Lighting Replacement at the High School in the amount of \$850 (additional)

Resolved: To approve change order #Electric #1 from Eldor Contracting, Corp., for Ceiling

& Lighting Replacement at North Shore High School in the amount of \$629.93 (additional)

Approval of Agreements with CSD Net

(a) Resolved: To approve an agreement with CSD Net for Senior Technician Support in the amount of \$123,858, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

(b) Resolved: To approve an agreement with CSD Net for Desktop Technician Support in the amount of \$96,945, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

(c) Resolved: to approve an agreement with CSD Net for Phone System Maintenance in the amount of \$24,030.31 effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Agreement with Adrienne Daley

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Adrienne Daley, for Freelance Photography services at a rate of \$50/hr effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Agreement with Robin Appel

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Robin Appel for Freelance Photography services at a rate of \$50/hr effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2020

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$133,905, effective September 24, 2009

Award of Contracts for 2009-2010 Pupil Transportation

Resolved: To award contracts for 2009-2010 pupil transportation to the low bidders as indicated on attached

Approval of Agreement with J.Reddy Consulting Services, Inc. for 2008-2009

Resolved: To approve an agreement with J. Reddy Consulting Services for Reconciliation of Medicaid Reimbursement Claims for the 2008-2009 school year at a fee of 18% of the Medicaid revenue recovered

Approval of Town Recreation Grant Application

Resolved: To approve the application for a Town of Oyster Bay Recreation Grant in the amount of \$7,500

Approval of Agreements with Special Education Consultants - Tab

(a) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Moira Citko, School Psychologist, for ABA Therapy, Consultation & Supervision, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

(b) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Speech Language Pathologist, for Speech-Language Therapy effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

(c) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Mariana Frazer, ABA Consultant, for ABA Consultation services effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

(d) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Alan Galgana, Behavioral Consultant, for Behavioral Consultation services effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

(e) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Janice Hartley, Reading Specialist, for

Special Education Consulting Services, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

(f) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Janet Jardine, OTR/L, for Occupational Therapy, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

(g) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Jennifer Strangio-Loh, Behavioral Consultant for Behavioral Consultation services effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

(h) Resolved: To approve an agreement with Donna Whelan, Speech Pathologist, for Speech-Language Therapy, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Special Education Tuition Agreement

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Roslyn Public Schools for tuition and related services for one resident student in the amount of \$85,982 effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Special Education Service Providers

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Gayle Kligman, Therapeutic Resources for Occupational & Physical Therapy, Speech Pathologists, Special Educators and Psychologists, effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Long Island Jewish Medical Center for Behavioral Consultation services effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Special Education Services

Resolved: To approve special education services (IEP) for the following: 363619157, 363624200, 363624603, 363622154

On motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst, with Trustees Berliner, Beyer Kolkhorst, and Sharkey voting for and Trustees Genovesi and Webb opposed, it was:

Approval to Expand the Security Camera Program

Resolved: To expand the security camera program with the addition of 2 cameras as well as updating existing cameras software, and infrastructure to support as discussed at the meeting of September 10, 2009 in the amount not to exceed \$103,148.51

Comments from the Public

Mr. Capozzi asked if Trustees ever observe classes. Dr. Melnick responded that Trustees do observe classes but must schedule it through the Superintendent. He also clarified that the Board's role is to develop policy and not to monitor instruction.

Old Business

Trustees noted that they intend to continue the practice of purchasing gifts for employees upon their retirement although our auditors have recommended stopping this practice.

New Business

Dr. Melnick reported that the Athletic Booster Club is asking for pre-approval of a \$15,000 donation for the purpose of replacing the wrestling mats. There was consensus on the Board to allow fundraising for this purpose.

Ms. Buatsi reported on a meeting of school nurses and custodians in regard to planning for prevention of an outbreak of H1N1 in the schools. The group feels it would be best to install sinks in every elementary classroom to facilitate frequent hand washing. Currently there are 19 classrooms that would require sinks and the cost for an engineering study would be approximately \$5,600. There was consensus on the board to have the construction steering committee explore the possibilities and make a recommendation.

Adjournment

At 10:25 pm on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk