

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 7, 2010

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, Pombar and Sharkey. Trustee Kolkhorst was present for executive session, but was absent for the public session. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Ms. Buatsi and Mr. Chlebicki.

Executive Session

At 7:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Berliner seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the high school faculty room for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation and matters leading to the appointment of a corporation.

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Beyer seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting in the alumni room. There were approximately 30 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Webb led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Teachers

President Webb and Dr. Melnick recognized Physical Education teachers Eileen O'Connor for receiving Educator of the Month from Dowling College/News12 Long Island and Kevin Mercier for receipt of the 2009 New York State Association for Health, Physical Education Recreation and Dance - Secondary Teacher of the Year Award.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the minutes of December 17, 2009 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported on cultural proficiency workshops with consultants CampbellJones which have been held during week. He reported that he has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the NYS Education Dept. for their proposal for Race to the Top funds; the new process for special education & Middle School to High School Transition; and important dates to remember - budget focus group scheduled for January 11, a work session of the Board scheduled for January 14, and the budget presentation/Town Meeting on January 21.

Dr. Melnick then gave an overview of what the board is facing in regard to next year's budget. He explained that due to a large shortfall in the New York State Retirement System, the district's contribution will be 9% of payroll next year; this is an increase from 6% in previous years resulting in approximately \$850,000 additional. In the following year the percentage will increase to 13% or an additional \$1.5 million. In the past the district has put forth budget increases of about 3 ½-4%, however, with this additional mandated expense it will be impossible to keep a low budget increase and maintain what we have without getting concessions from bargaining units and/or cutting positions across the board. He further explained that he has approached the administrator and teacher units seeking concessions; he will keep the board apprised as he receives information from them. Dr. Melnick went on to say he will not look to cut positions from units that make concessions as long as the budget passes. If the budget were to fail, there will need to be 30-50 positions cut. He also noted that with the

exception of administrators, if positions are cut they must be by seniority; teacher performance cannot be taken into account. The Board had a brief discussion. Trustees expressed their wish to maintain our strong program and noted every line of the budget will be reviewed and cuts may come from areas other than salaries. They encouraged the community to come to the pre-budget meeting on January 11th as well as all board meetings when the budget will be discussed.

Report of the SGO Representative

SGO Representative Charles Sharkey was absent.

Regular Business

Grades 5/8/12 Exit Assessments

Rob Chlebicki gave a report on the progress of the grades 5, 8 & 12 exit assessments. He explained that 22 teachers and administrators volunteered to work on looking at 21st century skills and how to measure student progress. The group meets once per month for 2 hours and includes teachers from all 5 schools as well as 5 district administrators. The Board had a brief discussion. Mr. Chlebicki was asked for a time line of where this will end up. Mr. Chlebicki explained by the end of this year the group should be able to develop a direction for measuring student work against 21st century skills at the benchmark grades.

Ninth Grade Experience

Rob Chlebicki updated the board on the progress of the ninth grade experience. He explained the 3 tenets of the program - Inter-disciplinary Exploration of Curriculum, Heterogeneous/Differentiated Instruction and Knowing Students as People & Learners. He along with Carol Smyth, shared specifics of the program and explained it will continue next year in much the same way.

The Board asked if there has been formal feedback. Mr. Chlebicki explained he has not requested parental or external feedback at this point; as the year progresses and there is more information a survey will be done. Dr. Melnick explained the high school principal did a survey of all ninth grade students to analyze self perception. The board will be provided a copy of the results. The plan is to go forward with 80 students next year and parent/student meetings of current 8th graders will be held in January or February. In response to a question about the number of students who remained in the program this year, Mr. Chlebicki explained that of the 80 students who began in the program, there are 79 left due to a student who decided to attend another school. Concern was raised for supporting students who move from the ninth grade program to the traditional program in 10th grade. Mr. Chlebicki explained there are mechanisms in place to support students all year. In response to a question in regard to cost of the program, Mr. Chlebicki explained there is no additional cost for this program. Dr. Melnick added if the program were to be expanded there would be a cost for additional staffing.

Comments from the Public

Paul Eschause, Glen Head, asked for clarification on the cost for the ninth grade experience. He understood there were consultant fees associated with this program. Dr. Melnick responded there was no cost at all associated with this program.

Mr. Eschause then asked why the district is planning to approach teachers and administrators requesting relief from their contracts this year now that the markets are coming back and the economy is improving. He went on to say that he was told last February that it was not necessary to approach the units for concessions. He also questioned why an additional \$850,000 increase in expenses, or 1.1% of the budget, would result in the laying off of 20-30 teachers and the dismantling of public education as we know it.

Trustee Webb clarified that the district was looking ahead to what was coming from the state. Last year it was not necessary to ask for concessions due to the prudent financial planning of the district. Had the Board asked for concessions last year the district would be in an even worse position. The Board is trying to preserve what they can to keep the school district as strong as possible. The Board fully thinks through their approach and he believes this was the correct decision.

Dr. Melnick added to keep the budget from spiking, the board and community set up a capital and repair reserve. Last year other districts asked for give backs from their units because they did not have a plan that afforded them an extra year. No one anticipated a 9% or 13% increase for retirement contributions. The action the board took buffered this district. The only reason we are asking for concessions now is to compensate for the additional funds that the state is requiring. This year other districts will have budget increases of 8, 9, and 10% and some districts will be laying off 20-30 positions. Last year Glen Cove laid off 14 teachers and they will be in a second wave of lay offs this year. The financial steps our district has taken has kept us on a strong footing but this can only buffer against the economy not the additional compensation for retirement contributions. In addition to the extra expense of retirement contributions, the state is reducing our state aid and STAR. Other districts need to go out and borrow money to make payroll.

Trustee Beyer responded much has changed since Mr. Eschause first raised the question last year of approaching the bargaining units for concessions. The Board explained last year that they did not need to go back to the bargaining units unless positions needed to be cut. Last year we had a responsible budget and it was not necessary to ask for give backs. This year the district is faced with the MTA tax, increased retirement contributions, reduction in state aid for both this year and next year. Although next year's budget has not yet been presented to the Board, Dr. Melnick has explained the district's position and what needs to be done to keep the budget at the lowest possible increase. This can't be done without concessions or cutting staff.

Trustee Pombar noted salaries are only one line of the budget and the Board will look to cut in other areas as well.

Anthi Sabbatini, Old Brookville, has an 8th grader and has not heard anything about the 9th grade experience for next year. She feels information should be better publicized.

Track & Field

Dr. Melnick explained the ultimate cost to replace the football field & track is \$3 million. The Board has discussed funding this in 2 possible ways; use funds in the capital reserve and start a capital campaign to raise funds through private donations. The difference between sod or artificial turf is about \$600,000. Both estimates include the cost of drainage and maintenance cost of the next 12 years. The Board was provided with material and information on the issue of safety and injuries on synthetic turf fields. The latest study, done by the DEC, found there are no significant health risks with synthetic turf fields. He asked that a decision be made on the type of turf before going out to the community to raise funds. Trustee Webb asked for a decision tonight so it can be discussed at the town meeting.

John Hall explained that the drainage portion would have to be done no matter what type of field is chosen and maintenance costs would be associated with either type of field as well. He went on to explain that synthetic turf affords more playing time with less maintenance costs. He also noted that although a synthetic turf field would need to be replaced in 12 years, only the top layer would need to be replaced.

Dr. Melnick added the track must be done and once the track is replaced the field cannot be done without damaging the new track. He also pointed out this cannot be funded through the budget.

The Board had a lengthy discussion. All trustees felt it is clear something needs to be done with the field. They discussed maintaining it for a short time; the safety issue; the community's preference of synthetic turf over natural turf; how to fund the project; the timing of the project; and maintenance costs. Trustees asked for a timeline for utilizing the capital reserve funds. Dr. Melnick explained the first step will be for the community to approve adding this project to the capital reserve fund at the budget vote this year. The next step would be for the community to approve spending the funds which already exist in the capital reserve fund; this would happen at the budget vote in May of 2011. After the state approves the project construction could be done during the summer of 2012. The Board discussed the difficulty of putting up a referendum for adding this project to the capital reserve this year and the challenge of communicating to the public that it would be at no cost to tax payers. They also discussed the possibility of postponing the referendum vote until a capital campaign takes shape and proves to be successful. After considering all the issues and the lengthy timeline from approval to construction, there was consensus to move forward with the projects and a synthetic turf field.

Legislative Action

Trustee Webb reported on a meeting with David Little and local school boards, business associations and civics. All districts report they face the same problems with budget votes; communities are angry about property taxes and they are pessimistic about getting the legislature to bring dramatic change. Everyone agrees on coordinating a common lobbying campaign on the Senator Oppenheimer Bill & transportation. They will try and organize a meeting with Senator Oppenheimer in March. It was clarified that the district would not be allowed to opt out of state funding and become independent.

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

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

Personnel

Resignation - Administration

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Brian Nelson, Director of English and Literacy Studies, effective February 5, 2010

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Ruth Haukeland, Latin, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule effective November 25, 2009 through January 25, 2010

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Dena Weiner, Elementary, on Step 8 of the MA salary schedule effective January 1, 2010 through January 29, 2010

Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Rosea Filone, Middle School English Teacher Leader, effective January 1, 2010 through June, 30, 2010

Appointment - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Matthew Russo, Teacher Aide, High School, effective January 4, 2010

Approval of Addition to the Per Diem Substitute List

David Cassese	Secondary
Kathleen Dowden	Secondary
Margaret Garofalo	Secondary
Olimpia Maronak	Food Service
Joseph Virgilio	Physical Education

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Coaches

Resolved: To approve the appointment of the following extra curricular activity coaches:

High School

Cheerleading Amy Bitondo

*replaces Charlee Cook

Middle School

Girls Basketball

8th grade Jean Hodermarsky

7th grade Jaclyn Grillo Muscarella

Boys Volleyball

8th grade Frank Mauro

7th grade Nicole Sabbatino

Wrestling

Jeffrey Butt

John Jackson

Alex Hojnowski

Boys/Girls Bowling Maria Perdios

Approval of Contract for Choreography Services

Resolved: To approve a contract with Centerstage Players for Choreography Services for the Middle School Musical Production at a fee of \$1,329

Approval of Special Education Services Contract

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Glen Cove City School District for Special Education Services for 2 parentally-placed students with disabilities attending Friends Academy and All Saints Regional located within the Glen Cove City School District and residing within the North Shore School District during the 2009-2010 school year

Approval of Agreement for Special Education Consultant/Service Provider

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Education, Inc., for Tutoring Services effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Revised Agreement with Lakretz Creative Support Service, Inc.

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Lakretz Creative Support Service, Inc. for Staff Development effective July 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

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

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Old Business

Dr. Melnick suggested placing a discussion item on a future agenda in regard to fundraising and identifying projects for use of the funds.

Trustee Genovesi asked for an update on the fundraising for the outdoor classroom at the middle school. Dr. Melnick explained he will be meeting with Marc Ferris and the middle school PTA executive board next week and will report back.

Trustee Beyer requested a copy of the 2010 report.

New Business

Trustee Pombar requested the board consider having paperless board runs.

Adjournment

At 10:50 pm, on motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk