

Draft
North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 18, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Webb at 6:30 pm in the Glen Head School Gathering Room. Present were Trustees Berliner, Beyer, Genovesi, Kolkhorst, Pombar and Sharkey. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Ms. Buatsi and Mr. Chlebicki.

Executive Session

At 6:30 pm, on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the Glen Head School principal's office for collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

Audit Committee Meeting

At 7:45 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 in the Glen Head School Gathering Room.

At 8:15 pm, on motion of Trustee Sharkey seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the Board adjourned the meeting of the Audit Committee and resumed the regular meeting in the gathering room. There were approximately 6 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Webb led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Recognition

Dr. Melnick and President Webb recognized Siemen's Semi-Finalist, Charles Sharkey.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the minutes of October 28, 2010 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the treasurer's report of June 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010 was approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported that the North Shore Women's Cross Country Team won the New York State Cross Country State Championship; the first State Championship in the history of our district. The team will be recognized at a December meeting. He went on to say that with a State Championship team, it becomes even more important to focus on completing the track and field project at the High School and reminded the audience of the upcoming vote on the referendum to add the renovation of the track and the repair of the field to the list of approved projects to be funded through the capital reserve on November 30th, from 7am-10 pm in the High School Gym. He also reported that he and the Assistant Superintendent have been co-observing classes in each department and building with the Principals and Directors. He reported on parent meetings with students enrolled in grades 3-9 to discuss the approach to NYS Assessments. He reported that the Coalition for a Drug Free North Shore is planning a

number of events to support the development of skills & behaviors crucial for our students in making healthy choices. One plan in place is the implementation of a parent university program at the elementary level. Pre-budget discussion meetings have been scheduled for community members on Wednesday, December 1, 7:30 pm, High School Library, Tuesday, December 14, 8:00 am, Central Office and Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 pm, High School Library. Finally he reminded the audience that the High School musical theater production of "Into The Woods" will take place this weekend.

Report of the SGO Representative

SGO representative, Charles Sharkey, reported on events and activities at the high school including the end of the first quarter, the upcoming production of "Into the Woods" and National Honor Society Induction.

Regular Business

Update – High School

High School principal, Albert Cousins, updated the Board on changes in the high school programs, including the senior year, as well as support systems for students and professional development for faculty and administrators. He also reviewed the online support available for parents and students.

The board had a brief discussion in regard to eliminating ranking of students and the effect on college admission. The issue of open campus was discussed as well as elective courses for next year. Dr. Melnick explained that there will be no increase in staffing for electives and there must be a minimum of 15 students for an elective to run.

Role of NYS Assessments in Measuring Quality Instruction

The Board had a lengthy discussion in regard to assessments and the goal of improving quality of instruction. Specifically current beliefs and practices related to how the district views the NYS Grades 3-8 ELA and Math assessments and the current Board policy regarding assessments. They also discussed revising their policy and the White Paper on assessments, which outlines the policy and practice in regard to these exams. The board reviewed how student performance is currently measured and how to proceed to accomplish what it is they want to achieve in the area of assessment and measurement of student performance. Dr. Melnick recommended that all assessment data be used to triangulate evidence in creating an accurate picture of how our students perform. He recommended analyzing qualitative and quantitative data both vertically and horizontally to ascertain a full reportable outcome of student achievement. This would also provide a comparison of North Shore students to other local high performing districts and would give a picture of how North Shore students compare nationally and internationally. They also discussed current practices at North Shore as well as the recommended assessments and practices to be adopted. Dr. Melnick recommended a balanced approach in addressing the one year decline in our test scores. The Board agreed test scores are important in measuring success but do not want the emphasis to be on teaching to the test or test taking tricks. They all felt it important that our students become critical thinkers and are prepared to succeed in the global market.

Comments from the Public

Michael Phillips, Sea Cliff, expressed his concern that teaching to the test to obtain mastery may distort the subject matter. He also voiced concern that this new strategy may be detrimental to good teachers and students.

Trustee Webb responded the district's philosophy has been to put the emphasis on education and not on taking tests. He went on to say that clearly the focus needs to change but

unlike some of our neighboring districts who prepare their students to specifically take tests, we will continue with a balanced approach.

Anne Sheerin, Glen Head, commented on electives and suggested courses on public speaking, forensics and a college essay writing course. She noted that gym grades are not posted on the parent portal. She commented that she believes there must be tests for accountability and teaching how to take tests is important. She noted that SAT prep courses teach students strategies and tricks for taking the test. Finally she commented on the requirement of sixth grade students to write a sophisticated essay when in many cases they are unaware of what that means.

Trustee Berliner responded that colleges are skeptical of student essays as it has become common for them to “farm out” their essays. Responding to the 6th grade essay requirement comment, Trustee Sharkey explained that students begin preparing for this in fifth grade by writing DBQs. Mr. Chlebicki added that he believes it is important to teach testing skills but feels that is different than testing strategies or tricks. He went on to say that in preparing for the SAT students are taught how to apply thinking skills to the testing situation.

Toni Labatte, Glen Head commented that she believes public speaking is essential in all classes. She explained that her child did well on last year’s tests however her second grader is terrified of exam taking because of the focus on the tests this year. She does not feel the White Paper should be re-written and does not want test taking to become the emphasis.

Dr. Melnick responded that they will be rewriting the expectations in the paper. Mr. Chlebicki responded that public speaking is part of the four strands in the English Language Arts standards according to the State curriculum. He said that although we do not offer formal courses in public speaking he agrees this needs to be bolstered.

Cecelia McCann, Glenwood Landing, expressed her belief that teaching test taking strategies is essential and should not be considered a trick. She believes the ELA test is testing the teacher not the students. She feels children need to be taught fundamentals such as memorizing math tables in order to succeed.

Trustee Genovesi responded that she agrees testing skills are important, but this should not become the emphasis.

Carol Bleiweiss, Old Brookville, commented that her children have had very positive experiences with the school district.

Allison Loring, Glen Head, asked if there was an answer to her question from the last meeting in regard to allowing public access to the gate at the high school on Plymouth Drive during non school hours.

Dr. Melnick responded after speaking to the Director of Facilities, he understands the reason the gates are locked during the day is for security reasons and the gate on Plymouth Drive is locked during the same times as the one on the other side of campus (Todd Dr.).

Ms. Loring responded this is unacceptable and she is circulating a petition of residents in the area who are in favor of having the gates open during non-school hours. She went on to say that the reason the district began locking the gates were due to complaints from residents on the other side of campus. She said there are now more residents who are in favor of having the gates open than those opposed to it.

Trustee Webb said once the petition is received the Board will take it under advisement and will return a decision.

Budget Goals

Dr. Melnick reported that contributions to the New York State Teacher Retirement System will be increased from 8.62% to 11.5%, to the New York State Employee Retirement System from 11.97% - 16.37% and health insurance contributions will increase 16%, this means a 3.5% budget-to-budget increase for retirement and health insurance alone. In addition, contractual obligations, including salaries, BOCES programs, occupational programs and

operating expenses such as materials and supplies would bring us to a budget-to-budget increase of 6.8%. He asked that the Board give some direction of priorities for the budget formation process.

The Board discussed the difficulty of presenting a reasonable budget with the issues they are facing this year. They all agreed that it is important to ascertain what the community's priorities are during the upcoming pre-budget discussions. Dr. Melnick will draft a few target questions to ask at these meetings so the Board can get a clear picture of what their concerns and priorities are. It was noted there may be less to give back to the taxpayer at the end of the year if the budget is cut close resulting in a lower than usual fund balance. Ms. Buatsi noted next year should be the peak of the economic issues and retirement and health costs should level off. After meeting with the community at the pre-budget discussions, the Board will take the questions and suggestions that are raised to assist in formulating the budget.

Legislative Issues

Trustees Webb and Beyer attended a meeting of the Manhasset Citizens Advisory Committee for Legislative Affairs (CACLA). They CACLA will be sending out an invitation to surrounding districts for a meeting to discuss the possibility of a regional collaboration. The meeting will be held at the Manhasset High School on January 10, 2011. The intent of the meeting will be to determine which districts intend to be active members and to discuss the structure of the group. They have asked that North Shore be part of the hosting districts. This committee will be made up of Board members and community members. The Board agreed that North Shore should participate in this committee and will look for potential committee members from the community.

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

On motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst it was resolved to approve action items E-R with the exception of action item P which was tabled.

Personnel

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes – Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Andrea Schulz, Elementary, effective December 17, 2010

Increment for Advanced Study – Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Kristin Robbins, Latin, from Step 2 of the MA salary schedule, to Step 2 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2010

Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve a probationary appointment for Nicole Riggio, Special Education, on Step 1 of the BA+15 salary schedule, effective November 3, 2010 through September 1, 2013, new position

Resolved: To approve a probationary appointment for Susan Schmelkin, Level I Teacher Assistant, effective November 8, 2010 through November 8, 2013, new position (TA for Math Center in HS)

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Kathleen Andersen, Elementary, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective November 3, 2010 through June 30, 2011, replacing Andrea Schulz (child rearing leave)

Resolved: To approve the temporary appointment of June Grutzner, Special Education, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective November 3, 2010 through December 31, 2010, replacing Jennifer Fischer (child rearing leave)

Teacher Overage

Resolved: To approve a .1 overage for Rob Hert, Math AIS (lunch support for 6th grade students), effective November 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Resignation for Retirement Purposes – Non Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes of Dolores Gulde, Stenographer, effective December 31, 2010

Appointment – Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Thomas Anderson, Part-Time Bus Driver, effective November 1, 2010, replacing Jon Costonas (resigned)

Appointment of Director of Community Education 2010-2011

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Dean Miller, Director of Continuing Education for the 2010-11 school year

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Pam Castiglie	Food Service Worker
John Castiglie	Security Aide
Jennifer Kinsella	Secondary
Christina Nappi	Elementary
Jennifer Reina	Elementary
Joseph Rizzo	Security Aide
Ann Stewart	Clerical

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Coach & Advisors

Resolved: To add the following person to the list of extra curricular activity coaches

Middle School

Basketball (8 th grade)	Harrison Berglin
Musical Accompanist	Matthew Lucero
Music Choreographer	Dahlia Rodriguez
Art Club	Pam Shea

High School

Musical Choreographer	Kevin Wallace
Musical Accompanist	Matthew Lucero

Approval of Pit Orchestra Musicians

Resolved: To approve the following musicians to play in the pit orchestra for the high school musical production of Into the Woods:

Lisa Polito

Denise Meshejian

Zach Rifkind

Appointment of Deputy Treasurer

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Joao Rodrigues as Deputy Treasurer effective November 18, 2010 (Joao will replace John Hall who was appointed at the organizational meeting)

Acceptance of Donation from Rainbow Media Holdings to the North Shore High School

Resolved: To accept the donation of \$3,000 from Rainbow Media Holdings for purchase of Technology Equipment to be used for the MSG Varsity Club

Approval of 2011-2012 School Calendar

Resolved: To approve the 2011-2012 school calendar

Approval of Guest Presenter for Social Studies Department

Resolved: To approve Jeffrey Gottlieb, independent consultant, to provide a presentation on Early Human Technology to middle school students on October 21 & 22, 2010 in the amount of \$650

Approval of Change Order

Resolved: To approve change order Electrical #2 from Eldor Contracting Corp. for boiler room reconstruction & HVAC work in the middle school in the amount of \$1,657 (additional)

Approval To Dispose Of Inventory

Resolved: To approve of the disposal of the following inventory items:

2 Baldwin Hamilton Pianos located at the Sea Cliff School

Approval of Special Education Services Contract

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Glen Cove City School District for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Glen Cove City School District and residing within the North Shore School District during the 2010-2011 school year

Approval of Special Education Tuition Agreements

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Roslyn UFSD for special education tuition for 1 resident student effective October 18, 2010 through June 30, 2011, at an annual rate of \$78,527

Approval of Special Education Consultant Agreements

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Karin Burkhard, MD, to provide Psychiatric Evaluations, effective the 2010-2011 school year

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Janet Mueller, Psy.D, to provide psychological services, effective the 2010-2011 school year

Approval of Revised Special Education Consultant Agreements

Resolved: To approve the revised agreement with Toni Ann Christie, Autism/Behavioral Consultant, to provide ABA consultation & activities associated with provision of student aides, effective the 2010-2011 school year

Resolved: To approve the revised agreement with Carmela DiChiara-Raguso, Speech Language Pathologist, to provide speech-language therapy services, effective the 2010-2011 school year

Resolved: To approve the revised agreement with Alan Galgana, Behavioral Consultant, to provide behavioral consultation services, effective the 2010-2011 school year

Resolved: To approve the revised agreement with Veronique Hayek, Behavioral Consultant, to provide behavioral consultation services, effective the 2010-2011 school year

Resolved: To approve the revised agreement with Barbara Miller, Physical Therapist, to provide physical therapy services, effective the 2010-2011 school year

Resolved: To approve the revised agreement with Jill Ottosen, Behavioral Consultant, to provide behavioral consultation services, effective the 2010-2011 school year

Resolved: To approve the revised agreement with Jennifer Strangio-Lott, Behavioral Consultant, to provide behavioral consultation services, effective the 2010-2011 school year

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

Resolved: To approve re-submitted IEPS #363624520 and 363624525

Comments from the Public

There was no public present.

Old Business/New Business

There was no old or new business reported.

Adjournment

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

By: Janet Bates Wilkins