

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 9, 2010

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

Executive Session

At 7:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the Sea Cliff School principal's office for discussions regarding current litigation and matters leading to the appointment of a particular person.

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Beyer seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the auditorium. There were approximately 75 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-president Genovesi led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Glen Head & Sea Cliff combined orchestra under the direction of Kevin Haas, performed two pieces for the Board of Education.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the minutes of December 2, 2010 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Melnick reported that it appears the 2% cap on taxes will go through. He also reported that there is a possibility that the Board of Regents will institute a \$5 charge per student per Regents exam to make up for a deficit in their budget. If this goes into effect, the charge will be deducted from any state aid payments due the district. Another possibility is suspending Regents exams completely for the next two years until the Core Standards are established.

Report of the SGO Representative

SGO representative, Charles Sharkey, reported on events and activities in the high school including that the Arts Angels will be hosting a book fair and art show at Barnes and Noble in Manhasset December 10-12. There will be art work on display from various students K-12 as well as performances by the Middle School Treble Chorus and the High School Madrigals; community members are encouraged to attend.

Regular Business

Acceptance of Audit Report

On motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the audit report for year ending June 30, 2010 and reviewed at the meeting of November 18, 2010, was accepted.

Arts Review

Dr. Melnick thanked Fine & Performing Arts Director, Terryl Donovan, for her assistance in the review of the arts program with consultant Carol Fineberg. Prior to the meeting the Board received the final report and a series of recommendations from Ms. Donovan to frame their discussion.

The Board had a lengthy discussion. The focus was on how short term and long term goals were identified and how to proceed with the recommendations. The Board expressed their support for the arts program but asked for a list of priorities and an action plan with a time line for implementing the recommendations. They agreed any health or safety issue must be completed first. Dr. Melnick explained the intention was to create a list and time line after this discussion and once it is determined how the board wishes to proceed and what funding is available. Dr. Melnick also noted that the Board may want to institute a “no cut” policy for the theatre program in the middle school, similar to the one for the athletic program. Ms. Donovan explained the important issues identified in the report; lack of facilities, time constraints and space issues. She commended the arts faculty for their dedication and hard work.

Dr. Melnick added that in the past decade the focus has swung so far toward standardized testing he applauds this board for recognizing the role of the arts and how crucial these programs are in the lives of our students. He also expressed his pride in the faculty and noted it is not only the product that is important but the process. He went on to explain that the genesis of the report came from the understanding that the needs of some students were not being met; for example the lack of a dance program. Although there is now a dance option in the physical education program, he asked the board to decide if they want to expand the arts program by including a dance curriculum, as well as further expanding the current theatre curriculum. He also recommended making the addition of a “small black box theatre” a priority. He suggested determining what parts of the report should be the perspective of the capital campaign and recommended including the sound system upgrades and scenery construction.

Trustee Genovesi suggested discussing the facility issues at a steering committee meeting as many of these issues are facility repairs and there are funds in the repair reserve which may be available. She cautioned that there are serious budgetary issues coming and many in the community have changed what they feel are priorities. She said it is important for those in support of expanding the arts program to express their views publicly and to encourage the younger parents to get involved as well. She noted there are two pre-budget focus group meetings on December 14 when community members will have an opportunity to share their priorities on the upcoming budget.

Dr. Melnick and Ms. Donovan will take the feedback from this meeting and organize a list of priorities and a time line for the recommendations.

Comments from the Public

Julia Brennan, Sea Cliff, explained that she works with students in the theatre program, as an artist in residence with costuming. She thanked the board for the positive comments and support of the arts program. She went on to say the arts program gives many students a connection to the community and to their school and does not have to be about getting scholarships or admission to an arts school. She also commended Ms. Donovan for running such a superb program.

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, expressed her support of the arts and explained that she attended schools for the performing arts on both the secondary and post secondary levels. She explained that her high school was not a great facility but did have outstanding teachers and curriculum. She said with the budgeting issues facing the district she feels more should be put into academics and hiring the most talented teachers. She suggested a dance program be an elective and not a part of the curriculum that requires students to be pulled out from class.

Dr. Melnick responded that Ms. Donovan is working toward a less disruptive music

schedule that would not require pull outs.

Kevin McDonagh, Glen Head, expressed his support of the arts program and of making it even stronger.

Ann Collins, Sea Cliff, expressed her support of expanding the arts program. She participates in the performing arts productions on the costume crew and said this is a confidence building experience for students which affects all parts of their life. She also praised the art teachers.

Jodie Larson, Sea Cliff, expressed her support of the arts program. She explained that her daughter is a superior athlete and does much of her training outside of the school, however, she is also part of the Madrigals and this is a wonderful outlet outside of her sport.

Melinda Bloom, Glen Head, also expressed her support of the theatre program. She explained that there is a safety issue with the theatre due to the age of the space and the different uses of it. She went on to say that the inadequate amount of space limits students' access to learning possibilities.

Rob Chlebicki commented that these programs build self confidence for many students and gives them recognition by their peers. He applauded our theatre program as well as the visual arts department. He commended the teachers and Ms. Donovan for fostering the arts in our schools.

Trustee Genovesi commented that many district residents support the arts and she encouraged participation on the upcoming long range plan.

Dr. Melnick commented that some of the best instruction is modeled in the arts and athletic classes.

Long Range Plan

Dr. Melnick explained the focus and time line for initiating a long range plan for 2020. The Board discussed how the committee would be formed; what constituent groups would be included and the time line. Dr. Melnick explained the format would be different than the last strategic plan as the economy and state regulations have changed drastically and therefore the focus must change also. He would like to begin by examining the values and operating principals and strengths and weakness of the current program and move from there. It was suggested that current and former students be included on the committee and to include anyone who is interested in participating. It was also suggested to use technology that is now available for recruiting and including participants.

White Paper on Assessment & Assessment Policy

The Board reviewed recommendations from the policy sub committee for changes to the white paper on assessment as well as the assessment policy. Trustees felt it is important for the paper to be more specific about what needs to be done to prepare students for assessments, but want to be cautious not to lose the original intention of the paper. Dr. Melnick will incorporate the revisions agreed upon and the Board will adopt both the revised White Paper and Assessment Policy at their next meeting.

Review of Board Policies 8000 – 9000

The Board reviewed and accepted the sub committee's recommended changes to policies 8134, 8212, 8240, 8414.3-R, 8500, 9240 and 9400. These revised policies will be adopted by the Board at their next meeting.

Legislative Issues

Dr. Melnick reported on legislative issues during his report.

On motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, action

item L, Approval of a Settlement Agreement with Global Partners LP/Global Companies LLC was added and read into the agenda

The board decided to act simultaneously on action items G-L

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 Lori Reichel, Health, effective December 31, 2010

Increment for Advanced Study

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Tiffany Falcone, Elementary/Math, from Step 5 of the BA+15 salary schedule, to Step 5 of the BA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2010

Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Kelly O’Hagan, as a Level I Teacher Assistant, effective December 6, 2010 through December 6, 2013

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.4) appointment for Mary Shannon, Math, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule effective December 6, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Brian Suhovsky as a Level I Teacher Assistant, effective December 9, 2010 through December 9, 2013

Appointment – Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Ann Bastardi, Sr. Typist Clerk, Food Service, on Step 12 of the Sr. Typist Clerk salary schedule, effective November 22, 2010 with a 26 week probationary period

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Club & Advisors

Resolved: To approve the addition of a Bully Prevention Club as a Level I club at the Glen Head School (this will replace the School Spirit Club which is no longer running)

High School

Mock Trial	Donna Rice Robert Willgoos
Dance Club (Pulse)	Amanda Brown
Business Advisor	Jean McNamara
Yearbook	Robin Appel Lori Berglin
Literary Magazine	Elliot Touretz*
*replaces Len Schiff	

Middle School

Grade 7 Advisor	Eric Rizzo*
E3 Club	Joseph Melillo Keith Slack Stacy Miranda

International Club	Gaietrie Parag
French Club	Kristin Konopka
Student Store	Jennifer Horton
Yearbook	Keri Crocco
*replaces Flavia Finning	

<u>Sea Cliff</u>	
Art Club	Lisa Giurlanda

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$350,399.95 effective December 9, 2010

Approval of Health Services Contract

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Hempstead Public Schools for 8 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending non-public schools within the Hempstead Public School District for the 2010-11 school year at a cost of \$864 per student, as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of Agreement with Creative Tutoring, Inc.

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Creative Tutoring, inc. to provide tutoring services effective November 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Approval of Special Education Consultant Agreement

Resolved: To approve an amended agreement with Maegan Meneses, Speech-Language Pathologist, for speech-language therapy services effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Approval of Resolution for a Settlement Agreement with Global Partners LP/Global Companies LLC

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the terms and conditions of a Settlement Agreement between the School district and Global Partners LP/Global Companies LLC in the form attached hereto;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Settlement Agreement.

Comments from the Public

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, suggested reaching out to recently graduated students to participate in the Long Range Strategic Plan. Dr. Melnick responded he does plan to survey graduates. Trustee Beyer added a group of graduates attend the January high school PTA meeting each year to speak to parents and students about their experiences during the first year of college and specifically how North Shore prepared them for the transition.

Ms. Reiner also requested that the bullying policy throughout the district be consistent.

Old Business

Trustee Beyer explained that after the construction steering committee meeting earlier this week, it became apparent that if the Board decides to hold a vote to expend the funds for the construction of the track & field at this upcoming vote in May, they would need to move quickly to submit the plans to the state so work can begin in the summer of 2011; plans need to be in Albany by mid-February for construction to begin summer 2011. She went on to explain

that even if the Board decides to hold off on the vote until May of 2012, it would be beneficial to have the plans prepared and submitted, then if approved by the state they would be ready for construction the following year. She explained that the construction steering committee will meet with consultants that specialize in this type of construction on December 21st. She also reported that the consultants and architects will meet with the Board at their work session on January 13 and requested that Trustees come with their thoughts about when to hold the referendum.

New Business

Dr. Melnick asked the Board to decide whether they would like to belong to Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association for the 2011-2012 school year so he may include the cost in next year's budget; last year the board made a decision to not join due to budget constraints. The Board had a brief discussion and decided the benefits of this organization is not worth the fee, therefore they opted against membership again next year.

Trustee Kolkhorst asked about the time frame for state on the track and field plans. Trustee Beyer explained it takes about 3 months for the state to approve the plans; this would be pending voter approval to expend the funds. The day after the vote, the state would be notified and the plans would get final approval.

Adjournment

At 10:30 pm, on motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk