

Board of Education  
Minutes  
Town Meeting  
February 25, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Webb at 7:30 pm in the High School Alumni Room. Present were Trustees Berliner, Beyer, Genovesi, Kolkhorst, Pombar and Sharkey. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Ms. Buatsi and Mr. Chlebicki.

**Executive Session**

At 7:30 pm, on motion of Trustee Beyer 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 collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Kolkhorst seconded by Trustee Berliner 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 50 people in the audience.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Webb led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Recognition of Students**

Pierce Janssen was recognized by the Board for being named a News12 Scholar/Athlete and Cole Korponay was recognized for being named an Intel Semi-Finalist.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the minutes of February 4, 2010 were approved.

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Melnick reported on the status of the Chats with the Superintendent. He reported that these meetings have been positive and informative and he plans to repeat another series in April or May.

**Report of the SGO Representative**

SGO Representative, Charles Sharkey, reported on events and activities at the high school including the Long Island Math Fair scheduled for March 5 and Sports Night on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Budget Review**

The Board reviewed portions of the budget relating to Regular Instruction and Other Instruction. Dr. Melnick made recommendations for cuts. The Board discussed these sections and decided to remove \$514,537 from elementary teacher salaries (this represents the elimination of 6 elementary teaching positions); \$444,460 from secondary teacher salaries (this represents the elimination of 5.5 secondary teaching positions); \$80,353 from Staff Development; a total of \$14,200 for all schools from other expenses; \$69,638 from BOCES Tuition (Regular School); \$16,686 from Computer Equipment for the elementary schools and \$29,624 from Computer Equipment for the secondary schools. Dr. Melnick then made recommendations for parts of the budget already reviewed. The Board agreed to remove \$44,854 representing one custodial position and \$49,972 representing one secretarial position.

The Board also placed \$57,000 for Diversity Training on the list of comeback items, as well as an additional 4.5 teaching positions, 1 additional custodial position and 1 additional secretarial position. In total the Board removed \$1,264,054 at this meeting bringing the grand total removed over the last two meetings to \$1,926,787 as well as \$370,150 in comeback items.

During the budget review, the Board expressed concern over the size of class sections being disproportionate between elementary schools. A question was raised whether it would be possible to allow parents the option of attending one of the other schools where class sizes may be smaller. Dr. Melnick explained Board policy allows a child to attend a school outside of their catch area only if a child moves during the year. He went on to say the numbers he provided are tentative based upon current enrollment. He also stated that these numbers reflect the cuts already made to staffing and class sizes will go up even more if it is decided to remove the additional 4.5 positions on the comeback list.

Dr. Melnick pointed out that the stimulus funds allotted to North Shore will run out in 2010-2011. This will be a significant loss of almost \$500,000.

Trustee Webb made a statement that in the seven years he has been a Trustee, this is the first time the Board is reducing the number of teachers and increasing class size changing the way we educate our children. He went on to say the board remains committed to maintaining the strength of the district however they can.

Dr. Melnick expressed concern that parents angry over increased class size may turn their frustration into a negative budget vote and emphasized that the impact of a contingency budget would mean significantly higher class sizes.

Questions were raised in regard to the cuts in staff development. Dr. Melnick explained this is the result of cutting consultants for Differentiated Instruction thereby reducing salaries paid for summer training.

The Board briefly discussed the elimination of funding for the BOCES Greenkill program and how this would impact students. Dr. Melnick explained that if the program continued, students would need to absorb the cost which may be offset by fundraising; the District would continue to pay for those students who could not afford the cost.

The Board reviewed the special education portion of the budget. Dr. Melnick commended Tom Korb and his team for their work in providing an accurate number of students and dollar figures. He explained there is not a lot of latitude in special education costs; districts must provide an education for children aged 4-21. He went on to say there are two additional .5 FTE teachers being added to the special education faculty due to the number of classified students and in order to be in compliance. Questions were raised about a uniform rate for special education providers. Dr. Melnick explained it is hard to find certain therapists and they set their own rate; most of the costs are IEP driven. Nassau BOCES cut 37 teaching positions and are consolidating programs therefore per pupil costs are increasing there. Districts are bringing back as many students as they can and the more students who return to districts, the higher the per pupil rate. Dr. Melnick also noted we are in line with the county average of special education students at 13.5% classified, however it is the high end of the average. The Board had a brief discussion about removing Occupational Education from the BOCES budget however there was consensus to keep it in the budget as Trustees feel it is important to provide an alternate program for students. They also agreed that the middle school athletics budget should remain as is.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments.

### Legislative Issues

Trustee Webb reported he, along with Trustee Beyer and Ms. Buatsi, met with Assemblyman Charles Lavine, and discussed the impact the current formula for contingency would have on districts if budgets were to fail. Assemblyman Lavine was unaware that the current formula would result in a zero percent increase in budgets and has promised to investigate the possibility of bringing a bill forward to address this issue. Trustees Beyer, Genovesi and Webb drafted a letter to be sent to local and state legislators in this regard and will ask sister districts to sign it as well. Trustee Webb asked fellow Trustees to e-mail him any suggestions they may have for the letter. There is a meeting scheduled with Senator Carl Marcellino tomorrow and he has reached out to newly elected Assemblyman Michael Montessano to make him aware of the issue as well.

It was reported that Michelle Schimel, State Legislator for Manhasset, is interested in lobbying for changing the law in regard to transportation, specifically the number of seats a district is required to have on their buses.

Trustee Beyer would like an opinion from our attorney as to whether the Board is allowed to hire a lobbyist. She reported the MTA tax reimbursement is in the State budget and it has been reported that districts will get this funding.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items C-L

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor it was:

#### Personnel - Tab

##### Tenure Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To grant tenure to Linda Burgos, Elementary, effective February 26, 2010

##### Increment for Advanced Study - Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Steven Menchel, Science, from Step 9 of the MA+30 salary schedule, salary \$90,628 to Step 9 of the MA+45 salary schedule, salary \$92,950, effective February 1, 2010

##### Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Cynthia Andrews, Elementary, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule at an annual salary of \$62,359 (pro-rated), effective February 1, 2010 through February 26, 2010

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Ruth Haukeland, Latin, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule at an annual salary of \$93,610 (pro-rated) effective February 26, 2010 through March 25, 2010

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Laura Hutt, Guidance, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, at an annual salary of \$62,359 (pro-rated) effective February 5, 2010 through April 9, 2010

##### Approval of Overage – Certified

Resolved: To approve a .2 overage for Anna DeNatale, Biology, effective February 1, 2010

##### Appointment of Academic Summer School Principal

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Dean Miller, Academic Summer School Principal, effective July 1, 2010 through August 31, 2010

Appointments – Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Vincent Costa, Bus Driver, effective February 16, 2010

Resolved: To approve the appointment of David Wiedmer, Bus Driver effective February 16, 2010

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Michael Borchick, Monitor

Seth Busching, Music

Deirdre Davison, English

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Coaches

Resolved: To approve the following coaches for the Spring season:

High School

Baseball

Varsity	Dominic Gatti
Assistant	Robert Trenkle
Junior Varsity	William Melillo, Jr.

Men's Lacrosse

Varsity	Aaron Kozlowski
Assistant	Joseph Gallina
Junior Varsity	Christopher Vitucci

Women's Lacrosse

Varsity	Sarah Hogan
Assistant	Alicia Frisch
Junior Varsity	Megan McCormack

Softball

Varsity	Lauren Gotta
Assistant	Michelle Lever
Junior Varsity	Thomas Granieri

Men's Tennis

Varsity	Brian Kline
Junior Varsity	Craig Roslund

Golf

Varsity	Andrew Richter
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Men's Spring Track

Varsity	Edward Corona
Assistant	Robin Cooper

Women's Spring Track

Varsity	Neal Levy
Assistant	Clifton Schultz

Approval of Pit Orchestra Musicians

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

Peter Deschler	\$350
Dean Miller	\$350
Dennis Moller	\$350
Zack Rifkind	\$300

Acceptance of Donation from the High School PTSA

Resolved: To accept the donation of \$580 from the High School PTSA to the High School Dance Group PULSE to purchase uniforms

Prior to approving the revised maintenance agreement, the Board thanked John Hall and Olivia Buatsi for renegotiating the contract resulting in tremendous savings to the district.

Approval of Revised Maintenance Agreement with Honeywell

Resolved: To approve the revised maintenance agreement with Honeywell in the amount of \$25,912 effective February 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Approval of Health Services

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Garden City Public Schools for 7 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending The Waldorf School for the 2009-10 school year at a cost of \$741.10 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 UFSD for 1 student residing within the North Shore Schools and attending St. Patrick School for the 2009-10 school year at a cost of \$643.78 per student, as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of an Agreement with Ruby Bridges

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Ruby Bridges, to provide a presentation to the Sea Cliff Elementary and Glen Head Elementary School in the amount of not to exceed \$4,500 (including expenses)

Approval of Revised Special Education Services Contract with the Glen Cove School District

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Glen Cove City School District for Special Education Services for 3 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 Special Education Consultant

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Chris Romanger, Special Education Teacher, effective July 2, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

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

Prior to approving the following resolution, Trustee Beyer recommended Ms. Ross Srulevich as a nominee for to the Nassau BOCES Board:

Approval of Resolution Nominating a Candidate to the Nassau BOCES Board

Resolved: To approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore School District hereby nominates Gail Ross-Srulevich to the Nassau BOCES Board of Education for a three year term commencing July 1, 2010

**Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**Old Business**

Dr. Melnick noted for the record that under the management of Olivia Buatsi, North Shore Schools was identified as having exemplary business management practices.

**New Business**

There was no new business reported.

**Adjournment**

At 10:00 pm on motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk