

Board of Education
Minutes
Town Meeting
February 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Webb at 7:30 pm in the High School Library. 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 Sharkey seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the high school faculty room for discussions regarding, pending or current litigation.

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Beyer seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting in the library. There were approximately 20 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Webb led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Prior to the approval of minutes the Board asked Dr. Melnick to clarify a statement made at the last meeting that all extra curricular activities will be cut from the budget if we were to be on contingency. Dr. Melnick did confirm that this would be the case if the budget was to fail and the district is forced to have a contingent budget. It was also noted that the vote on the track and field will be postponed until the fall.

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the minutes of January 21, 2010, were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported that the district continues to receive academic accolades specifically an Intel Semi-Finalist, a News12 Scholar Athlete, the highest number of AP scholars in history and very strong early decision college acceptances. He also reported that the Middle School will be performing Romeo & Juliet this weekend. He then explained that the Administrator's Council has agreed to a half-year salary freeze and read a letter from the Administrator's in this regard. It was noted after the letter was read that the Administrators agreed to more concessions than was originally proposed.

Report of the SGO Representative

SGO Representative, Charles Sharkey, reported on events and activities at the high school, including a Key Club fundraiser for Haiti; students will participate in the Nassau County Math Tournament on February 5th; and the GLEE club will be selling singing telegrams for Valentines Day.

Regular Business

Demographic Report

Ross Haber gave an overview of the demographic report he submitted to the Board and Superintendent. After doing a thorough investigation, it appears the new owner of the North Shore Country Club property will not be developing it into residential homes. He noted the

district's buildings are in good shape and every available space is utilized. He projects that enrollment will decrease over the next five to ten years.

Trustee Pombar asked Mr. Haber about two properties that are being developed that were not included in the report; specifically Harbor Links in Glenwood Landing and the former Lundy property in Glen Head. Both of these properties would flow into the Glenwood Landing Elementary School. Mr. Haber agreed to add an addendum to his report which will include these properties and their possible impact on enrollment in future years.

Budget Review

The Board reviewed the portions of the budget pertaining to Board of Education, Central Administration, Central Services, Plant Maintenance, Insurance/BOCES Administration, and Supervision of Instruction. After discussing these sections it was decided to remove \$582,380 from Central Services/Facilities & Operations and \$80,000 from Instructional Supervision. In addition, the Board placed \$3,150 for membership to Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association and \$310,000 for Security District-wide on the comeback list. These items will be discussed again at the March 11th meeting when it will be decided whether or not to remove or reduce these amounts. The Board also asked that Ms. Buatsi calculate the amount needed for a second election in the fall as this will need to be added to the election budget. In total, the Board removed \$662,380 from the budget and placed \$313,150 on the list of items to comeback to.

Comments from the Public

Pat Hacket, Glen Head asked if there were discussions about freezing salaries for the year.

Dr. Melnick responded salaries are part of collective bargaining and cannot be discussed in public but there will be discussions with the various groups about concessions.

Donna Calamis, Glen Head asked about the increase in Special Education Directors salaries.

Dr. Melnick explained the increase is due to a change in position from CSE chairperson to assistant director of special education. The position is for the same salary but with a longer work day and year and is offset by a decrease in special education teachers' salaries.

Steve Grabher, Glen Head asked for clarification about extra curricular activities being eliminated if the budget fails.

Dr. Melnick explained that if the district were forced to have a contingent budget, it would mean a zero percent increase to this year's budget. This would result in the reduction of over 50 positions as well as the elimination of all extra curricular activities including interscholastic athletics, clubs, plays, jazz band, madrigals, any non academic program. However, music courses and physical education would still be offered as these courses are required for graduation. He went on to say that if we are on a contingency budget, schools would be opened school hours only, there would be a tremendous increase in class size, most electives would be eliminated and only those courses mandated by the state, those required for the Regents, would be offered. He went on to say that Superintendents in surrounding districts are all concerned about passing their budgets but he is convinced we will have support from the community with a budget that is considered reasonable. Trustees added, in the past the formula for contingency gave a cap of approximately 4%, however this year, using the same formula, allows for a zero percent increase over last year's budget resulting in a tremendous reduction in staffing and programs. This would happen only if the budget were to fail. Trustee Webb added the Board is doing everything they can and the realities are very serious. He said they welcome any other suggestions to influence legislation to avert these results.

Theresa Simone, Glen Head, asked about the portion of the budget that cannot change and the 8% that the district has discretion over. She asked why the increase is at 5.88% and what percentage increase Trustees think would result in passing a budget.

Trustee Webb responded, until the budget review is complete we don't know what the percentage increase will be but the Board will try and bring that number to a reasonable amount, while recognizing that some find any increase unreasonable. He added once the budget review is complete Trustees will explain the circumstances of how they arrived at the final budget and will try to communicate that as clearly as possible. Trustee Beyer added the Board will try and uncover every possible cut so the community can support the budget and it can pass on the first try. She went on to say that the Board will go out to the community to explain the budget to build that support. Trustee Genovesi added the Board hears from community members who do not want anything taken out of the budget and those who don't care what is removed as long as there is no increase. She said it is important to hear from the community and asked that those who have an understanding of what we are facing help us with the message.

Pat Hacket, Glen Head, asked if it would be more economical to contract out for security, whether supplies are purchased through bids and whether there would be a freeze on salaries for civil service employees, plant maintenance staff or principals.

In response to the question about security, Dr. Melnick responded it costs less to employ security guards as there are no benefits involved and salaries are capped because they are retired police officers. In regard to the question of freezing salaries, he explained that these groups are covered under contracts but reminded the public that the principals have already agreed to a ½ year salary freeze as they are part of the Administrator's Group. He also explained that the district is regulated by the state as far as purchasing and bidding.

Tutoring Survey

Dr. Melnick reviewed the results of the survey he conducted with parents in regard to tutoring. He explained the general indications and gave some recommendations.

The Board had a brief discussion, some concerns raised were that the number of parents who responded to the survey does not reflect the amount of tutoring that Trustees are aware is going on throughout the district. There was also concern that students are seeking tutoring because they are not able to fit extra help sessions into their schedules and these sessions are overcrowded. It was noted, that although many students seek tutoring to help them pass a course, some students seek tutoring to enhance a grade. It was suggested that the policy involving extra help sessions be reviewed to be sure it is being followed. Trustee Webb asked Dr. Melnick for a follow up report.

Committee & Conference Reports

Trustee Beyer reported on a recent meeting of the Nassau BOCES Budget Advisory Committee. BOCES is planning on presenting a budget increase of 2.5%. They are consolidating a number of programs due to decreased enrollment and there will be reductions in special education staff due to students moving back into home districts.

Trustees Beyer and Webb attended a meeting with the East Williston School District in regard to joining in the efforts of lobbying on the Senator Oppenheimer bill. Manhasset has already agreed to join and would like to add the transportation piece; alleviating the necessity of having a seat on the bus for every eligible student whether or not they ride the bus.

Trustees Webb, Genovesi and Beyer will attend the Annual Conference March 14 & 15. Trustee Beyer will attend as the representative of Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association.

Trustee Webb forwarded material from a Law Conference he attended. He reported there were many good ideas for negotiations.

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

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

Personnel

Increment for Advanced Study

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Maria Saccardi, Elementary, from Step 10 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2010

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Amy Sellers, Special Education, from Step 3 of the BA+15 salary schedule to Step 3 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 1, 2010

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute (leave replacement appointment for Ruth Haukeland, Latin, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule effective January 26, 2010 through February 26, 2010

Approval of Resolution for Termination Pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 73

Resolved: On the Resolvedation of the Superintendent of Schools, Edward Melnick, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby terminates Rachel McMorrow from the position of School Bus Driver, effective January 31, 2010.

Approval of Spring 2010 Community Education Instructors

Resolved: To approve the following spring 2010 community education instructors:

Helen Bauer	BOCES – Cornell Cooperative
Elizabeth Cassidy	Jane D'Agate
Anthony S. DiProperzio	Anne Marie Giambrone
Susan Gill	Stephen Goldstein
Phyllis Hintze	Jennifer Horton
Donny Jarvis	Dennis Kelly
Kathy Kmonicek	Miram Mabrouck
John Manzone	Dean Miller
Patricia Mitchell	Janice Nunziata
Simone Pavlides	Greg Perles
Michelle Tanner	Jerome Vivona
Peter Wass	Mayer Weisen
Maria Whisenand	Jessica Zima

Acceptance of Donation from the Helen & Harold Gottlieb Foundation and the North Shore Baseball Alumni Foundation

Resolved: To accept the donation from the Helen & Harold Gottlieb Foundation in the amount of \$7,000 and the donation from the North Shore Baseball Alumni Foundation in the amount of \$2,000 to the High School Baseball Team for materials and service to replace the home run fence. (This donation replaces the \$9,900 donation accepted at the November 19 meeting from the Athletic Booster Club)

Approval of Budget Transfers - Tab

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$69,000, effective February 4, 2010

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

Prior to approving the disposal of inventory, the Board requested that the 1993 Ford Taurus be donated to a charitable organization.

Resolved: To declare as obsolete and approve the disposal of the following inventory items:

- 1 Piano - Glenwood Landing School
- 1 Scale - Sea Cliff School
- 1 Sander - Glen Head School
- 1 Fax Machine - High School Library
- 1 Blower - Glen Head School
- 1993 Ford Taurus Station Wagon - Central Office

Award of Monroe-2 BOCES Bids for Engineering & Biomedical Supplies and Equipment

Resolved: To award bids for Monroe-2 BOCES Bids for Engineering & Biomedical Supplies as per attached

Approval of Agreement with Centris Group

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Centris Group for RTIm Direct Software Licensing Amendment Agreement effective October, 2009 through June, 2010

Approval of Health Services

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Hempstead UFSD for 1 student residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Sacred Heart Academy for the 2009-10 school year at a cost of \$793 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 Seaford UFSD for 1 student residing within the North Shore Schools and attending St. William the Abbot School for the 2009-10 school year at a cost of \$659.52 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 Syosset Central School District for 9 students residing within the North Shore Schools and attending Our Lady of Mercy Academy for the 2009-10 school year at a cost of \$760.92 per student, as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of Special Education Tuition Agreement

Resolved: To approve a tuition agreement with Mineola UFSD for one resident special education student in the amount of \$62,294, effective September 8, 2009 through June 24, 2010

Approval of Special Education Services

Resolved: To approve special Education Services (IEP) as per attached:

Old Business

Trustee Sharkey is working on an updated log of old business. She will be removing those items that are marked done or completed and suggested keeping a separate log of legislative issues.

Trustee Genovesi asked if there would be a follow up discussion about the 9th grade survey. Dr. Melnick said he shared it with Coordinating Council and does not feel it needs a discussion. Trustee Webb agreed that a discussion was not necessary.

New Business

Trustee Beyer requested that the demographic study be put on the web site once the addendum is received. She also requested that our Board nominate Gail Ross Srulevich to the Nassau BOCES Board.

Trustee Genovesi noted that an opinion letter was received from Ingerman Smith stating the district cannot operate independently from New York State.

Adjournment

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

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk