



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

BOE/TOWN Meeting Summary

February 25, 2010

Trustees Cut \$1,926,787 from 2010-11 Initial Budget Proposal 11.5 Positions Reduced & There Could Be More



Discussion/Presentations:

The North Shore Board of Education cut \$1,264,054 from the proposed 2010-11 budget this past week, making a total reduction of \$1,926,787 during the last two BOE meetings.

To avoid a contingency scenario, 11.5 staff positions were reduced and there could be more. BOE President Dr. Igor Webb said, "I have been on the board for seven years and we never had to do this. It is the very first time we are reducing the number of teachers and increasing class size which will begin to affect the education of students..." He added, "It is a terrible time, with the state of our state... **We are committed to keeping as strong a district as we can, but there is nowhere else to go and alas, this may not be the end.**"

Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick reiterated, "Parents will need to understand that if they turn their anger into a negative budget vote, - the cuts will be worse if we are forced to be on a contingency budget."

Contingency Scenario:

At the meeting, Dr. Melnick discussed that New York State law dictates contingency. If the budget is voted down in May, the district would be forced to adopt a contingency budget which then based on a simple formula of 120 times the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 4% higher than last year's budget (whichever is lower). **Since the CPI for December 2009 was less than zero, under contingency the budget increase for next year would be zero. The district would have to operate at the same budget as this current year which would be disastrous for the children.**

Contingency would result in the reduction of over 50 positions as well as the elimination of all extracurricular activities including: interscholastic athletics, clubs, plays, jazz band, Madrigals, and all nonacademic programs. Music courses and physical education would still be offered as these courses are required for graduation. He emphasized that on a contingency budget, schools would only be opened from 8 am - 3 pm. **Additionally, there would be a tremendous increase in class size, most electives would be eliminated, and only those courses mandated by the state (i.e., those required for the Regents Diploma) would be offered.**

Lobbying Albany:

Dr. Webb stressed that North Shore Trustees continue to lead other districts in lobbying the NYS Legislature, NYS Education Department, and NYS School Boards Association to help change State Laws and reduce school costs and property taxes for residents. **He communicated that no elected representative with whom they were in contact, including those on education-related committees in both the state and legislative bodies, had a plan to address the fact that the contingency formula would result in disaster for schools across New York.**

Upcoming BOE Meetings:

During the month of March, the Board will continue to remain sensitive to the fiscal concerns of our residents as they seek to make further reductions prior to adopting the 2010-2011 budget on Thursday, March 25th. **Trustees strongly urge you to come to the upcoming meetings and voice your feelings and concerns so that they can make an informed decision based on the input of our community members.** Upcoming BOE/Budget meetings will take place in the High School Alumni Room at 8 p.m. (unless noted otherwise) on the following dates: March 11 (Comeback Items/Budget Refinement), March 25 (Budget Adoption), April 20 (BOCES Budget Vote/ Meet the Candidates Night), and May 6 (Town Meeting/Budget Reading).

The budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 in the HS Gym from 7 am to 10 pm. If you have any questions regarding the budget, please contact Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick at 516-277-7801 or email him at melnicke@northshoreschools.org. Additionally, for the latest budget information and to read a Q&A regarding many budget issues, please visit the district website at www.northshoreschools.org. For further information regarding BOE meetings, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes at www.northshoreschools.org. Complete BOE Minutes are available in the Central Office at 112 Franklin Avenue, Sea Cliff)

(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for February 25, 2010 at www.northshoreschools.org)