

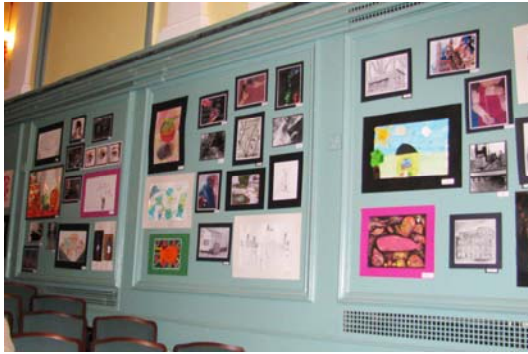


# North Shore Schools

*Discovering Your Dreams*

## BOE Meeting Summary December 9, 2010

### **Discussion/Presentations:**



#### **1. Arts Review**

The Sea Elementary School theatre was adorned with student artwork from all five North Shore Schools in preparation for Arts Review led by Terry Donavan, Director of the Fine and Performance Arts. Orchestra students from the three Elementary Schools performed beautifully to the delight of all those in attendance.

Dr. Melnick thanked Ms. Donovan for her assistance in a review of the arts program with consultant Carol Fineberg that was presented to Trustees at the end of the last school year. Prior to the meeting the Board received the final report and a series of recommendations from Ms. Donovan to frame their discussion. The focus on the conversation was 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 and asked for a list of priorities and an action plan with a time line for implementing the recommendations. They agreed that any health or safety issue must be completed first.



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.

Julia Brennan, Sea Cliff resident, 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. Trustee Genovesi commented that many district residents support the arts and she encouraged participation on the upcoming long range plan. Dr. Melnick reiterated that some of the best instruction is modeled in the arts and athletic classes.

## **2. The Long Range Plan 2020**

Dr. Melnick presented 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 said the format would be different from years ago when the last strategic plan was developed as the economy and state regulations have changed drastically. Dr. Melnick emphasized that he would like to begin by examining the values and operating principals plus strengths and weakness of the current program and move from there. Trustees suggested that current and former students be included on the committee. They also suggested utilizing current technology for recruiting and including participants.

## **3. White Paper Assessment & White Paper 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 was important for the paper to be more specific about what needs to be done to better prepare students for the assessments, but wanted to be cautious not to lose the original intention of the paper. Dr. Melnick will incorporate the approved revisions and the Board will adopt both the revised White Paper and Assessment Policy at their next meeting.

## **4. 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.

**(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for December 9, 2010 at [www.northshoreschools.org](http://www.northshoreschools.org). Complete BOE Minutes are available in the Central Office.)**