



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

BOE Meeting Summary

February 17, 2011

Budget Review

Part II

Discussion/Presentations:

North Shore Board of Education Continues to Prudently Review Budget



1. BUDGET REVIEW

At a recent North Shore Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick presented a PowerPoint presentation which outlined a number of scenarios over the next five years for the North Shore Schools if Governor Cuomo's Tax Cap Proposal is implemented without mandate relief. The proposal limits "property tax levy" increases to no more than 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Dr. Melnick said, "Due to the retirement incentive last year, we are in better shape than many of the surrounding districts."

If the 2% tax cap is approved without significant mandate relief, the budget scenarios depicted by the superintendent showed a significant budget short fall of over a million dollars per year beginning in 2012-13 to maintain the current scope of programs and services offered at the North Shore Schools.

Trustees discussed how to best move forward strategically in light of these uncertain times. **The Board members agreed that they wanted to take the most prudent steps to preserve as much of the current program as possible before the 2% tax cap takes effect.** Dr. Melnick reminded the Board that should the current legislation be signed into law, next year the

community will only vote on the tax levy and there will be no contingency budget. There was consensus by the Board to move along with a line-by-line review in order to consider where cuts may be possible without a major change in program.

After intense review, it was suggested that the Board have a further discussion about their philosophy in regard to the budget and how they wanted to proceed this year. They agreed to hold two work sessions (one on March 17th and March 19th before the 2011-12 Budget had to be adopted by April 1st.

Trustee George Pombar noted that the State reimbursed only half of the district's portion of the MTA Tax although full reimbursement was promised. Ms. Buatsi added we are not expecting any reimbursement on the MTA Tax next year. Mr. Pombar also noted the significant savings realized by merging the Director of Athletics with the Director of Physical Education & Health.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Trustees further discussed establishing a Legislative Action Committee, a committee of the Board that would include members of the community representing the district's wide range of opinions. The structure and focus of the group was discussed as well as a system for appointing members to the committee. There was consensus to create a committee comprised of 7 members plus a liaison from the Board of Education. Trustee Beyer agreed to revise the draft of the by-laws and statement of purpose for the board to review at their next meeting.

The budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 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. If you would like to have a budget coffee, please email Shelly Newman at newmans@northshoreschools.org. Additionally, for the latest budget information, please visit the district website at www.northshoreschools.org. For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes from February 17, 2011 at www.northshoreschools.org. Complete BOE Minutes are available in the Central Office at 112 Franklin Avenue, Sea Cliff.

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