

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Town Meeting
January 20, 2011

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

Executive Session

At 7:30 pm, on motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the high school faculty room for discussions regarding matters leading to the employment of a particular person and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Berliner seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the alumni room. There were approximately 20 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-president Genovesi led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Preliminary Budget Presentation

Dr. Melnick presented the preliminary 2011-2012 budget proposal. Currently the budget stands at \$90,271,546.07 or a 4.41% increase over last year's budget. Dr. Melnick explained this is the preliminary budget proposal and the Board will review the budget line by line over the next 2 months to decide where more cuts can be made. He also noted that the current proposal already reflects approximately \$2 million in cuts from the original requests presented by department heads. He explained that this budget maintains program and adds no new programs. He went on to explain each component of the budget and where the increases or decreases occurred. He highlighted the many considerations that went into this budget including the over \$1 million increase in contributions to the New York State Retirement System and an additional \$394,000 in the cost of providing health insurance; these two amounts alone make up approximately 2% of the 4.41% increase in the budget proposal. Dr. Melnick went on to say that with the elimination of the Nassau County guarantee for tax certiorari challenges and refunds the district may need to budget an additional \$1.5 million by 2013. He also spoke about the proposed 2% cap on the tax levy and the impact that would have on the maximum budget to budget percentage increase. Finally, Dr. Melnick invited all community members to contact him with specific questions and encouraged feedback. All questions and answers will be posted on the website anonymously.

Town Meeting

Trustee Genovesi thanked Dr. Melnick and all those who helped with the budget preparation. She explained that the Board held several meetings with the community in preparation for the budget process and expressed her belief that our district is in very good shape especially compared with other districts. She then opened the floor for questions.

Andrew Frame, Glen Head, requested a list of state and federal mandates the district must comply to as well as a list of those mandates the district is seeking relief from (including information on how it would help the community). He also asked if the board feels these budget increases are sustainable in the current environment and if not is the board prepared to make

cuts in staffing. Finally he asked how many employees the district had in the 60's and 70's compared to now. He stated that this is a wonderful community but wondered if we are better off than other communities.

Trustee Genovesi responded the Board has been very active on the state and local level and have talked to legislators about mandate relief. She explained that the board cannot discuss collective bargaining in public and that most districts are facing these same problems.

Dr. Melnick responded that last year 12 teaching positions were eliminated through a retirement incentive. He went on to say that enrollment in the high school is the highest it has been in 28 years and it is estimated to go even higher in the next two-three years. He added that there are fewer faculty than in the 70's and during that period the district was not faced with all of the special education mandates which often require additional staffing. Finally he explained that in years past approximately 20-25% of resident students in Nassau County districts have attended private and parochial schools, however with the economy the way it is, more resident students are now attending public school; North Shore is down to approximately 7% of resident students attending private schools. He added that these increases are not sustainable and the Board is in favor of a circuit breaker program which correlates income to tax burden. Dr. Melnick then explained that the district will begin a 10 year plan to determine how to sustain the quality of education at North Shore without bankrupting the community.

Trustee Genovesi added the Board understands the budget affects all property owners, not just parents. She encouraged residents to come to meetings and share what their concerns and issues are during this budget process. She also explained that the district is part of an advocacy group through the New York State School Boards Association which comprises over 700 school boards throughout the state.

Trustee Pombar explained that one area the district has sought relief from is a transportation mandate; this requires a seat on the bus for all students who qualify for transportation even if they don't utilize our buses. He also stated that he is in favor of a 2% tax cap but said it needs to come with relief from some of these mandated expenses.

Trustee Beyer added these increases are not sustainable in the current economy but cautioned we risk the education of our students if we start cutting program and is why we need to work toward getting relief from the state. She explained the work by several districts with former County Executive Tom Suozzi to address some of these issues by working together in seeking relief through consolidation of services. She went on to say that several of those districts are now working together to determine which of the state mandates can be addressed. The focus is on mandates that would not cost the state any money and would only involve changing legislation. She also explained that the recent addition of a Tier V in the retirement system was something the Board fought hard for, however, it will not bring immediate relief.

Liz Falcone, Glen Head, asked when the County Guarantee will go into effect.

Dr. Melnick responded, it will not go in effect until 2013, however, schools boards are taking legal action to try and reverse that decision.

Denise Reiner, Old Brookville, asked if the principals and directors would be at the meetings when their budgets are reviewed to explain what items in their original requests were removed prior to this budget proposal. She also asked if the board would consider additional requests to the budget or if it is closed at this point.

Dr. Melnick explained that the budget proposal, which will be available to the community, includes the items that have already been cut. The Board keeps a list of items they may want to take a second look at and reviews that prior to adopting the budget. He went on to explain that one of the items cut was the addition of Chinese as a language choice at the middle school. He explained that there is an elective for this language at the high school level, but he does not believe it is fiscally possible to offer 5 languages. This would come under new programs and require additional staffing.

Dr. Reiner asked about replacing extra curricular activities that are currently running but are not successful. She said she wants to be sure that clubs and programs are looked at closely enough and if students are not getting enough out of them, that there is a process for replacement.

Dr. Melnick explained there is a minimum number of students who must subscribe to a club in order for it to run. During the year advisors are required to submit mid year and end of year reports as well as keeping student attendance and a list of club meeting dates. He also explained that if there is no student interest, the program or club can be replaced with a new one.

Trustee Genovesi added the elimination of after school sports and clubs would not make a significant change to the budget.

Kate Murphy, Sea Cliff, asked what the MTA tax cost the district.

Dr. Melnick responded this year the cost was \$187,000.

Amanda Notaris, Glen Head suggested reaching out to parents who are unable to attend meetings. She suggested a form on the website for parents to voice their questions or concerns.

Dr. Melnick responded he would look into that, as well as the possibility of holding daytime information sessions or Webinars.

Tina Marchese, Sea Cliff suggested sending an e-mail to parents with a link to the communication page.

Clare Demeo, Glen Head, commended Dr. Melnick and all involved on the budget proposal. She asked for a time line for the tax cap and asked if it only affects school taxes.

Dr. Melnick responded he is not sure when the tax cap would go into effect. He said New York State Speaker Silver, New York State Senator Skelos and Governor Cuomo will meet and make the decision. The governor is proposing an overall 2% cap on property tax including school, village, county, and town taxes. He went on to say that the State is supposed to have a budget by April 1 and districts must adopt their budget prior to that, therefore it will probably go into effect in the 2012-13 budget.

Trustee Beyer explained that some districts have organized legislative action committees and this Board is looking to structure something similar in our community. She stressed the importance for our community to become invested and educated in this area.

With no more questions from the floor, vice-president Genovesi closed the Town Meeting portion of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the minutes of January 6, 2011 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Kolkhorst and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the treasurer's report of November 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010 was approved.

Regular Business

Personnel

Tenure Recognition

Resolved: To grant tenure to Lauren Vione, Art, effective January 28, 2011

Resignation – Administration

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Paul Pelech, Director of Technology, effective March 21, 2011

Increments for Advanced Study

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Kristin Konopka, French from Step 8 of the MA salary schedule to Step 8 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective January 31, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Theresa L'Abbate, Elementary from Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective January 31, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Elissa Theiss, Art from Step 7 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective January 31, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Elliot Touretz, English from Step 4 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 4 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective January 31, 2011

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Toni Caracci, Elementary, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule effective January 31, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Kenneth Donovan, Social Studies, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule, effective January 31, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Natalie Hammersley, Elementary, on Step 10 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 26, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Laura Hutt, Guidance, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 25, 2011 through February 28, 2011

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Heather Makowski, Elementary, on Step 4 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 3, 2011 through January 31, 2011

Teacher Assistant Appointments – Certified

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.5) appointment for Linda Desmond as a Level I Teacher Assistant, effective January 3, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve a probationary appointment for Jennifer McGovern, as a Level I Teacher Assistant, Sea Cliff, effective January 3, 2011 through January 3, 2014

Approval of Overage

Resolved: To approve a .2 overage for Marla Behar, Math/Special Education, effective January 5, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve a .16 overage for Jen Horton, Math, effective January 5, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve a .16 overage for John Pace, Math, effective January 5, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve a .16 overage for Samara Weitz, Science/Special Education, effective January 5, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resignation – Non Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Betty Morales, Teacher Aide, Sea Cliff, effective January 14, 2011

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Chris Vitucci, Teacher Aide, High School, effective January 19, 2011

Appointment – Non Certified

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.5) appointment for Linda Desmond, Teacher Aide, Sea Cliff School, effective January 3, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Michele Kranz, Part-time Teacher Aide, Sea Cliff, effective January 3, 2011

Approval of Addition to the Per Diem Substitute List

Resolved: To approve the addition of the following names to the per diem substitute list:

Joshua Korder Elementary

Marni Lessing Elementary

Jack Ong Secondary

Approval of Extra Curricular Clubs

Resolved: To approve the addition of a National History Day Club at the Middle School as Level II Club (replacing a Mock Trial Club)

Resolved: To approve the addition of Joseph Sidaras to the list of Supervisors

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$263,682.72 and 199,803.46, effective January 20, 2011

Approval of District Plan of Service for Special Education

Resolved: To approve the District Plan of Service for Special Education (formerly the Special Education Two Year Plan) as reviewed at the Board Meeting of January 6, 2011

Disposal of Inventory

Resolved: To approve of the disposal of the following inventory items:

2 Computers Glenwood Landing

1 Computer Sea Cliff

1 Printer Sea Cliff

1 Printer Central Office

1 String Bass High School

Acceptance of Donation from the Kiwanis Club to the North Shore High School Key Club

Resolved: To accept the donation of \$1,300 from the Kiwanis Club to the North Shore Key Club to be used toward their convention

Approval of Special Education Services Contract

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Huntington UFSD for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools located within Huntington UFSD during the 2010-2011 school year

Approval of Resolution Authorizing the President of the Board of Education to Execute a certain Stipulation of Settlement

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute the stipulation settling an Education Law section 3020-a proceeding against a tenured employee, which stipulation was reviewed by the Board in executive session on January 14, 2011

Prior to approving the commencement of the track and field project the board had a brief discussion in regard to removing the installation of conduits from the original proposal. It was noted that the board was informed by architects that this installation can occur at a later date without disruption to the new field. It was also noted that the electric service included in the project is for the restrooms. This decision does not close out future boards from adding conduits if there is community support, however, this board has decided not to install conduits at this time. Trustee Pombar stated he is fully opposed to lights and the installation of conduits in this project.

Approval to Commence North Shore High School Track & Field Project

Resolved: To approve commencement of the high school track and field project as follows:

	Raw Construction Cost	Loaded Total
A) Synthetic Turf Monofilament w/Premium Infill	\$1,350,000	\$1,714,500
B) 8-Lane Track Mondo	975,000	1,238,250
C) Building & Utilities Storage/Toilet/Concession Bldg (40' X 50')	415,000	527,050
Electric Service	125,000	158,750
Portable Water	60,000	76,200
Sanitary Systems	35,000	44,450
D) Additional Bleachers North of the Existing 500 Person Capacity	175,000	222,250

Total Cost	\$3,135,000	\$3,981,450

Committee and Conference Reports

Trustee Beyer forwarded a written report on the Regional Group to the Board prior to the meeting.

Trustee Beyer reported that North Shore will be hosting a meeting on February 8 with school district attorneys John Gross and Greg Guercio, as well as representatives from several surrounding districts, to discuss the legality of regional collective bargaining.

Trustee Beyer reported on the NYSSBA law conference she attended in regard to Teacher & Principal Evaluations.

Executive Session

At 10:20 pm on motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the board moved to go into executive session for discussions regarding the employment of a particular person.

Adjournment

At 11:30 pm on motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk