

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 24, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Webb at 6:30 pm in the Middle School Cafeteria. Present were Trustees Berliner, Beyer, Genovesi, Kolkhorst and Sharkey. Trustee Pombar was absent. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Ms. Buatsi and Mr. Chlebicki.

Executive Session

At 6:30 pm, on motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the middle school faculty room for matters leading to the appointment of a particular person and discussions regarding collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law)

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Sharkey seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the cafeteria. There were approximately 250 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Webb led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Teacher Recognition

President Webb and Dr. Melnick recognized teacher Eileen O'Connor, recipient of Teacher of the Year Award from the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the minutes of March 10, 2011 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Kolkhorst and all in favor, the treasurer's report of January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2011 was approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported that the state will be raising the cut off scores on state tests once again and they will be significantly higher than last year. He also reported that North Shore joined with 40 other districts in Nassau County to challenge the new legislation that shifts the responsibility of tax certioraris to local school districts. Starting 2013-2014 this could mean another 1-2 million dollar item in the budget. Dr. Melnick will keep the Board updated as the lawsuit proceeds.

Trustee Webb asked what the cost implication would be once the cut scores are raised. Dr. Melnick responded it may mean an additional 5-6 AIS position which would cost approximately \$500,000-\$600,000 and there would be no additional state aid to cover these costs.

Report of the SGO Representative

SGO representative, Charles Sharkey, was absent. President Webb read his report which included information about the Sr. Fashion Show which will be held on April 2, and a production of Two Irish Plays to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Adoption of the 2011-2012 Budget

Prior to adopting the 2011-2012 budget, Dr. Melnick noted that the budget-to-budget increase of 2.78% is the lowest in 19 years. Vice-president Genovesi noted that although Trustee Pombar is not present at the meeting and therefore unable to vote, he expressed his support of this budget to the Board.

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

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget in the amount of \$88,861,064.22 for the 2011-2012 school year be adopted for submission to the qualified voters of the North Shore School District at the annual election to be held on May 17, 2011.

Legislative Action

Trustees Webb and Beyer reported on the NYSSBA State Issues Conference on March 13 & 14. They reported that the tone was very different from previous years due to the impact of the fiscal crisis, decrease in state aid and impending tax cap. They met with legislators who indicated the tax cap would not pass without mandate relief. In Nassau County alone the tax cap would mean approximate 1,000 lay-offs. Trustee Webb said this will be a very difficult year and next year will be even more difficult if the tax cap is instituted.

Trustee Genovesi added that due to the prudent planning by the leadership of the district we are in a better position than most districts, however, it is not certain how long we can maintain what we have once the tax cap is in place.

Dr. Melnick reminded the public that the 2% tax cap is on the tax levy not on the budget; the impact to the budget would be an increase of approximately 1.7%. He also stated that beginning next year if the budget is defeated, there will no longer be a contingency budget, the district would have to operate on the exact same budget as the previous year.

Trustee Webb explained that districts in Nassau & Suffolk have been working collaboratively in an effort to lobby more effectively with our legislators for changes necessary to enable us to operate under the 2% tax cap. He stated that he is aware there is considerable anger with the teachers' union and suggested creating a task force with administration, board members and faculty to discuss the board's point of view in regard to mandate relief, such as the Triborough Law and pension reform, and to be able to work together to find what can be done to maintain the education that we all value at North Shore. He stressed the importance of talking about the issues facing public education and addressing the implications of a 2% tax cap. He went on to explain that personnel costs are 70% of the budget and increments alone increase salaries by 3%, not including the cost of benefits, therefore it would be impossible to keep within the cap unless changes are made. His hope is that everyone will work together to bring about changes that will maintain the quality education that currently exists at North Shore. Finally he expressed his hope that the teachers will take the offer of working together on a task force.

Comments from the Public

Bruce Fichtman, President of the North Shore Schools Federated Employees, read a statement on behalf of his membership to the Board expressing their distress regarding a letter posted on the North Shore Schools web site asking New York State legislators for mandate reform and which, in their view, actually supports union busting activities. The statement is on file in the office of the District Clerk.

President Webb responded that the Board's view of the letter in question is very different than the teachers' perception. He asked Mr. Fichtman to take up the offer of working together on a task force as a way to address the issues and come to a clear understanding of what the district is facing.

Mr. Fichtman agreed that forming a task force is a good idea, however, he felt the offer

should have come before posting the letter on the web site.

Amy Manzone, Glen Head, read a statement in support of the faculty and against the letter posted on the web site. The statement is on file in the office of the District Clerk.

Jerry Romano, Sea Cliff, stated he felt the letter posted on the web site was propaganda. He said he is against the Triborough Agreement & Taylor Law, but does not think the Board should look to blame the issues on mandates. He said there is a disconnect between what the teachers receive in salary and benefits and what the rest of the community is dealing with. He also stated he is against a car allowance for the Superintendent.

Brian Zorn, Sea Cliff, expressed his disappointment in the Board and said he felt the letter was deceitful. He also stated he is against using a publicly funded web site for the benefit of the Board's agenda. He noted that many of our teachers are also taxpayers in this district.

Julia Brennan, Sea Cliff, volunteered to serve on the task force if it comes to be. She said these are very large issues to be addressed and stressed the importance of working together.

Schedule of Vote for the Track and Field Project

The Board had a brief discussion about the timing for the vote on the expenditure of the funds for the track and field project. The Board reached consensus to move ahead with scheduling the vote on this proposition for May 17, 2011, the same date as the budget vote. It was noted that holding a separate vote would cost approximately \$15,000, therefore holding the vote simultaneously with the budget vote was the most prudent approach. Trustees stressed that the community needs to understand the money to fund the track and field project is already in the capital reserve fund and approving this proposition will have no impact on the tax levy. This proposition will give the Board approval to expend the funds that already exist in the capital reserve fund for the project that was approved by voters last November. Dr. Melnick added that the Viking Foundation has signed a contract with consultants to launch a capital campaign; they received their first donation of \$10,000 from the Superintendent.

RFP-Summer Enrichment & Remediation Program 2011

Dr. Melnick explained that our auditors recommended the District send out an RFP for the summer program. He explained that the North Shore Boys & Girls Club has held the contract for the summer program since 2005, when it was determined that the district could not operate a summer program while on a contingent budget. He went on to say that RFPs were sent to 4 agencies and only one response was received; the North Shore Boys & Girls Club. Dr. Melnick expressed his satisfaction with the program offered by the North Shore Boys & Girls Club and recommends awarding the contract to them. There was consensus on the Board to award the contract to the North Shore Boys & Girls Club, however, it was suggested that we send out an RFP again next year to see if we can solicit additional responses.

Committee and Conference Reports

Trustee Beyer forwarded written reports to the Board from the Construction Steering Committee meeting and the work session with our auditor and attorney.

She reported that the Victorian House construction is on schedule for completion by September 2013. A resident has volunteered to help with the interior design. This project was estimated to take 7 years and it will actually be completed in 5 years.

Dr. Melnick noted that East Williston School District is interested in using our maintenance facility at the bus depot. He explained that we will continue to take on more school districts until such time as it begins to have a cost impact. He thanked Ms. Buatsi, Mr. Hall and Mr. Meditz for their work on this.

Amendment of Agenda

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the agenda was amended to add Action Item R - Approval of Special Education Services.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on Action items F-R

On motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor it was:

Personnel

Resignation - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Michela Solomita, Elementary, effective June 30, 2011

Child Rearing Leave – Certified

Resolved: To approve a child rearing leave for Aimee Canzoniero, Guidance, effective April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Suzan Carola, Art, on Step 7 of the MA salary schedule, effective April 8, 2011 through May 4, 2011

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Kathy Mullen, Guidance, on Step 2 of the MA salary schedule effective March 28, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment of June Grutzner, Special Education, on Step 10 of the MA salary schedule, effective April 2, 2011 through April 15, 2011

Appointments – Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Eric Rizzo, Teacher Aide, North Shore Middle School, effective March 21, 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:

Corinne Demetriou	Elementary
Jackson Kenny	Music
Danielle Parente	Elementary
Alfred Salerno	Secondary
Cara Schmier	Secondary
AnneMarie Vitchers	Elementary

Approval of Additions to the list of Athletic Supervisors

Resolved: To approve the addition of Arielle Seidner to the list of Athletic Supervisors

Approval of Resolution for Date of Annual School District Budget Vote and Election

Resolved: To approve the attached resolution setting the date of the annual school district budget vote and election

Establishment of a Citizen's Advisory Committee for Legislative Action (LAC)

Resolved: To establish a Citizen's Advisory Committee for Legislative Action (LAC) and approve By-Laws for the same as discussed at the Board meetings of February 17 and March 10, 2011

Approval of Resolution for Lead Agency Designation for the Proposed Athletic Field Improvements at the North Shore High School

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District ("Board of Education") is considering improvements to an existing athletic field at the North Shore High School, located at 450 Glen Cove Avenue in the hamlet of Glen Head, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County (hereinafter the "proposed action"); and

WHEREAS, the proposed action specifically includes the construction of a 2,416±-square-foot fieldhouse for concessions, restrooms, and storage; replacement of the existing grass-surfaced athletic field with synthetic turf; replacement of the existing running track with an eight-lane track; installation of additional spectator bleachers; installation of water service, electrical service and a sanitary system for the proposed fieldhouse; and the installation of an integrated stormwater management system beneath the synthetic turf field; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action would allow for the relocation of selected District athletic programs to the subject field from an off-site location(s), and the limited use of the subject field by outside groups subject to authorization by the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §§617.4 and 617.5, the Board of Education reviewed the proposed action and preliminarily determined that same is a Type I action; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617, coordinated review of a Type I action is required, and was undertaken by the Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Board of Education hereby designates itself as lead agency pursuant to the implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, specifically 6 NYCRR §§617.6(b)(4), with respect to the above-described proposed action.

Approval of Resolution for Adoption of a Negative Declaration for the Proposed Athletic Field Improvements at the North Shore High School

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District ("Board of Education") is considering improvements to an existing athletic field at the North Shore High School, located at 450 Glen Cove Avenue in the hamlet of Glen Head, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County (hereinafter the "proposed action"); and

WHEREAS, the proposed action specifically includes the construction of a 2,416±-square-foot fieldhouse for concessions, restrooms, and storage; replacement of the existing grass-surfaced athletic field with synthetic turf; replacement of the existing running track with an eight-lane track; installation of additional spectator bleachers; installation of water service, electrical service and a sanitary system for the proposed fieldhouse; and the installation of an integrated stormwater management system beneath the synthetic turf field; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action would allow for the relocation of selected District athletic programs to the subject field from an off-site location(s), and the limited use of the subject field by outside groups subject to authorization by the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education declared itself lead agency for the proposed action, pursuant to the implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, specifically 6 NYCRR §§617.6(b)(2) and (3); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as lead agency, has caused to be prepared Parts 1 and 2 of an Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) and a Traffic Impact Assessment to evaluate potential significant adverse environmental and traffic impacts associated with the proposed action, and has reviewed the aforesaid EAF and agrees with the contents thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Board of Education, as lead agency for the action contemplated herein, after review of the proposed action and 6 NYCRR Part 617, hereby determines that the above-described project is a Type I action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based upon the information contained in the EAF and other relevant information before the Board of Education, the Board of Education, as lead agency for the action contemplated herein, and after due deliberation, review and analysis, hereby determines that the proposed action will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment and hereby adopts the annexed Negative Declaration.

Approval of Health Services

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Garden City Public Schools for 6 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Garden City Public Schools for the 2010-11 school year at a cost of \$810.12 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 12 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Syosset Central School District for the 2010-11 school year at a cost of \$817.88 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 Uniondale UFSD for 9 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Uniondale UFSD for the 2010-11 school year at a cost of \$616.31 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of Resolution for Participation in a BOCES Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement

WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2011-2012 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative) for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, North Shore Schools, is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes North Shore Schools to participate in the Cooperative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Approval for Participation in the Northwest Nassau Cooperative Transportation Bid

Resolved: To approve the attached resolution to participate in a cooperative transportation bid

Approval of Agreement with Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS)

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) for participation in the elementary Parent University on March 30, 2011 at a cost of \$175

Approval of an Agreement with David Fryling to provide an In-Service Workshop for Music Faculty

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Dr. David Fryling to provide an in-service workshop for the music faculty in the amount of \$500

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$208,945.91 effective March 24, 2011

Approval of Special Education Consultant Agreement

Resolved: To approve a special education consultant agreement with The National Center for Disabilities Services, Inc. d/b/a Nathaniel H. Kornreich Technology Center for Technology Support and Training during the 2010-2011 school year

Approval of Special Education Services

Resolved: To approve special education services, IEP #363621011, effective March 24, 2011

Comments from the Public

Tim Madden, Sea Cliff, asked if the 2 1/2 positions cut from the budget were elementary positions. He also requested the number of incoming kindergarten students.

Dr. Melnick responded that the 2 1/2 positions eliminated are K-6 positions; 2 are due to attrition. In both Glen Head and Sea Cliff Schools the current 5th grade has 4 sections and the number of incoming kindergarten students requires only 3 sections per school. The additional 1/2 position is due to the elimination of a 1/2 position lead teacher; this will be combined with a 1/2 position literacy coach which will become a full position next year. Currently there are 55 incoming kindergarten students registered to attend in both Glen Head and Glenwood Landing and 49 registered to attend Sea Cliff School next year.

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, commented that she did not find the letter on the website, in regard to mandate reform, as being anti-teacher and she believes the district must make changes in order to maintain what we have. She said if the intent is to have a task force she would be interested in participating and feels that it should include community members so there is not the sense that the union will strong arm the Board.

Theresa Cantwell, Glen Head, asked about the establishment of a Citizen's Advisory Committee for Legislative Action. She also inquired whether the Boards in Nassau and Suffolk County are working collectively for change at the State level. Finally she requested that information in regard to the vote on the track and field be made available to the public in ways other than the web site.

Trustee Webb explained the Legislative Action Committee is an effort to have the

community advocate for the things the district may need and to understand the issues from the Board's point of view. The committee will include 7 community members chosen by the Board and is modeled after similar committees in other districts. Applications for membership will be available on the web site.

Trustee Genovesi added the Board actively seeks public input. She explained that the Record Pilot reports on the issues discussed at Board Meetings, mailings are sent home periodically with pertinent information on issues facing the Board and in addition to this, Trustees will spend most of April and May attending informal meetings in the homes of residents in order to share information on the budget and the proposition on the track and field. She went on to say many residents feel there is too much information sent home and others feel there is not enough. She said the Board is open to suggestions on how to disseminate the information to reach a broader range of the public.

Anne Sheerin, Glen Head, stated that the high school PTSA does not have enough interaction with the school board. She also noted that the coordinating council is not operating as in prior years and it is hard to get parent volunteers. Finally she requested that the district's goals be shared with the parent organizations.

Trustee Webb responded the Board would be happy to send a representative to their meetings and if parents feels there is a disconnect with the Board, that will be addressed.

Dr. Melnick added the reason the coordinating council changed its mission is because none of the parent representatives were attending the meetings. Also he noted that each parent organization has a web page where information may be obtained, therefore it was felt that the meetings were a waste of time. He went on to say that the district's goals can be found on the web page. Finally he reported that there were over 125 people who attended the initial meeting on the Plan for 2020 and there has been a tremendous response for the Elementary Parent University.

Paul Eschause, Glen Head, commented on an analysis he requested supporting the statements made in the letter to legislators in regard to mandate relief, specifically how that would transfer to savings over the last 2-3 years. He stated he has not yet received the analysis and asked if it has been done that it be posted on the web site. He went on to say that he feels the Board is chipping away at the trust residents have by making statements without the information to back it up.

Dr. Melnick responded that an analysis has not been done and a dollar to dollar analysis would have to include several different scenarios. He agreed to do an analysis of what the tax levy would be if there is no mandate relief, but explained it is difficult to post that clearly. He said the best way to explain it is to answer specific questions.

Mr. Eschause then asked if the Triborough Amendment were repealed, how that would save the district money and how much it would save.

Dr. Melnick responded that piece of legislation has to do with continuing increment payments, approximately 2 ½ % of payroll, even if a contract is still in negotiations. With the 2% cap proposed and without mandate relief, the district would be running at a deficit of \$600,000-\$700,000 per year assuming state aid goes in the same direction it has been. He went on to say the cost associated with mandates for special education is dependent on how many students move into the district and the services they may need.

Mr. Eschause stated there are two separate and misleading messages that have come from the district about special education costs and mandates. He said the district states that special education mandates are out of control, but the district also maintains that it would not change its practice in regard to special education even if it wasn't mandated.

Dr. Melnick explained that one of the special education mandates allows parents to place students in outside agencies without district input. He also noted an impartial hearing can cost upwards of \$160,000 and the district often agrees to services because it is cost effective. He feels there are some inequities in the law for special education students vs. regular education students, such as the requirement to transport special education students farther than regular education students. The Child Find mandate requires the district to pay for health

services for any student attending a school that lies within our borders; we incur administrative costs for reimbursement requests from the resident district. Dr. Melnick said he supports all of the programs we have for our students, not just the special education programs, but programs such as REACH/ACE, electives, and the senior experience. He noted there is a wide range of needs among students and this is what we are trying to maintain.

Denise Reiner, Glen Head asked if it is correct that the 6th graders and 10th graders will be receiving iPads.

Dr. Melnick responded the district will be purchasing 600 iPads and they will be going to the 6th and 10th graders in September as well as the self-contained class in Glenwood Landing. In addition, each library will be equipped with this technology and he noted that the Sea Cliff PCA already purchased 10 iPads for their Library. Ultimately, the plan is for all students in grades 5-12 to be equipped with iPads. The funding for this is coming from federal IDEA money and fund balance. He noted that the district is prohibited from using money in fund balance for salaries. He also explained that the 6th and 10th grade teachers will get their iPads in April and formal training will be provided through grant money.

Dawn Blarcharski, Glen Head and SEPTA president suggested that the special education budget be broken down so the community understands how much of that budget is for out of district placement costs.

Old Business

Trustee Webb asked if a report has been received from the New York State audit conducted last fall. Ms. Buatsi responded she has not received a report and will follow up with the state. Trustee Genovesi noted that the scope of the audit was to identify areas where the district could save money and the auditors were unable to offer any additional areas for cost savings that are not already in place.

New Business

Trustee Sharkey and Beyer met with the Tri States Committee. Trustee Beyer noted that the review was for Languages Other Than English but many of the questions were about test preparation. Dr. Melnick responded this was not brought up at the exit interview.

Trustee Beyer asked about the chart of summer training provided by Mr. Chlebicki. She inquired if more training was moved to the summer months to avoid pullouts during the year. Dr. Melnick responded, although there are many opportunities for teachers to take the training courses in the summer, teachers cannot be mandated to train outside of the school day or year. He also noted that teachers are compensated for courses taken in the summer or outside of the school day.

Adjournment

At 10:15 on motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk