

Board of Education  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
September 8, 2011

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

**Executive Session**

At 7:30 pm, on motion of Trustee Berliner seconded by Trustee Pombar 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.

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Knierim seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the meeting at 8:00 pm in the theatre. There was approximately 350 people in attendance.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Genovesi led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Town Meeting**

President Genovesi welcomed the public and explained that there would first be a discussion on the implications of decommissioning the LIPA Power Plant followed by a discussion in regard to the implications of the 2% tax cap. She introduced the members of the newly formed Legislative Action Committee and welcomed local legislators. She then explained the timeline beginning with the date when the district was informed of the ramp down by LIPA to present time including all meetings that were held as well as a tour Trustees took of the LIPA plant. She explained the impact on tax payers if LIPA's portion of the tax levy is shifted to residents and went on to explain the actions being taken by the Board including reaching out to our state and local legislators as well as appointing special counsel (Greenberg/Traurig) to assist the district with legal issues. She also explained that the district does not have accurate figures as to the value of the power plant but will keep the community informed as they receive further information.

Dr. Melnick then spoke in regard to the tax cap. He explained how it will affect next year's budget and tax levy. He reminded the public beginning next year they will vote on a tax levy, not the budget itself and explained there is no longer a contingency scenario available to districts; if the budget fails this year, the district will have to operate on the exact same budget next year. He explained what goes into building the budget and what causes it to increase each year; salary agreements, insurance and retirement costs; energy costs, etc. He also spoke about how a tax cap in Massachusetts and California affected schools in those states.

The floor was opened to questions.

Sally Sotervich, Glenwood Landing, explained she is a long time resident of the district and does not understand why the district is surprised to learn that LIPA is closing an antiquated plant which no longer serves the purpose it was designed for. She asked why the budget increased by over \$23 million in 6 years and why is costs \$30,000 per pupil to educate our students.

Dr. Melnick made a statement that he was concerned about the tone in the room and asked that everyone try to work together as a community to face these issues. He said it is

important to be respectful of all opinions and to have open conversations of the issues facing the district so everyone can come away with an increased understanding of the matter. He went on to say the district is not advocating for the power plant to remain. Their only concern is the burden on the tax payer and the impact to the educational program once there is a tax shift. He clarified information in regard to cost per pupil and explained that mandated costs have increased significantly over the last several years and is a major portion of budget increases. He encouraged the public to attend the budget meetings to understand the approximately 70% of mandated costs to the budget.

Adam Michart, Roslyn Harbor, expressed his disappointment with the lack of information the Board had available. He asked how much money the district is estimating will be lost with the decommissioning and what that will mean in dollars to homeowners.

Dr. Melnick responded the amount LIPA currently pays will not be lost, but will be shifted to the other classes of taxpayers. He further explained that the Board is investigating how to mitigate this to protect the homeowner from a large increase in their taxes.

Trustee Genovesi explained the estimate is approximately \$14 million but that is truly a guess. She went on to say the district does not have an accurate value of the power plant but they are estimating a shift of approximately \$5-8 million.

Jeff Pearlman, attorney from Greenberg/Traurig, explained this has happened in other places and there are ways of lessening the impact on the taxpayer including PILOT options, tax levy options and additional proposals that can be pursued. He went on to say in the first 10 weeks since the district received this information, they have reached out to local and state elected officials to start investigating the best course of action. He added Albany is just starting their budget process so this is the time to work with local legislators to try to get something into the budget to mitigate the significant impact this shift would have to homeowners.

Daniel Deeks, Sea Cliff, asked how the board is planning to deal with the issue of the County Guarantee being shifted to school districts.

Dr. Melnick explained what the County Guarantee, or Tax Certiorari, is and the fact that Nassau County is trying to shift the responsibility for refunding over-assessments to school districts. He went on to say the district is not permitted to establish a Tax Certiorari Reserve fund.

Carrie Ann Tondo, attorney from Ingerman Smith explained the history of the County Guarantee and said 40 school districts have filed suit against the County to block this legislation. It is currently in litigation and there has not been a decision in the case.

Dorothy Davidoff, Old Brookville, stated it is very clear this will be difficult for the community. She asked for information on how residents can help with changing some of the State mandates.

Trustee Genovesi explained that this was the purpose for forming the Legislative Action Committee. They will identify those issues that the district and community can focus on.

Tim Coville, Greenvale and President of the Gold Coast Library Board of Trustees asked why it takes a 4.67% budget increase just to tread water.

Dr. Melnick explained that the district's contribution to the New York State Employees & Teachers Retirement System along with Health Insurance premiums will increase the budget by approximately \$2.5 million dollars alone. Those increases along with increased energy, fuel and supply costs in addition to salary increases protected under collective bargaining agreements, brings us to a percentage increase of almost 5%. He went on to say that the Board is always looking for ways to cut costs, as they did with the building of the transportation depot and entering into an energy management contract. They are now anticipating significant savings in textbook costs with the implementation of iPads.

Anne Sheerin, Glen Head, thanked the Board for their time and effort. She asked Dr. Melnick why students did so poorly on the Algebra II & Trig Regents with only 58% passing

especially in light of the fact that there were 2 teachers hired to help students who were struggling. She asked what is being done to improve these scores.

Dr. Melnick responded he was also disappointed in the scores in both Algebra II & Trigonometry and Physics. He explained that this year a Math Lab has been added and students at risk have been scheduled for time in the lab. He added there have been some faculty changes in the department as well. In the case of the Physics exam, next year students in the Regents course will have the option of taking the Regents exam or a local exam. This is possible because the Physics Regents is not a requirement to receive an advanced Regents diploma; students in Honors or AP Physics will be required to take the Regents exam. Dr. Smyth, Director of Science, is looking into creating a conceptual physics course to give students an option of a class with some exposure to physics without having to take a Regents exam.

Paul Echausse, Glen Head asked for clarification on a statement made by Dr. Melnick that the district is not allowed to budget for tax certiorari. He noted an article in the local paper which reported funds were being set aside for this possibility and presented Dr. Melnick with a copy of the article.

Dr. Melnick responded, the article was reporting on a meeting when the Board discussed the allocation of fund balance. He explained that each year the Board has this discussion and designates a portion of fund balance to reduce the tax levy and a portion to fund some of the legally established reserves. This year, with the knowledge that the responsibility for refunds do to over assessment by the county may shift to the school district, the Board decided to place some of these funds into a reserve where they have the legal option of moving funds if needed; not all reserves permit the movement of funds. Currently the district is not permitted to establish a Tax Certiorari Reserve Fund. However, if the courts find for the County and the State gives permission for districts to set up a Tax Certiorari Reserve Fund, the district would have the option of transferring these funds into the new reserve. Attorney, Carrie Ann Tondo, confirmed the restrictions on reserve funds and the fact that the Board is not permitted to set up a reserve for tax certiorari.

Jason Goodstone, Glen Head, thanked the board for their time and effort. He said this community is fortunate to have a Board that is knowledgeable and intelligent. He noted it seems those residents who are not parents are disgruntled and said the focus should be on the children. He said he moved here because of the good schools and reminded the public this is what keeps our house values stable. He does not want to see the budget cut so drastically as to lose some very talented teachers and cause our children to flounder.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the minutes of August 25, 2011 were approved.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Melnick reported on the smooth opening of school. He noted our Algebra & Living Environment program is highlighted in the September 5 issue of NYSBA's *On Board*. He reported that we have students from our sister school in Spain visiting for the next 2 weeks. Finally he reported that the State has moved the grade 3-8 ELA & Math tests to April this year in order to implement the new system of teacher evaluation.

### **Regular Business**

#### **Personnel**

**Approval of Second Amendments to the Agreements with the Assistant Superintendent of Business & Personnel and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction**

RESOLVED that the Board of Education herewith approves a certain Second Amendment to the Wage and Benefit Agreement between Olivia Buatsi and the board of Education of the North Shore Central School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education herewith authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Second Amendment to said Wage and Benefit Agreement, on behalf of the Board

RESOLVED that the Board of Education herewith approves a certain Second Amendment to the Wage and Benefit Agreement between Robert Chlebicki and the board of Education of the North Shore Central School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education herewith authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Second Amendment to said Wage and Benefit Agreement, on behalf of the Board

*Increments for Advanced Study - Certified*

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Michael Bishop, English, from Step 9 of the MA salary schedule to Step 9 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Janice Chen, Science, from Step 14 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 14 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Elizabeth Donovan, Special Education, from Step 5 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Stephanie Gironda, Special Education, from Step 2 of the MA salary schedule to Step 2 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Thomas Granieri, Physical Education, from Step 7 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Mary Alice Kelly, Science, from Step 15 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 15 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Sharon Kern, Elementary, from Step 7 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Maram Mabrouk, Social Studies, from Step 5 of the MA salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Deborah Novick, Elementary, from Step 9 of the MA salary schedule to Step 9 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Leah Sclair, Mathematics, from Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 10 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Madel Soriano, Spanish (LOTE), from Step 6 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 6 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Michelle (Patane) Waters, Elementary, from Step 7 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Tina Whyte, Elementary, from Step 9 of the MA salary schedule to Step 9 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Jennifer Wilson, Social Studies, from Step 5 of the MA salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resignation – Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Amanda Brown, Teacher Assistant, Glenwood Landing, effective August 30, 2011

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Michelle O'Brien, Teacher Assistant, Glenwood Landing, effective August 31, 2011

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Anna DeNatale, Biology, effective September 1, 2011 through January 27, 2012

Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a probationary appointment for Donna Braun, Level I Teacher Assistant, effective September 1, 2011 through September 1, 2014

Resolved: To approve a probationary appointment for Dana Francis, (.6) Environmental Science and (.4) Investigations, on Step 3 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011 through September 1, 2014

Resolved: To approve a probationary appointment for Jenna Klein, Special Education, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011 through September 1, 2014

Part-time Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.4) appointment for Tina Faulhaber, Physical Science, on Step 2 of the MA salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.4) appointment for Lauren Gotta, Physical Education, on Step 7 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.6) appointment for John Graziano, Special Education, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.5) appointment for Kelly Henderson, Level I Teacher Assistant, effective September 7, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Teacher Overages

Resolved: To approve the following teacher overages effective September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Patrick Cassino	Science
Melissa Frank	Science
Brian Lang	Science
Lauren Mistretta	Science
David Keenan	Math
John Pace	Math
Josh Timlin	Science
Laura Wilson	Math

Appointment – Non-Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Kyra Emmerich, Teacher Aide, Glenwood Landing, effective September 1, 2011, new position

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Warren Milek, Part-time Cleaner, Glen Head, effective September 6, 2011, replacing Pasquale Tedesco

Approval of Salary Agreements for Non-Affiliate Employees

Resolved: To approve salary agreements for non-affiliate employees as discussed in Executive Session on August 25, 2011 effective July 1, 2011

John Hall, Director of Facilities  
Janet Bates-Wilkins, Principal Account Clerk  
Frank Meditz, Transportation Supervisor  
Elizabeth Ciampi, Secretary to the Superintendent  
Shelly Newman, Senior Illustrator/Public Relations  
Fran Christ, Administrative Assistant  
Haleh Stamatiadi, Treasurer  
Joyce Izzo, Bus Dispatcher  
Maribeth Graf, Information Technology Specialist  
James May, Assistant Bus Dispatcher

Approval of Hourly Rate for Security Personnel

Resolved: To approve adjustments to the hourly rate for security personnel effective July 1, 2011

Approval of Stipend Adjustments

Resolved: To approve adjustments in the following stipends effective July 1, 2011

District Clerk-Elizabeth Ciampi  
Sub. Caller (6-12)-Anita Demetri  
Sub. Caller (K-5)-Jane D' Agate  
Inventory Clerk- Mathew Cheravallil  
Records Retention-Mathew Cheravallil  
Home Instruction-Anita Demetri  
Alumni Coordinator-Roseann Blackburn  
Record Access Officer-Elizabeth Ciampi

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Lynn Bohnet	Elementary
Judith Cassandro-Green	Elementary
Stacey Corvi	Elementary
Susan Fallon	Elementary
Mary Finnegan	Elementary
Patsy Grecco	Part-time Cleaner
Mark Indiviglio	Elementary
Matthew Kerrins	Elementary
William Koopmann	Part-time Cleaner
Audrey Leventhal	Elementary
Jamie Marchfield	Elementary
Stephanie Merton Dahlquist	Elementary
Jessica Moriarty	Elementary
Dawn Puig	Elementary
Lauren Ragusa	Secondary
Pedro Soto	Part-time Cleaner
Lindsey Stinson	Secondary
Annette Tomalska	Secondary
Mary Vaglio	Elementary
Sabrina Vene	Elementary

Adoption of District Goals 2011-2012

Resolved: To adopt District Goals for 2011-2012 as discussed at the meeting of August 25, 2011

Approval of Agreement with Wilderness Traveling Museum

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Wilderness Traveling Museum to provide a Native Lifestyle program in each elementary building for two days each at a fee of \$3,550

Approval of Agreement with The Omni Group

Resolved: To approve an agreement with The Omni Group to provide a 403b and 457 program in the amount of \$12,183, effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Award of Transportation Bids

Resolved: To award transportation bids as per attached:

Approval of Special Education Tuition Agreements

Resolved: To approve a tuition agreement with The Lowell School, in the amount of \$2,861.50/month effective September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Resolved: To approve a tuition agreement with the School for Language & Communication Development at an amount set by New York State Education Department effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Resolved: To approve a tuition agreement with Variety Child Learning Center in the amount of \$37,760 for school year and \$17,814.60 for 1:1 aide and related services according to the fee schedule included in the agreement, effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012

Approval of Special Education Service Providers

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Access 7 for related services effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Brookville Center for Children's Services for related services effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Approval of Special Education Services Contract

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Syosset CSD for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools located within Syosset CSD during the 2011-2012 school year

Approval of Special Education Consultants

Resolved: To approve Kathleen Gareau, Special Education Teacher, to provide special education services effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Resolved: To approve Gia Terranova, Teacher of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, to provide hearing impaired services effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$45,000 effective September 8, 2011

Ratification of a Memorandum of Agreement with the United Public Service Employees Union-Paraprofessional Unit

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby ratifies and approves a certain Memorandum of Agreement dated July 27, 2011 between the School District and the North Shore Central School District United Public Service Employees Union – Paraprofessional Unit; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the new collective bargaining agreement incorporating the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement.

**Old Business**

Trustee Sharkey forwarded the old business log to the Board. Dr. Melnick and President Genovesi will review it at the next agenda meeting. Trustee Webb asked for an update on the track and field project. Ms. Buatsi explained there has been some delay due to the rain. Everything is in place to go and hopefully the football field will be ready for Homecoming on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Trustee Beyer asked about following up with the State in regard to not receiving a report from their last audit. It was decided not to pursue this.

**New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**Adjournment**

At 9:45 pm on motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk