

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
May 3, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Beyer at 7:30 pm in the High School Alumni Room. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Murphy and Pombar and Webb. Trustee Vollmer arrived at 8:15 pm. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Mr. Chlebicki and Ms. Buatsi.

Executive Session

At 7:30 pm, on motion of Trustee Murphy seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the high school faculty room to consider matters leading to the employment of a particular person or persons.

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting in the High School Alumni Room. There were 4 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Murphy and seconded by Trustee Glassman, and all in favor, the minutes of April 11, 2007, April 19, 2007 and April 24, 2007 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Webb and seconded by Trustee Glassman and all in favor, the Treasurer's Report of February 1, 2007 through February 28, 2007 was approved.

Town Meeting

The town meeting was opened with the reading of the budget by Dr. Melnick. He stated that the amount of the proposed 2007-08 budget is \$77,117,037.71 a 5.4% increase over the 2006-07 budget, and the projected tax levy is at 3.9%. He went on to state that the budget vote and election of trustees is set for Tuesday, May 15, 2007 from 7:00 am – 10:00 pm in the high school gymnasium.

There were no questions or comments from the public, therefore, the town meeting was adjourned and a regular meeting of the Board commenced.

State of the Middle School

Marc Ferris, principal of the Middle School gave a presentation on the current state of the middle school and what is planned for the future. He reviewed the vision of the middle school, the current middle school experience and the vision for the future.

The Board thanked Mr. Ferris for his report. Questions raised were on how differentiation is taking place with the lack of honors sections; introducing biology into the middle school; and the "School Within a School" proposal. Also, the number of elective courses offered and those that actually run. The Board had a brief discussion about the homework policy for the middle school and throughout the district. There was some concern about students being asked to take on community service when they are already over burdened. Dr. Melnick suggested that the Board consider making the community service program one of the goals for next year. A

suggestion was made to investigate the possibility of a grant opportunity for the School within a School proposal. There was a brief discussion about the upcoming construction at the middle school. Dr. Melnick indicated the rooms will be ready by September. There was a concern about 8th graders taking 2 regents exams next year and the extra stress this will bring to students. A question was raised about if other districts are doing this as well. Dr. Melnick responded that Rockville Centre and Syosset are also doing this and that students are sitting for assessments in grade 3-8, so this is nothing new. A question was raised about whether there would need to be State approval for adding or changing courses to the electives program. Mr. Ferris explained that an evaluation will be sent to the State along with the changes, but we do not need to be re-approved as a Model C school.

Evaluation of District Initiatives

Dr. Melnick presented an evaluation of District initiatives as requested by Trustee Webb. The Board had a lengthy discussion about how to measure if the initiatives are working; how much is too much; and whether or not to remove a program when introducing a new initiative. A concern is that teachers are overwhelmed by the number of new initiatives and there is no way to assess if they are working. Trustees thanked Trustee Webb for raising these questions and agreed that this should be an ongoing conversation.

Comments

Jay Emmer, president of NSSFE, commented on the remarks by Marc Ferris that there is a percentage of teachers who are not doing their jobs. He stated that the supervisors should address those teachers and speak to them directly about how to change. He also commented on the new program proposed for the 9th graders. He reminded the Board that the District thought problems would be solved by heterogeneous grouping, now the district is going to put the students in a much broader spectrum he suggests being cautious. He is glad that the new program will be implemented over 2 years and is hopeful that the District will figure out what the outcome will be and will take the time to look at what this program is supposed to accomplish and go from there. He commented on Rob Chlebicki's remark that he is fearful of taking a program out that is good for kids – Jay is fearful that those who have to teach those kids need to juggle more and more and he posed the question what is too much.

NYSSBA Resolution on a Statewide Taskforce

The Clinton Essex Warren Washington School Boards Association asked that Nassau BOCES pass along the attached resolution for our Board's consideration on the formation of a statewide taskforce on containing costs for schools. The resolution must be adopted by our Board at a public meeting if they so choose no later than June 14, 2007.

After a brief discussion, there was consensus on the Board to place the adoption of this resolution on the agenda for the May 31, 2007 Board Meeting.

Handicapped Access to High School Fields

John Hall discussed options for the handicapped access to the high school fields. The cost previously reported to the Board has almost doubled due to excavation that would need to take place. John will report back to the Board with a full report including total cost and drawings at the next Board meeting on May 31, 2007 at which time the Board will make a decision on how to proceed.

Committee and Conference Reports

Trustee Genovesi submitted a written report from the Health and Safety Committee.

Trustee Glassman submitted a written report from the Curriculum & Services Review: Health & Wellness (Tri State Evaluation).

Trustee Vollmer reported on the Construction Committee. Approval on the Transportation facility is expected on May 24, the fence is up at the property; Dunn Engineering has completed the traffic study; State Ed is requiring an elevator be included in the proposed construction which would add \$300,000 to the cost; the Chemistry Labs at the high school should be ready for September; the Sea Cliff Ventilation is done, there is not a maximum temperature for the building, but a Board policy may be able to set one; BBS is considering a request to volunteer their services for the Victorian Structure.

Trustee Beyer reported on the county group, they have decided to meet every other Monday. They continue the conversation on how to consolidate costs; each district was asked to come up with one area to be considered for discussion.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items F-L.

On motion of Trustee Webb and seconded by Trustee Vollmer and all in favor it was:

Personnel

Resignation for Retirement Purposes – Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes of Penny Cronin, Elementary, effective June 30, 2007

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Debbie Minicozzi, Elementary, effective September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

Appointments – Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Jennifer Cottone, Elementary, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule effective April 14, 2007 through May 14, 2007, replacing Debbie Minicozzi (FMLA)

Part-time Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.2) appointment for Frank Mauro, Health, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule effective April 30, 2007 through June 30, 2007, replacing Andrea Campbell (administrative reassignment)

Extension of Probationary Period – Certified

Resolved: To approve an extension of probationary period for one year, for Norma LaCayo, Science, effective through June 30, 2008

Approval of Teacher Overages

Resolved: To approve the following teacher overages to cover the classes of a teacher who is on administrative reassignment:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Lori Reichel | .2 |
| Neal Levy | .3 |
| Kevin Mercier | .1 |
| Tracy Iacovelli | .1 |
| Gary Meierdiercks | .1 |

Appointments – Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Andrew Greig, Cleaner, District Wide, on Step 2 of the Cleaner salary schedule, effective May 7, 2007, new position

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Lynn Johnson, Teacher Aide, Glenwood Landing, effective April 23, 2007, new position

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Gerard Pascucci, Maintainer, District Wide, on Step 8 of the Maintainer salary schedule, effective May 21, 2007, replacing Gary Peterford (terminated)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Haleh Stamatiadi, District Treasurer, effective May 7, 2007, replacing Veronica Lalo (resigned)

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Robert Welch, Recreation Specialist, Glen Head, effective May 3, 2007, replacing Tony Cassano (resigned)

Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Troy Beauchin* | Secondary |
| Michelle Hart | Teacher Aide/Clerical Substitute |
| Sean Lasky | Physical Education |
| Maryalice Puglisi | Teacher Aide |

*conditional

Approval of Extra Curricular Activities Personnel

Resolved: To approve the following addition to the extra curricular activities list:

Sean Lasky Athletics Supervisor

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$395,000, effective May 3, 2007

Acceptance of Donation from the Sea Cliff School PCA to the Sea Cliff School

Resolved: To accept the donation of a refrigerator for the Sea Cliff School Faculty Room from the Sea Cliff School PCA at a value of \$500

Approval of Resolution for the Superintendent to enter into an agreement resolving a request for an Impartial Hearing

Resolved: To approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to enter into an Agreement resolving a request for an impartial hearing

Approval of Volunteer Parent Member to the Committee on Special Education

Resolved: To approve the addition of the following names as volunteer parent members to the Committee on Special Education

Catharine Kenny
Susan Castelli

Approval of Special Education Consultants/ Service Providers

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Janice Epstein, Psychologist, to provide psychological evaluations, effective April 20, 2007 through August 31, 2007

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Access 7 Consulting, Inc., to provide ABA services, effective April 24, 2007 through August 31, 2007

Approval of Special Education Services

Resolved: To approve special education services (IEP) per attached tab

Old Business

Dr. Melnick updated the Board on the LIPA PILOT agreement. He and Olivia Buatsi have spoken to Kristee Iacobucci in the Comptroller's office who feels we should have the payment before setting the tax levy. LIPA has new general counsel which may cause a delay in the \$700,000 grant.

Trustee Beyer reported that Wally Zeins is interested to know if the Board has reconsidered doing a safety drill. She explained that the Board has decided to do the tabletop drill. Mr. Zeins indicated that local emergency services personnel would not be interested in participating in the tabletop drill. The Board had a brief discussion and decided to contact the office of Homeland Security first and see if the local police and fire departments will work with the District on this type of drill.

New Business

Trustee Vollmer asked about distributing the minutes to the faculty via their mailboxes, it was suggested that the faculty can access the minutes, once they are approved, on the North Shore web site.

Trustee Genovesi will be writing legislators about WICKS reform. She will send the information to all Trustees so they may write as well.

Trustee Webb asked about a meeting requested by the high school faculty with the Board. The meeting has been scheduled for May 17 at 7:00 pm and will most likely be a closed session. The Board had a lengthy discussion about the upcoming meeting, who will be present at the meeting and whether or not the meeting be a closed session. The Board will await an agenda from the teachers before deciding if it needs to be a public session.

Adjournment

At 12:10 am on motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.