

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Genovesi at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria. Present were Trustees Beyer, Knierim, Pombar, Sharkey and Webb. Trustee Berliner was absent. Also present was Dr. Melnick, Ms. Buatsi and Mr. Chlebicki.

Executive Session

At 7:00 .pm., on motion of Trustee Knierim seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board went into executive session in the Middle School Faculty Room for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation and collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law.

At 7:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Webb and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and convened a meeting of the Audit Committee in the Middle School Cafeteria.

At 8:00 p.m., on motion of Trustee Beyer seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board resumed the regular meeting in the cafeteria. There were approximately 75 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Genovesi led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Knierim and all in favor, the minutes of October 27, 2011 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the treasurer's reports of June 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011, July 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011, August 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011 and September 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported that the Varsity Women's Cross Country Team are Nassau County Class B Champions for a second consecutive year and will be competing in the Northeast Regional Qualifier in an effort to qualify for the national championship. The Viking Masquers production of "You Can't Take It With You" will be held this weekend; over 60% of seniors have submitted early decision applications; the iPad rollout for grades 6 & 10 and the students in the NGE is complete, ongoing parent forums will be held. Dr. Melnick was informed the NYS Education Department intends to move the date of Regents exams up by two weeks for the 2012-2013 school year; this will delay the approval of the 2012-2013 school calendar. He also reported that because our district adopted a new APPR, we are able to evaluate teachers on a 100 point scale with 20 of those points being tied to test scores, but the other 80 points being under local control. Finally, he said it is his understanding that NYSUT has lost their lawsuit in an attempt to bar the State from releasing individual evaluation results for teachers by name.

Report of the SGO Representative

SGO representative, Christopher Sharkey, reported on events and activities at the high school including that the "First Robotics Team" competed in the Deer Park Invitational and made it to the semi-finals; students will be working with the Glen Cove Inn for Thanksgiving; the Turkey Trot has been canceled; and on behalf of the SGO he wished the Board and community a Happy Thanksgiving.

Acceptance of Independent Audit Report

Resolved: To accept the independent audit report from RS Abrams for fiscal year ended June 30, 2011.

Overview-Cap on Tax Levy

Dr. Melnick gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the implications of the property tax cap on the 2012-2013 budget. He stressed that this is not a 2% tax cap but a 0% tax cap in that if the community does not approve a budget this year, the district will need to operate at the same budget as the current year. He explained the budget process and how the tax levy will be established for next year. He reviewed the criteria for a simple and super majority vote. The district will need to send their proposed tax levy to the Comptroller by March 1st and he will decide if the proposed levy will require a simple or super majority vote. Dr. Melnick explained that he is unsure at this point if the tax levy can be changed after the Comptroller approves it. He is also waiting for confirmation on whether the community will vote on the tax levy or the budget. He went on to explain that if the community passes the budget, it will still mean the elimination of 18 teachers 2 administrators 3 secretaries & 3 custodians in order to stay within the cap. In subsequent years it may mean a cut of 6-10 positions/per year. Dr. Melnick added the \$1.45 million he is projected to cut is a conservative figure and will likely go up.

The Board had a lengthy discussion about the implications of over estimating or under estimating state aid figures and how that will impact the budget. They discussed reserves and the limitations of utilizing those funds. It was noted that our independent auditors reported this district has managed their funds well which has left us in better shape than our sister districts. They expressed concern about what the mission of the school will be going forward and how program will be affected as well as the long term implications once the rate of inflation goes back up. They discussed the importance of pushing for mandate relief & the fact that the newly formed LAC committee will take the lead on this issue. In response to a question about closing buildings, Dr. Melnick said there is no plan to close buildings; each building is at capacity now.

Committee and Conference Reports

Trustee Beyer forwarded reports to the Board from a meeting of the Construction Steering Committee and a meeting of local school district leaders.

Trustee Webb reported on the meeting with local school district leaders. Discussions focused on how each district is planning to handle the tax cap and programs. They discussed a series of ways to work cooperatively to save funds and are planning a follow up meeting in January with Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents for Business. Trustee Beyer added the group also looked at the revenue side specifically investigating what the MSG Varsity broadcast rights are worth.

Comments from the Public

Tom Murphy, Sea Cliff, asked the Board to quantify some of the mandates to give the LAC committee direction of which mandates they should focus on.

Dr. Melnick responded he would need a week or two to get the information together. He went on to explain some of the mandates that are costly to the district such as the district's portion of the retirement system and testing and data reporting. He said at a recent meeting of

Nassau County Superintendents Chuck Szuberla Assistant Commissioner SED, explained that in the 1950's and 1960's there were approximately 35-40 teachers working and contributing for each retired teacher, now it is 2 to 1. Another factor is that after 10 years employees are not required to contributing into the system.

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, asked how mandates are established.

Dr. Melnick responded there are 3 ways a mandate is established; through state legislation, as a State Education Department regulation or through federal legislation. He went on to explain that groups such as the Special Education Lobby and the Teacher Lobby are very strong and it is politically difficult to get mandate relief. Trustee Genovesi added some of these mandates were established to help failing schools, however all schools must comply, even high performing districts such as North Shore.

Jerry Romano, Sea Cliff, said if salaries makes up the bulk of the budget the staff should be more reasonable about their increases which were above the rate of inflation. He went on to ask if the teachers and staff members realize increases of 3.5% per year hurt the community and the district. He asked if the district takes into account the impact on the community when negotiating contracts.

Trustee Genovesi responded, the Board is not permitted to discuss collective bargaining in public. She said the Board is very much aware of what is going on in the world and what our community can handle. Dr. Melnick added the Board entered into the collective bargaining agreements prior to the current economic situation. He went on to say he does not believe there is a teacher, administrator or staff member who wants to hurt this community or the children in it.

Daniel Deeks, Sea Cliff, asked if the projected budget increase for next year includes the amount that may be needed for tax certiorari and for the hiring of an assessor.

Dr. Melnick responded neither tax certiorari nor a district assessor is factored into the projected budget increase as the lawsuit against Nassau County is still in litigation. He went on to say that if there is a decision there will likely be an appeal from either side so he does not expect it to impact our budget until 2013-2014.

Funding for Field House

Trustee Genovesi stated that the Board is committed to going forward with the field house portion of the Track & Field Project. Funding of the field house will come from the capital reserve fund from the Viking Foundation. Trustee Beyer added, bids for the field house have been received and vetted. Construction can begin as soon as the spring 2012 season ends with completion estimated by the fall of 2012. She added the soccer and softball fields will experience some loss of usage during construction. In reporting on the rest of the Track and Field project she explained that the football field will be ready and the track will have asphalt by mid-December of this year. She noted that John Hall and Shelly Newman will be working to create a page on the website to update the community on all the district's construction projects.

Regular Business

Personnel

Increment for Advanced Study - Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Brian Messemer, Music, from Step 4 of the BA+15 salary schedule, to Step 4 of the BA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Change of Status - Certified

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Rachel Resnick, Music from a part-time (.4) appointment to a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment, on Step 3 of the BA+15 salary schedule effective November 14, 2011 through February 3, 2012

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Jessica Moriarty, Elementary, on Step 9 of the MA salary schedule, effective November 3, 2011 through January 17, 2012

Teacher Overages

Resolved: To approve a .2 overage for Pat Groom, Mathematics, effective November 28, 2011 through December 9, 2011

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Joan Accolla	Elementary
Carmine Antonelle	Food Service
Shannon Cawley	Elementary
Amy Ferris	Special Education
Lora Grella	Food Service
Vanessa Messina-Mele	Elementary
Lizabeth Saccone	Teacher Aide
Kevin Shue	Music
Laura Tripp	Elementary

Approval of Extra-Curricular Activity Coaches

Resolved: To approve the following extra-curricular activity coaches for the winter season:

Boys' Basketball

7th Grade Matthew Kapuscinski

Boys' Volleyball

8th Grade Christopher Vitucci

7th Grade Lauren Gotta*

*replaces Frank Mauro

Approval of Addition to the List of Athletic Supervisors

Resolved: To approve the addition of Tara Fabilli to the list of athletic supervisors

Approval of Resolution to appoint a Psychiatric Evaluator

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby appoints Dr. Allen Reichman to perform a psychiatric evaluation of a certain employee as requested by the district

Acceptance of a Donation from the High School PTSA to the Math Research Program

Resolved: To accept a donation from the High School PTSA to the Math Research Program for the purchase of portable projectors at a cost of \$350

Award of Cooperative Transportation Bid

Resolved: To award cooperative transportation bids to the low bidders as per attached spread sheet

Approval of an Agreement with Kinesthetic Intelligence Plus, Inc.

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Kinesthetic Intelligence Plus, Inc., to provide a one day creative movement & poetry lessons at the Glenwood Landing School at a cost of \$300

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$146,070, effective November 17, 2011

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 impartial hearing on behalf of student #363623464

Approval of an Agreement with Extraordinary Pediatrics

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Extraordinary Pediatrics to provide related services for special education students effective September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

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

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Dr. Melnick would like to hold all future board meetings in the Middle School Cafeteria. Trustee Genovesi publicly stated the Viking Foundation is re-energized and working very hard. She reminded the Board they will be launching the fundraising campaign tomorrow evening and she looks forward to seeing all of the Trustees there.

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Knierim and all in favor, a second public comments section was added to the agenda.

Comments from the Public

Daniel Deeks, Sea Cliff asked if the Board meetings scheduled for the elementary schools would also be moved to the middle school.

Dr. Melnick responded only the meetings scheduled for the high school library will be moved to the middle school. He also said notice will be posted on the web site and he will send out e-mails prior to each meeting

Executive Session

At 10:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Knierim and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the board moved to go into executive session in the Middle School Faculty Room for discussions regarding collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law.

Adjournment

At 10:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Sharkey and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk