

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order by president Beyer at 7:45 pm in the Sea Cliff School Auditorium. Present were Trustees Genovesi, Glassman, Pombar, Sharkey, Vollmer and Webb. Also present were Dr. Melnick and Mr. Chlebicki. Ms. Buatsi was absent.

Executive Session

At 7:45 pm on motion of president Beyer and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, the Board moved to go into Executive Session in the Sea Cliff School Principal's Office to discuss matters regarding proposed, pending or current litigation and the medical history of a particular person.

At 8:00 pm on motion of Trustee Glassman and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting in the Sea Cliff Auditorium. There were approximately 20 people in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Beyer led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Prior to beginning the meeting, five Sea Cliff School students, who participated in the All County Festival, performed a medley of holiday songs for the Board of Education.

Recognition of Students

President Beyer and Dr. Melnick recognized members of the Women's Cross Country Team for becoming Nassau County Class "B" and Conference IV Champions for the second year in a row, and Willie Schefer who placed first in the Nassau County Class "B" Championship and earned All-State by placing 9th in the NY State Championship.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Vollmer and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, the minutes of November 29, 2007 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Genovesi and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Treasurer's Report of August 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007 was approved.

Report of the SGO Representative & Comments from the Public

Alex Romano, SGO Representative, reported on events and activities in the high school including, Battle of the Bands, a committee meeting for Relay for Life; committee chairmen are needed, and the upcoming PTSA graduate roundtable.

Amy Manzone, Glen Head, spoke about her concern that the District is replacing the honors program in the high school and middle school with Differentiated Instruction. She explained her credentials as a veteran teacher and asked the Board to fully understand what the impact would be if they continue on this path. She expressed her belief that it is not possible for one teacher to teach all levels in one class. She offered to sit with the Board to speak further on this subject.

Dr. Melnick responded that he is concerned about misinformation being spread in the community and offered to meet with Ms. Manzone to be sure she had the correct information.

Ms. Manzone explained that she got her information from parents who attended a meeting and that the district may need better public relations to be sure the correct information is shared. She ended by praising the wonderful teachers her children have had and expressing her support of Smartboards.

Policy Discussions

Dr. Melnick explained the process that went into formulating the revised Code of Conduct and Attendance policies. He reminded the Board that most of the changes in the draft are language that is mandated by the Commissioner of Education. He went on to explain that the new drafted policy on Food Allergies was drafted by Olivia Buatsi, Marge McCarrick, School Lunch Director and Noreen Strassenreiter, Director of Nurses.

The Board first discussed the Code of Conduct and Attendance policies. Questions raised were in regard to the District's jurisdiction off of school property, specifically over a nearby delicatessen, where incidents have occurred recently. There was also a question about the conflict of our homework policy with the code of conduct as well as a section covering appropriate behavior by parents.

During a discussion in regard to the policy on Food Allergies, the Board decided to reword the policy and use many of the specifics as a regulation; Dr. Melnick will implement the changes. There was consensus on the Board to place all three policies for approval on the agenda for January 17, 2008.

Mid Year Report on Goals

Dr. Melnick provided the Board with a written report on the progress toward the 2007-08 goals. There were no questions from the Board.

Comments from the Public

Alex Romano, SGO Representative, raised a question about the attendance policy and expressed his belief that the code of conduct does not impose a strong enough punishment for athletes who fail two classes; currently a two week suspension from the sport. Dr. Melnick asked that Alex bring this issue up at the next SGO meeting.

Budget Goals

Dr. Melnick outlined some of the key areas that have come up while formulating the budget. He gave the Board a list of some of the things that he may be recommending so they have an idea of what will be proposed. Some of the items he covered were a personnel administrator; an elevator at the Middle School which must be installed at a cost of approximately \$400,00- \$600,000, due to new construction; health insurance is estimated to increase by 8-12%; energy costs are also increasing and mandated calculators will cost approximately \$400,000. Other items to look at are the installation of SmartBoards throughout the District and the "Company" at the middle school.

Questions raised were the possibility of hiring a part-time personnel administrator and some additional clerical help to keep down the salary cost, installing a ramp instead of an elevator at the middle school, Dr. Melnick responded that we are not legally permitted to install a ramp and added that we made a commitment to the State to install an elevator the next time new construction was done in the middle school. He asked Trustees to email him any other specific questions they have on the budget.

Clerical Position - School Lunch Office

Dr. Melnick explained that the school lunch program is self sustaining and would cover the cost of this additional position. There was consensus on the Board to place it as an action item on the January 17, 2008 agenda.

Committee and Conference Reports

There were no committee or conference reports.

Regular Business

The Board decided to vote simulatenously on items F-P
On motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor, it was:

PERSONNEL

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

Resolved: To grant a leave of absence for child rearing purposes to Jennifer De Simone, Elementary, effective January 28, 2008 through June 30, 2008

Regular Substitute Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment of Lauren Vione, Art, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 28, 2008, through June 30, 2008, replacing Madolin Archer (retired)

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment of Kerrie Zacharski, Elementary on Step 9 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective December 7, 2007 through June 30, 2008, replacing Jennifer DeSimone (FMLA and child rearing leave)

Appointments - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the probationary appointment of Elizabeth Howell, Confidential Stenographer, Central Office, at an annual salary of \$46,390, effective December 17, 2007, with a 26 week probationary period ending June 16, 2008, replaces Joyce Keehner (transferred)

Resolved: To approve the probationary appointment of John Infranca, Typist Clerk, Special Education, on Step 10 of the Typist Clerk salary schedule, effective January 2, 2008 with a 26 week probationary period ending July 2, 2008 (new position)

Part-time Appointment - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the part-time appointment of Michael Fink, Cleaner, Middle School, at an hourly salary of \$13.20/hr, effective January 2, 2008, replaces Kevin Blackburn (resigned)

Approval of Stipend for Guidance Counselors

Resolved: To approve an increase in the stipend to Guidance Counselors, effective September 1, 2007

Approval of Teacher Overages

Resolved: To approve an overage (.1) for Charles Wankel, High School, effective November 26, 2007

Salary Correction - Non Certified

Resolved: To approve a salary correction for Noreen Boz, School Monitor, Glen Head School, effective November 30, 2007, replaces Chris Vitucci

Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List:

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

George Gowe Physical Education
Seth Gordon Secondary
Ashley Lane Physical Education

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Clubs & Advisors

Resolved: To approve the addition of the following extra curricular clubs:

Elementary - Level 1

Kiwanis Kids Club, Sea Cliff School

Middle School - Level 2

Global Citizens Club

High School - Level 2

Science Olympiad

Resolved: To approve the following extra curricular activity advisors:

High School

Vocal Music Director (play) Michael Kerschner

Middle School

Accompanist Li Ju Cheung*

*replaces Donald Jones-resigned

Approval of Budget Transfers

A budget transfer in the amount of \$14,180 was tabled from this action prior to approval.

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$17,005, effective December 13, 2007

Acceptance of Donations from the Arts Angels to the North Shore High School Fine Arts Department

Resolved: To accept the following donations from the Arts Angels to the North Shore High School Department of Fine & Performing Arts:

<u>Description of Donation</u>	<u>Value</u>
Fine Art & Photography Books	\$ 600
Ellipsoidal Spotlights for use in HS Theatre	\$3,000

Acceptance of Donations from the Glen Head PTO to the Glen Head Elementary School

Resolved: To accept the following donations from the Glen Head PTO to the Glen Head Elementary School at a total value of \$1,490:

<u>Description of Donation</u>	<u>Value</u>
19" Flat Screen TV & Wall Mount Bracket	\$300
Content Area Books-Grade 2	\$250
Gardening Supplies-School Wide Enrichment	\$420
HP Photo Scanner-Grade 1	\$150

Industrial Shredder/Automatic Hole Punch-Special Ed \$250
Mirror to assist in Speech Articulation \$120

Approval of Change Orders

Resolved: To approve change order Elec#1 from Mainline Electric Corp., for Science Lab Reconstruction at the High School in the amount of \$4,123 (deduct)

Resolved: To approve change order Elec#3 from LEB Electric, Ltd. for Mechanical/Electrical Upgrades at the Middle School in the amount of \$3,986 (deduct)

Resolved: To approve change order GC#1 from Stalco Construction Corp., for the
Transportation
Facility in the amount of \$388,000 (additional)

Approval of Home Instructors

Resolved: To approve the addition of the following individuals to the list of home instructors for the district:

Lynn Bregman Mathematics 7-12
Janet Kalaydjian Social Studies 7-12

Approval of Special Education Consultants/Service Providers

Resolved: To approve the agreement with Creative Tutoring for Tutoring Services effective September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

Approval of Special Education Tuition Agreement

Resolved: To approve a tuition agreement with Summit School for a resident student, in the amount of \$26,141.00, effective September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

Approval of Special Education Services

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

Approval of Independent Contractors for the Inventory of District Records

Resolved: To approve the hiring of independent contractors Maryann Hand and JoAnn Passalacqua to inventory district records in the high school and central office at an hourly rate of \$18/hr not to exceed \$18,408, to be covered by a grant received from the New York State Archives in the amount of \$19,738

Approval of Agreement with Mondo Publishing for Professional Development Services

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Mondo Publishing for consulting days for training, support and coaching of elementary literacy coaches and administrators at a cost not to exceed \$25,000, effective July, 2007 through June 2008

Old Business

Trustee Vollmer updated the Board on his investigation into the installation of solar panels by Sun Edison at the high school. Unfortunately, we are not able to utilize this program until New York State lifts the restriction on selling back energy, possibly 12-18 months from now. The Board discussed drafting a letter to the State about lifting the restriction.

Trustee Vollmer expressed his strong feelings of opposition of adding Mandarin Chinese to the curriculum and asked if he would be able to address this issue even though he was

absent from the meeting where it was previously discussed. Dr. Melnick responded that it will be up for discussion during the upcoming budget meetings.

Trustees Webb and Vollmer spoke of the traffic flow problem at Sea Cliff School and recommended more presence by teachers to help alleviate the problem. Dr. Melnick will bring up the issue at the next Coordinating Council meeting.

On the subject of Mandarin Chinese, Trustee Pombar expressed his concern that after a year or two students will give up on the new language. Dr. Melnick responded that Great Neck and Jericho have initiated the program with success and both started at the elementary level.

Dr. Melnick updated the Board on the LIPA situation. He explained that Trustees Beyer, Webb, Ms. Buatsi, Jonathan Heidelberger as well as himself, would be meeting with Kevin Law and LIPA's attorney, Linda Nicolino next Thursday, December 20 to explore ways that they can legally provide the District with the \$700,000 grant which had been promised.

Dr. Melnick also updated the Board on the possibility of extending our borders into Long Island Sound to capture taxes on a pipeline. It is estimated that this would affect the 2008/09 tax rolls.

New Business

Dr. Melnick asked the Board if they would be interested in having a discussion on a future agenda on the information shared by Trustee Webb on reading. There was consensus on the Board to add this to a future agenda.

Adjournment

At 9:30 pm on motion of Trustee Vollmer and seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk