

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
December 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Macari at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria. Present were Trustees Cashman, Colacioppo, Galati, Ludmar, Mosca and Russo. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Christopher Zublionis and Assistant Superintendents Dr. Carol Smyth and Mr. James Pappas.

At 6:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Cashman and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the faculty lounge to consider matters regarding proposed, pending or current litigation.

At 7:10 p.m. on motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor the Board came out of executive session and convened a meeting of the Audit Committee in the cafeteria.

At 7:55 p.m. on motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, the Board adjourned the Audit Committee Meeting and resumed the regular meeting. There were approximately 15 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Macari led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and student Grace Ryan signed the pledge.

Approval of the Minutes

The reading of the draft minutes of the meeting of November 30, 2023 and December 5, 2023, being prepared and disseminated to all members in advance of the meeting, was dispensed. There being no corrections to the minutes, it was declared by President Macari that the minutes of the meeting of November 30, 2023 and December 5, 2023 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Prior to approval, Trustee Mosca asked if Mr. Pappas has had a chance to evaluate the efficacy of our participation in NYCLASS after the first full year. Mr. Pappas explained it has given us a bit of a higher rate of return but more importantly, it gives us more flexibility by not tying up funds in a CD for longer periods of time.

On motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo and all in favor, it was:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Treasurer's Report for the period September 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

Approval of Claims Audit Report

Prior to approval, Trustee Ludmar noted with 705 checks totaling over \$9 million there were no exceptions in the audit report. He remarked that our taxpayers can have every confidence in how the finances of the district are being handled with those statistics and after hearing the report from our claims auditor earlier this evening.

On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo and all in favor, it was:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the claims audit report for the period November, 2023 as reviewed and submitted by Claims Auditor, Denise Longobardi

Report from the SGO

SGO president, Ava DiFeo reported on events and activities at the high school. She reported that after the last meeting Athletic Director Don Lang approached her to suggest holding food drives after basketball games which are very well attended. One idea they came up with is having an entry fee of non-perishable goods, and also a raffle. They are working on something for mid-late January for that. In addition, the SGO is sponsoring a candy-gram to boost morale at the high school. They will be sending candy canes to teachers, or other students, with messages starting next week. Ava reported that sports night is coming up in February and a date and themes are being discussed. They will also be collaborating with the art department for posters.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Zublionis congratulated all of our students participating in the winter concert series. He remarked that the performances at all levels were so impressive and a testament to our tremendous music educators and the dedication of our families to music education. He further noted that the High School concert was truly amazing and evidence of the high standard that we set for our music learning at the highest levels. He urged all parents, especially those of younger students, to watch last night's concert so you can see how far your students will grow.

Dr. Zublionis reported that the District is so happy to welcome Ms. Alane Dugan to the Glen Head Elementary School as the interim principal for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Alane has over 17 years of experience as the principal of Sylvan Avenue Elementary School in the Bayport-Blue Point School District and 38 years of experience in education overall as a teacher, department chairperson, assistant principal, and principal. She is a student-centered instructional leader who has successfully built relationships with faculty, staff and families over the last two decades in a school community very similar to ours. We will begin our search for the permanent principal of Glen Head School in early February and all stakeholders will be involved, beginning with meetings with parents and teachers to build a leadership profile.

Dr. Zublionis also reported that the new Director of Math K-12, Dr. Kimberly Mattes, will be appointed tonight. He explained that over the past 17 years, Kimberly has worked in the Hewlett-Woodmere Schools and has served as the P-12 Director of Mathematics in Hewlett-Woodmere since 2022. She is an energetic and positive leader who shares our special vision for teaching and learning.

Dr. Zublionis thanked our parent organizations for all of their support that they give our schools, administrators and faculty. He thanked them for the special appreciation lunches that they have hosted in each building. He commended them for the amazing work they do and said how blessed we are to be working with them and to have their support.

Dr. Zublionis reported that the technology committee met for the second time this year. They have had powerful conversations about the role of technology in our students' lives inside and outside of school. They are sharing research and brainstorming frameworks that can better guide our use of instructional technology to leverage the benefits and minimize the pitfalls. They plan to share their ideas with the Board on at their meeting of February 8th.

Dr. Zublionis reported that UPK registration will take place between February 1 and March 1, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year. He noted to be eligible, students must meet the following criteria: be four years (4) of age on or before December 1, 2024 (birthdates between December 2, 2019, and December 1, 2020); a North Shore CSD resident (proof of residency will be required); registered with the District by March 1, 2024. An email and post card to inform parents of when they can begin calling to

register will be sent out. He noted that the order of your registration appointment has no impact on the lottery. Dr. Zublionis also explained that at this time we are unsure of how many seats will be offered as we do not have the exact amount of grant funding that North Shore will receive, but the lottery will take place at the end of March and we hope to run a similar program to what was offered this year.

Dr. Zublionis reported on upcoming Parent University happenings: Thursday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m. on Mindfulness; Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. on Elementary Math and Supporting Your Child; Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. on Band Program; Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. on Nutrition; Monday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. on Technology.

Dr. Zublionis reviewed upcoming athletic events for the upcoming weekend and wished everyone a very Happy Holiday Season.

Regular Business – 8:10 p.m.

Opportunities, Learning & Achievement Part 2 – Humanities and World Languages

Ana Aguiar, Director of World Languages & ENL, Seth Gordon, Director of Social Studies, and Julie Ritter, Director of ELA, Library and Literacy presented their report on student achievement.

Ms. Aguiar began with the World Language Department. She shared areas of strength/growth in her department. These included FLACS/CAWNY – checkpoints A & B – 100% passing rate, mastery rates continue to be high and in most areas continue to increase; Learners can negotiate meaning with a conversation partner; Learners can communicate a spoken message to others; Learners are able to understand, interpret and analyze information in conversations, discussion and informational input; Learners are able to interpret prose narratives designed for reflecting grammar at their checkpoint. Areas of focus include: working towards improvement in interpretive and presentational modes of communication and monitor universal implementation of digital portfolio.

Ms. Julie Ritter next presented the areas of strength/growth in the ELA Department. These include Regional Gap: ELA students outperformed their regional counterparts on all standardized tests in grades 3-8 and 11 by an average of 21.7%; Trend Analysis: The grades 4 and 5 ELA Assessment proficient and exceeding proficiency scores grew substantially compared with 2022, rising by 15.9% and 23.2% respectively. Equity: 100% of special education students passed the NYS English Regents. Progress within cohorts: The percent of students in current grades 4-7 who scored urgent intervention on the Star decreased steadily for the past three years. SVOs: students excelling on question requiring them to analyze the development of themes and central ideas, aligns with Thinkers' indicators. One area of focus is the comprehensive review and revision of the Literacy Program guided by the Science of Reading.

Finally, Mr. Seth Gordon reviewed the areas of strength/growth for the Social Studies Department. These include Proficiency and Mastery: combined proficiency of 99% of test takers on Social Studies Regents exams; improved mastery on Global exam from 37% to 64%. Equity: 100% of ENL students passed the US History and Global Regents exam; 100% special education students passed the US History exam. Performance-Based Projects: New Senior Civic Capstone project-174 recipients of Seal of Civic Readiness; National History Day for all in 8th grade. Areas of Focus include implementing civil discourse in Humanities classes and work with parents to promote civil discourse; enhance capstone projects, introduce "mystery source" inquiry framework into instruction; maintain and improve mastery and proficiency rates; ensure that students become critical consumers of media. Each Director then delved deeper into their presentation by presenting "challenges and solutions".

Ms. Aguiar explained that her department has begun the use of digital portfolios which will showcase proficiency progress and growth over time, provide evidence, foster self-reflection and goal setting and allow for student choice. She gave examples of what the Digital Portfolio will look like and the next steps in the process. Ms. Aguiar then spoke about English Language Learners (ELL)/English as a New Language (ENL). She explained that there are 14 different languages spoken in the District, the steps to support the ELLs and the ENL academic support model which includes a Multilingual Learner

Education Plan. Two ELL students, Isabella Nacato Silva and Andrea Fuentes Mena, spoke about their experiences in the ENL program. Ms. Aguiar commended the ENL teachers, Amanda Haleiko, Tori Kalberer and Samantha Drexler for their efforts and dedication to the ELLs.

Ms. Ritter reviewed some of the changes in the Literacy program. On the elementary level they will be aligning their practices with the Science of Reading, creating a District Literacy Team, enrolling in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) for Administrators training. At the Middle School, a new English 6 Extension course has been implemented. This provides personalized learning with a smaller class size; helps with the academic/behavioral expectations for the transition to middle school; is student-centered to build confidence, self-efficacy, and joyful learning; is project-based learning, metacognition, student-led conferences; focus on ELA skills, SVOs, and study skills. On the high school level, the challenge is academic support to help students meet graduation requirements. This is being achieved through a multi-tiered approach to AIS.

Mr. Gordon next explained some challenges to the new social studies exams and some solutions to that issue. He explained that NYS did not release a full version of the US History exam prior to the first administration, there were few practice questions released for teachers to use and the conversion charts made it more difficult to reach mastery (85%) to score 90+ or 95+. He further explained that the solution is to teach for success on the test and beyond and professional development is planned to address many of the issues.

Finally, the Next Steps for all three departments were reviewed: continue the comprehensive review and revision of the literacy program guided by the Science of Reading; Implement conversation guidelines and promote civil discourse in the Humanities Program; Evaluate and refine the Digital Portfolio process in World Languages; Continue the work towards equity for ELLs.

Dr. Zublionis thanked Dr. Smyth, Ms. Aguiar, Ms. Ritter and Mr. Gordon for the amazing work they are doing in their K-12 roles.

Before opening the floor to questions from Trustees, President Macari asked the ENL teachers what further support they needed. The teachers responded they could use more time for curriculum writing, more support for the parents and students, more time together to collaborate. In addition, bilingual counselors to serve the students better.

All Trustees thanked the Directors for the comprehensive report which was received prior to the meeting, for the impressive presentation, and recognized the amount of work that went into both. Questions raised in the area of World Languages were: whether students receive guidelines or expectations regarding the digital portfolio, such as how work would be selected in a particular year, or are students able to replace one piece of work with another; is the digital portfolio something that can be used in the college application process as a history of their learning; is there a plan to use the digital portfolio in other academic areas; any thought of integrating work in root language before students get to high school; are the ELL students happy. Questions raised in the area of ELA were: are students who receive AIS services encouraged to take the Regents in January as a dry run and is there a downside for all students to do this; a lot of funds were spent on the Teachers College program-how is this being integrated to the LETRS program; has the Grade 6 English extension course had any positive effect on special education students. Questions raised in the area of Social Studies and in general were: how do we know we are being successful with some of the changes that are being implemented; why is it difficult to achieve mastery on the Social Studies Regents and how is this being addressed; who is in charge of creating the Social Studies Regents exam; how are you leveraging that we live so close to NYC with all of the cultural opportunities it has to offer; one quarter of special education students are not passing the Regents exam-should an analysis be done of that group to find out why.

The Directors, Dr. Smyth and Dr. Zublionis responded to questions. Regarding the Digital Portfolio, this is the first year utilizing them. Students can upload evidence as they want, with a reflection; it becomes a repository where they can add or replace work which they reflect upon. The

platform used is on a Google site and therefore it can be useful in college applications. These are just starting to be used but it is possible to be looked at for other areas. Students do receive vocabulary work in root language in 6th grade. Ms. Aguiar said ELL students are happy when they are supported; they work very hard and could use a bilingual counselor. Dr. Zublionis added this will be included in the special education review. Students who need confidence building take the Regents in January, after which they deconstruct the exam which helps to target instruction going forward. Regarding Teachers College, it was explained that the writing portion of that program was great and they do not want to lose the assets of TC that worked well. Dr. Smyth added that there are areas around the workshop model that they wanted to shore up as they go through the North Shore Journey. Dr. Zublionis also added that when the TC model was adopted there was a lack of coherence, and that model gave us a structure. He further explained that TC wrote progressions that have benefited our students and there is value there while changes are made. It is too early at this point to know what impact the 6th grade English extension course has had; more anecdotal information is needed. Regarding measuring success of the changes being implemented it was explained that screenings have been put in place, they do progress monitoring, are looking at getting the right assessments and at each student's reading development so they can become a fluent reader; the LETRS program has many aspects so intervention will not be needed later on; teacher/team meetings, and observations, are assessing the 6th grade English extension course. Teachers are creating the Social Studies Regents exams; however two different groups of teachers create the US History exam and the Global History exam and the questions are not always aligned to the content being taught. Many field trip opportunities are happening on all grade levels and many more are planned. Regarding the passing rate for special education students, it was explained that sometimes kids refuse the extra support or the willingness to use it. It is really on a case-by-case basis.

President Macari thanked the Directors, Dr. Smyth and Dr. Zublionis for their work and support of all the students. She noted how different this report was from last year and said how impressed she was that the directors took the feedback from the Trustees last year. She again offered any, and all, support for the English Language Learners.

Comments from the Public – 10:50 PM

There were no comments from the public.

On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo and all in favor, it was:
Approval of an Agreement Between the North Shore Central School District and the North Shore Administrators' Council

WHEREAS, the North Shore Central School District and North Shore Administrators' Council ("Association") are parties to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated November 30, 2023, extending the duration of the 2020-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has recommended to the Board of Education the abolition of the administrative position Director of Secondary Mathematics and Advanced Programs; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has recommended to the Board of Education the creation of the Administrative position of Director of Mathematics, K-12;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District approves a side letter of agreement dated December 14, 2023, between the District and the Association effectuating the above-referenced changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President and Superintendent of Schools to execute all necessary documents regarding same.

Resolution to Abolish an Administrative Position-Director of Secondary Mathematics and Advanced Programs

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby abolishes the position of Director of Secondary Mathematics and Advanced programs, effective December 14, 2023

Resolution to Establish an Administrative Position-Director of Mathematics, K-12

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby establishes the position of Director of Mathematics, K-12, effective December 14, 2023

On motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo and all in favor, it was:

Personnel

Appointment - Administration

BE IT RESOLVED, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the probationary appointment of Kimberly Mattes, Director K-12 Mathematics, between the 60th and 75th Percentile of the Director salary schedule, effective January 29, 2024 through January 29, 2028

Amendment to Appointment - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby amends the November 9, 2023 appointment of Christopher Hurley as follows:

Christopher Hurley, Physical Education, is hereby appointed to a 1.0 position effective January 4, 2024 through April 8, 2024

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Elizabeth Pipala, Special Education, effective January 3, 2024 through January 31, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Calliope Cinelli, Elementary, effective January 8, 2024 through January 31, 2024

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave of Absence

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District approve an unpaid Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") leave of absence for a period of twelve (12) weeks that will run concurrently with any available paid leave, for employee, Nicole Esposito, Teacher, that includes the period

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Georganna Panos, Special Education, on Step 3 of the MA salary schedule effective December 10, 2023 through February 2, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Carol Speranza, Special Education, on Step 10 of the MA salary schedule, effective December 20, 2023 through March 27, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute leave replacement appointment for Alexa Brindisi, Elementary, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 8, 2024 through February 2, 2024

Resignation - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Iris Borges, Food Service Worker, effective January 2, 2024

Appointments - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Deana Roper, part-time bus driver, effective December 15, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Iris Borges, bus monitor, effective January 3, 2024

Per Diem Substitutes

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the addition of the following names to the per diem substitute list:

Name	Category
Gabriella Basile	Teacher Aide Substitute
Leah Burden	Teacher Aide Substitute
Eileen Cullen	Teacher Aide Substitute
Kaylin Burger	Teacher Substitute

On motion of Trustee Cashman and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Change Orders from Cooper Power & Lighting Corp.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following change orders from Cooper Power & Lighting Corp. for Phase Two Bond work at the North Shore High School:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order number EC-18 from Cooper Power & Lighting Corp. for Phase Two Bond work at the North Shore High School in the amount of \$7,607.56 (additional)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order number EC-19 from Cooper Power & Lighting Corp. for Phase Two Bond work at the North Shore High School in the amount of \$3,366.69 (additional)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order number EC-20 from Cooper Power & Lighting Corp. for Phase Two Bond work at the North Shore High School in the amount of \$7,661.81 (additional)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order number EC-21 from Cooper Power & Lighting Corp. for Phase Two Bond work at the North Shore High School in the amount of \$2,475.03 (additional)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order number EC-22 from Cooper Power & Lighting Corp. for Phase Two Bond work at the North Shore High School in the amount of \$7,616.62 (additional)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order number EC-23 from Cooper Power & Lighting Corp. for Phase Two Bond work at the North Shore High School in the amount of \$2,552.46 (additional)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order number EC-24 from Cooper Power & Lighting Corp. for Phase Two Bond work at the North Shore High School in the amount of \$2,963.08 (additional)

Approval of Change Order from Thermo Combustion, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order No. MC-Credit for Thermo Tech Combustion, Inc., for Phase 1 bond work (new addition) at the Middle School in the amount of \$42,465 (credit)

On motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo and all in favor, it was:

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and All Care, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an agreement between the School District and All Care, Inc. to provide Behind-The-Wheel Training and In-Car Observation components of a NYS-DTSE course for North Shore High School students under the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement during the period January 3, 2024 through March 13, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education authorizes the Board of Education President to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said agreement on behalf of the Board

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and Joe Dragone

Prior to approval Trustee Russo asked Dr. Zublionis to give some background on the contract with Mr. Dragone. Dr. Zublionis explained that he had received communication from residents regarding an independent budget review. He and Mr. Pappas discussed the best type of review to get at the heart of what might be missing in the budget, both instructional and non-instructional, and how that relates to our per pupil cost. They thought the best way forward was to seek out someone who would give us recommendations based on comparative analysis with neighboring districts. They did look at outside consultants, but given Mr. Dragone's experience as a school business official, and his work with other districts, he was the best choice. Trustee Ludmar asked who, and how, we will be compared. Dr. Zublionis explained it is a two-step process, looking at both the instructional and non-instructional areas and comparing those same categories then asking for recommendations. We will be compared to Roslyn, Manhasset, Herricks, Jericho and Syosset. Trustee Ludmar noted he was concerned that the review would be by someone who would not understand what we do here, educating kids. He is now very comfortable going forward with Mr. Dragone conducting the review.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Agreement between the School District and Joe Dragone to provide consulting services to conduct

comparative analysis and considerations for possible savings as per the terms and conditions in the attached agreement, effective December 14, 2023 through June 30, 2024; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said agreement on behalf of the Board

Approval of Agreement between the North Shore CSD and Fantastic Tours

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District authorizes and approves the Tour Agreement and Rider with Fantastic Tours & Travel, Inc. ("Fantastic Tours") for the North Shore Middle School Field Trip to Washington, D.C., as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said agreement and rider on behalf of the Board.

Unfinished Business – 11:00 p.m.

Trustee Mosca noted that at the last meeting Mr. Hill spoke about putting Pickle Ball on the radar as a new sport and she feels it is a great opportunity for students. Dr. Zublionis said they are looking into it. Trustee Russo added that there may be grant possibilities for equipment.

Trustee Mosca reminded Trustees that the Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19 in the Transportation Depot. She will send out an email with all of the details.

New Business

Trustee Ludmar reported that there will be an Athletic Policy meeting to address the role of parent conduct.

Adjournment

At 11:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk