

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 22, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Macari at 6:15 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria. Present were Trustees Cashman, Colacioppo, Dillon, Mosca and Svendsen. Trustee Ludmar was absent. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Christopher Zublionis and Assistant Superintendents Dr. Carol Smyth and Mr. James Pappas.

At 6:15 p.m. on motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Svendsen and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the Middle School Library to consider matters leading to the employment of a particular person or persons and proposed, pending or current litigation.

At 7:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Cashman and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and convened a meeting of the Audit Committee in the cafeteria.

At 8:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Dillon and seconded by Trustee Cashman and all in favor, the Board adjourned the Audit Committee Meeting and resumed the regular meeting in the cafeteria. There were approximately 75 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Macari led the public in the pledge of allegiance.

President Macari welcomed all to the Board Meeting and read the following statement:

We have a full house with about 90 students who are ready to be recognized! But before we start, I would just like to mention that we do have other important business after the student recognition that I would like to invite you to.

Dr. Chris Zublionis and Dr. Carol Ann Smyth will be giving a presentation this evening entitled, "Navigating the Possibilities and Pitfalls of Information and Instructional Technology". I saw a sneak peek and I encourage you to stick around for it, as it is compelling!

And later on, the Board will be expected to vote in favor of the 2025-2026 proposed budget. As you likely know, Central Office has been working diligently to craft a responsible budget that reflects our community's shared values. Balancing the needs of students, parents, and taxpayers is always difficult for school administrators and school boards. But doing so during times of fiscal uncertainty where inflationary pressures loom large, is an even greater challenge.

I took some time today to look historically at the last 50+ years of school budgets at North Shore (starting back at 1967). It is really fascinating to see how early on we had double digit increases (10%, 13%). The budget we are voting on tonight is the 11th lowest budget-to-budget increase we have had in the last 59 years. We are voting on a budget-to-budget increase of 2.435%. (Tax levy increase is 2.992%)

As you likely know, we have had some very difficult budget years, and I am comforted knowing that this year should lack controversy! But moreover, our schools will be well positioned to continue our exceptional programs that we all know and love in academics, fine and performing arts, athletics, and special education.

I encourage you to check out the beautiful district mailer that highlights our district's accomplishments. I think it is our best yet! North Shore is 1st in NYS Math Scores, 1st in ELA Regents Scores, the HS is one of the few schools to receive AP Platinum Distinction with Access. Our achievements are widespread and we should all be appreciative that North Shore continues to excel.

The vote will be held on Tuesday, May 20th in the NS High School Gymnasium. The polls open at 7 am and close at 10 pm! You can also vote via absentee ballot if you expect that you will have a conflict on Tuesday, May 20th. That day we will also be voting in the election of the trustees. We have four open seats. Candidates had until yesterday to file and I can tell you that the election is uncontested.

Dr. Zublionis added his thanks to the community, to the Board of Education and mostly to Mr. Pappas and Dr. Smyth who were instrumental in preparing the budget. He explained it is a huge process to get us to this point and he thanked everyone for making it such a thoughtful and intellectual process.

Approval of Minutes

The reading of the draft minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2025, 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 April 10, 2025 were approved.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 5 and 6
Prior to voting, Trustee Mosca noted that once again the claims audit report had zero exceptions, and she commended Mr. Pappas and the business office.

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

Approval of Claims Audit Report

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the claims audit report for the period March, 2025 as reviewed and submitted by Claims Auditor, Denise Longboardi

Acceptance of Federal Single Audit

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School district hereby accepts the Federal Single Audit Report as prepared by Cullen & Danowski, and reviewed by the Audit Committee on April 22, 2025 for year ended June 30, 2024

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

Adoption of the 2025-2026 School Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby adopts the proposed budget in the amount of \$125,635,847.75, for the 2025-2026 school year for submission to the qualified voters of the School District at the annual election to be held on May 20, 2025

Prior to voting, President Macari noted that the preparing and approval of the property tax report card is a legal requirement, and Mr. Pappas will submit it to SED tomorrow as required.

Trustee Mosca noted this report is an easy way to see that our enrollment numbers have not declined, they have gone up.

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

Approval of Property Tax Report Card

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the real property tax report card prepared by the District's business office for the 2025 Annual District Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of said report card shall be submitted to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this approval.

Student Recognition

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Macari, Dr. Zublionis and Dr. Smyth recognition of the following students: In the area of Fine and Performing Arts, students who performed at the Long Island String Festival - Intermediate and Secondary Levels; students selected to the New York State Band Directors Assn. - Middle and High School Honor Band, the American Choral Directors Assn. - National Honor Choir and the National Assn. for Music Education - All-Eastern Conference; students selected to the All-County Art Festival and the Long Island Art League's Advanced Placement Art Exhibition. In the area math, Long Island Math Fair Medalists were recognized. In the area of ELA, students Lucia Cagno was recognized for having her poetry anthology published; Raymond Lin for qualifying for the NYS Championship Debate Tournament; Georgia Stefas for receiving the Nassau Reading Council's Creative Writing Contest; Julia Price for receiving the Gold Key Award in the Scholastic Writing Awards and also receiving North Shore High School Writing Enrichment Designation, along with Giuliana Ferrari, Tess Pinto and Julia Price, and Anne Kelly (winner) and Giuliana Ferrari (runner up) in the North Shore High School Writing Center Sonnet Contest.

Report from the SGO

Alexa Petulla, Vice President SGO, reported on the events and activities at the high school. The Junior Beach Blast will be held on May 17 (tickets are on sale); College Decision Day is May 1 and students are encouraged to wear their college gear. AP/IB exams are beginning, and support is available for any student who wants it. The high school musical was a great success with all three performances being sold out. The dance symposium held recently was also very successful. Students participated in the New York State Debate Championship; students returned from a trip to the Galapagos and reported on a great experience. The high school held a Shakespeare Day; students read original work and performed plays. Alexa reported that students are concerned that the portal closes a couple of days before the quarter ends leaving them unsure of their grade. They request that the portal be kept open a few days longer. Students have requested that they be able to eat in the library, if not there, that other spaces are found in addition to the cafeteria. She also explained that students with no lunch period are finding it hard to eat lunch and said the lunch lines are long. She noted that pull-outs for music class make it difficult to make up class work, especially if you have multiple music classes. Alexa reported that the cones in the drop-off area of the parking lot have become a controversial topic, and she has been told people get tickets when they move past a bus that has its stop sign out in the drop off area. Alexa reported that the lacrosse team would like to use the turf field instead of going to Glenwood Landing School. It has been reported that there seems to be discrepancy between the girls softball team and the boys baseball team; girls feel they get far less than the boys team. The athletes would like to create an anonymous form, or safe space, to discuss issues with coaches without worrying about repercussions.

Dr. Zublionis explained that when the bus is within the school property, the camera is supposed to be blacked out. He suggested anyone who received a ticket should contact the

District. He will look into the cone situation. Dr. Zublionis explained that in some instances parents purchase uniforms for the varsity teams. He further explained that the softball fields are either all dirt or turf. They are looking to make one better field through capital projects. There is a very nice softball field at the Middle School which was renovated and might be a solution. Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Lang hold regular meetings with the captains of all sports to discuss issues and to make sure all athletes feel safe.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr Zublionis reported that the spring concert season starts next week. Now that the budget is adopted, he and Mr. Pappas will begin the budget information meetings. He congratulated the North Shore Arts Angels who are celebrating their 20 year mark of supporting the North Shore Schools. They are hosting the 5th Annual Art Walk with 50 different businesses displaying art by 150 K-12 artists. Dr. Zublionis reported on a special baseball game between Glen Cove and North Shore to be held at the Glen Cove Baseball Stadium on Friday, April 25, honoring legendary coach Mike Metzger. Finally, he reported that the Viking Foundation will hold its parent event next Monday, April 28 at the Sea Cliff Yacht Club.

Discussion - Technology-Promise and Pitfalls 9:15 pm

Dr. Zublionis explained that one of the goals of the year was to engage in a study of how students interact with and are impacted by instructional and information technology. To begin this study, they focused on the questions of: How do we balance the pitfalls and promises of information and instructional technology in our schools? How do we equip our students to navigate the balance in their own lives and the role of technology in an increasingly complex world? The District Technology Committee along with the Viking Community Committee focused on three key areas each with specific essential questions: Content and Curriculum, Smartphones; Screentime, Online Safety, and Student Wellness; Artificial Intelligence: Promise, Problems, and Academic Integrity. Dr. Carol Smyth initiated a thorough literature review, a subcommittee engaged in the essential questions over the year, and the Viking Community Committee focused on a collaborative reading of *The Anxious Generation*. The Technology Committee was focused on their work inside of school and the Viking Community Committee was focused primarily on the role of technology in students' lives at home and outside of the school day. The subcommittee for Content and Curriculum explored three instructional frameworks: Triple E Framework: Engage Learning, Enhance Learning and Extend Learning; The SAMR Model: Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, Redefinition; Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK). Dr. Zublionis reviewed the survey of students, parents and teachers regarding use of school-provided technology, and helpfulness of instructional technology in support of learning. The subcommittee on Artificial Intelligence: Promise, Problems, Academic Integrity researched AI and discussed how to face AI with intention. Dr. Zublionis demonstrated ChatGPT and reviewed the results of a survey of students, teachers and parents regarding how familiar they are with AI tools, and whether they think AI tools help improve or support learning instruction. Finally, the subcommittee for Smartphones, Screentime, Online Safety, and Student Wellness researched how smartphones and screen time should be regulated in schools and how students and parents can be empowered to be prepared for threats to safety and wellness. Dr. Zublionis reviewed the survey results of students, teachers and parents on whether cell phone use during school hours helps or hinders learning, and frequency of use of social media. Dr. Zublionis reviewed the current policies on devices, discussed the possibility of a ban on phones in schools and what this typically means. Finally, he discussed a timeline for recommendations. Parent Education beginning in May 2025 and ongoing; School and Board Policy Work on cell phones and AI, spring and summer 2025; Wellness Curriculum Work,

Summer 2025; Media Literacy Framework Curriculum Writing, Instructional Framework and Guidelines Work and Piloting Work for AI during the 2025-2026 school year.

The Board discussed the presentation. All Trustees thanked Dr. Zublionis, Dr. Smyth, Mr. Kaye and the committees for their work and the information provided in advance of the meeting. Questions/comments raised were: it was noted that the elementary and middle schools seem to have a good model for prohibiting the use of cell phones, and was suggested to bring that model up to the high school; the importance that technology should elevate teaching and learning and enhance learning but not take the place of authentic learning was expressed; also the importance that students learn keyboarding; will there be support for speech-to-text technology; move quicker on banning cell phones and moving away from ChromeBooks in the younger grades; concern was expressed about ChatGPT; concern for excessive screen time was expressed, it was noted that it will be hard to balance screentime when most homework is done on a screen; important to maximize safety and privacy; support was expressed that the administration and Board make the decision on what happens in school; AI is changing quickly, difficult to manage with extreme changes; finding balance was a recurring comment; parents are concerned about being prepared for AI; important to prioritize human connection; NYS may force what happens with cell phones, need to give students the tools of how to use technology once they are no longer in school; should we consider a shift from ChromeBooks, possibly see if Apple products are better; students are stressed due to too much screentime; it was noted that higher education institutions are making the same adjustments; concern that using AI apps will take away student voice.

Dr. Zublionis and Dr. Smyth responded to questions. Cell phone and Device Policy adjustments will need to move quicker. Keyboarding is an important skill for students to learn. Assessments are now all computerized. Mr. Contreras, High School Principal noted that students will adapt to whatever decision is made regarding cell phones and devices, but they should be included in the conversation. Dr. Zublionis explained the switch to an Apple product may be cost prohibitive. He thanked everyone who has been involved in this study, especially the principals who attended the meeting, and the issues they have dealt with over the last few years since COVID.

Comments from the Public-10:45 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 14 a-l, 15, 16, 17 a-c, 18, 19 and 20 Prior to voting, Trustee Mosca commended Sea Cliff Principal Megan McCormack for writing the grant that is being accepted for the Tower Garden. Ms. McCormack thanked Food Service Director, Mr. Alan Levin who worked with her on the grant.

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

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes from Michele Keohan, Physical Education, effective June 30, 2025
Subject

Resignation - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Caron Cesa, Reading, effective June 30, 2025
Subject

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 Nicholas Pascarella, World Languages (Italian), on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule, effective April 22, 2025 through May 8, 2025

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 approves 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, Calliope Cinelli, Teacher, that includes the period May 19, 2025 through June 27, 2025

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District approves 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, Christina Michalenok, Teacher, that includes the period May 20, 2025 through June 27, 2025

Resignation - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Joseph Ackerman, Part-time Cleaner, effective April 11, 2025

Leave of Absence - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a leave of absence for Sandra Livoti, Teacher Aide, for the purpose of accepting a Provisional Appointment, Typist Clerk position, effective April 21, 2025

Provisional Appointment - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the provisional appointment of Sandra Livoti, Typist Clerk at Middle School, on Step 5 of the typist Clerk salary schedule, effective April 21, 2025 with a 26 week probationary period

Approval of Exam Review Instructors

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following exam review instructors:

Science

Middle School-Living Environment

Lauren Mistretta

Christina Bianco

Brian Lang

Melissa Verdone

Brianna Wills

Alyssa Bacchioni

Per Diem Substitutes

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the addition of Taylor Baumann, Teacher Substitute, to the list of per diem substitutes.

Acceptance of a Grant to the Sea Cliff Elementary School

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the New York Agriculture in the Classroom's Grow with Us Grant, provided through Cornell CALS, of three Tower Garden aeroponic systems, along with all the tools needed to begin growing, to the Sea Cliff Elementary School, at a total grant of \$4,887

Acceptance of Request for Proposal (RFP) from The YMCA for a Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the Request for Proposal from YMCA, to provide a Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program, during the period September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Approval of Credit Change Orders from JMF Contracting Inc. for Glen Head, Glenwood Landing and Sea Cliff Elementary Schools

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves credit change order number GH-GC-09 from JMF Contracting, Inc. for Phase Two project at the Glen Head Elementary School in the amount of \$17,150.44 (credit)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves credit change order number GWL-GC-10 from JMF Contracting, Inc. for Phase Two project at the Glenwood Landing Elementary School in the amount of \$6,077.85 (credit)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves credit change order number SC-GC-05 from JMF Contracting, Inc. for Phase Two project at the Sea Cliff Elementary School in the amount of \$12,607.66 (credit)

-Approval of Health Services Contract between the North Shore CSD and Garden City UFSD

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby enters into a contract for Health Services with the Garden City UFSD for 2 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Garden City UFSD for the 2024-25 school year at a cost of \$1,246.16 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of a Resolution to Participate in the 2025-26 Northwest Nassau Cooperative Transportation Bid

WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of public school districts in Nassau County, New York, to bid jointly Transportation Services, and

WHEREAS, the North Shore School District is desirous of participation with other school districts in Nassau County in the joint bidding of the services mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0, and

WHEREAS, the North Shore School District wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, reporting the results to the Board of Education, and making recommendations thereon, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore School District hereby appoints Michele L. Hall to represent it in all matters related above, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Shore School District Board of Education authorizes the above mentioned committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Shore School District Board of Education agrees to assume its proportionate share of the costs of cooperative bidding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Shore School District Board of Education Agrees (1) to abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee; (3) that after award of contract(s), it will conduct all business directly with the successful bidder(s).

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Smithtown Central School District (DOL-DOR)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and the Smithtown Central School District for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Smithtown CSD and residing within the North Shore CSD during the 2024-2025 school year; 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 of Education.

Unfinished Business – 10:50 p.m.

Trustee Cashman thanked Trustees for using reusable water bottles in honor of Earth Day and thanked Mr. Alan Levin for assisting with the plastic free lunch day in the schools.

New Business

Trustee Mosca thanked Dr. Smyth for providing the information in her update on the Math Olympiad competition.

Trustee Svendsen noted the District's Moody rating of Aa1 reported in Mr. Pappas' update. Mr. Pappas explained this rating results in better interest rates when the District goes out for borrowing.

Trustee Mosca reported there are 4 vacancies on the LAC Committee and asked if applications can be available at the Viking Foundation event on Monday. Dr. Zublionis will speak about the committee and getting involved during his speech at the event.

Adjournment

At 10:55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk