

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, February 8, 2010, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Board Conference Room at the William J. Brosnan School, 158 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, with Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Chairperson, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Tim Madden, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: None
One board seat vacant

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services
Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Wills, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to contract negotiations and matters leading to the appointment of particular persons.

Unanimously carried.

At 8:05 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee Madden, to reconvene in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 70 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Wills, to approve all items under 4.1:

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, January 25, 2010
 - 4.1.2 Public Work Session, January 25, 2010
 - 4.1.3 Emergency Meeting, January 28, 2010

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to approve all items under 4.2:

- 4.2 Treasurer's Report and Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements

- 4.2.1 Treasurer's Report for the period July 1, 2009 through July 31, 2009
- 4.2.2 Treasurer's Report for the period August 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009
- 4.2.3 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for July 2009
- 4.2.4 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for August 2009
- 4.2.5 Treasurer's Report for the period September 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009
- 4.2.6 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for September 2009

Unanimously carried.

4.3 For Information: Claim Auditor's Report for Warrant and Schedule of Claims for payments dated November 2, 2009 (Accounts Payable Warrant), November 13, 2009 (Payroll Trust & Agency Warrant), November 16, 2009 (Accounts Payable Warrant), November 1-30, 2009 (Wire Transfer Warrant), November 25, 2009 (Payroll Trust & Agency Warrant), November 30, 2009 (Accounts Payable Warrant)

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.1.1 Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, District Chairperson of World Languages, introduced the World Languages Department Student of the Month, Marta Rodenko. Ms. Nesfield stated that Marta is an extraordinary student with an innate gift for languages. Marta is fluent in Polish, English and French and can converse in Spanish and Italian. Ms. Nesfield noted that Marta has excelled at all levels, achieving perfect scores on the New York State Regents Examinations in French, Italian and Spanish. In addition to her achievements in language, Marta is an IB Diploma candidate and is a member of the National Honor Society and World Languages Honor Society. Marta has been an active member of the French club and participates in various community service activities, most notably the A Midwinter Night's Dream committee. Ms. Nesfield stated that Marta's love of languages and desire to explore new cultural horizons sets her apart from many students her age and provides her with a global perspective and an appreciation of cultures other than her own.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Marta on her fine achievements and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

5.2 Review of Instructional Initiatives in the following areas:

5.2.1 Ms. Jennifer Nesfield presented the 2009-2010 World Languages and ELL Instructional Initiatives. Ms. Nesfield stated that the 2009-2010 departmental initiatives include continuing to execute an item analysis related to the four language skills on the New York State Proficiency and Regents exams along with the AP and IB exams, reviewing and examining existing forms of assessment used for World Language classes, and continuing to strengthen the level of consistency between courses of the same level across the District and creating a World Language Curriculum Map using *Moodle*. Ms. Nesfield reviewed data on the New York State Proficiency and Regents examinations, and the AP and IB examinations. Ms. Nesfield noted that the 2009-2010 LINGUAS Program showed a 23% overall increase in enrollment. The English as a Second Language departmental initiatives include completing an item analysis related to the four language skills on the NYSESLAT Examination with the goal of improving classroom instruction on all levels, continuing to help the English Language Learners meet graduation requirements in all subject areas, and providing the ESL faculty with workshop and professional development opportunities related to the instructional uses of technology for their classes. Ms. Nesfield reviewed the May 2009 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test results.

There was a brief discussion regarding the languages selected by students, the decline in interest in German, and the elementary LINGUAS program.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott thanked Ms. Nesfield for her very informative report.

5.2.2 Dr. McDermott stated that the Art Education Instructional Initiatives will be presented at a future meeting.

5.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.1.2 Mr. Don Strasser, Advisor to A Midwinter Night's Dream, introduced the 2010 committee members who raised \$421,000 for ALS research and awareness. Following a video synopsis of this year's event presented by Mr. Christopher Lynch, President Waldenburg and Dr. McDermott presented commendations to the following committee members: Vicki Arthur, John Attardi, Alanna Baldassare, Gina Borden, Dan Choe, Alyssa Clemente, Katherine Cryer-Hassett, Chelsea Culbert, Lexi Derasmo, Nikki Dondero, Taylor Engel, Katie FitzMaurice, Chrissy Garrecht, Kaitlyn Hansen, Lucas Hoffman, Blair Ingraham, Nikki Khalouian, Nicole Knudsen, Jen Koniuk, Cynthia Kovacs, Kira Kowalchik, Dana Liu, Emily Marchesano, John Marino, Erin McNally, Kiera McNally, Kim Moran, Taylor O'Brien, Ryan Orent, Brittany O'Shea, Brittany Pagnotta, Rachel Reeves, Jason Rostkowski, Nicole Seitter, Jill Shotwell, Alexa Siragusa, Jackson Sirica, Kelley Stanford, Megan Urgiles, Kelly Ann Walley, Rachael Witrick

5.3 Board discussion and action to provide the Superintendent with direction for the development of the proposed budget for 2010-2011.

Trustee Ingraham stated that he wanted to assure the community that every possible cost saving option will be considered as part of the budget process, in keeping the budget as low as possible and insuring educational programs go forward. Mr. Ingraham stated that the Board is very mindful of the difficult economic times and the impact this has had on the residents. Trustee Ingraham proposed doing more with less by trying to preserve a 2% tax rate increase.

Trustee Wills stated that this year's budget formation is a bigger challenge than last year with the larger reduction in state aid. Mrs. Wills stated that she supports the Superintendents proposed upgrades to the digital community, school lunch fund and transfer to the capital fund. Trustee Wills stated that it will be very challenging, but she echoes Trustee Ingraham's proposal to come in at a 2% tax rate increase.

Trustee McNaughton stated that it will be very difficult and hard for everyone in the community, but a 2% tax rate increase is a great place to start.

Trustee Gannon stated that a 2% tax rate increase is a target the Board should be investigating but it will be very difficult. Mr. Gannon stated that the Board needs to look at what that kind of increase would mean and what that kind of restraint in the budget would result in reducing programs.

President Waldenburg stated that the Board has to give the Superintendent a clear direction, not only trying to form the framework but also indications on what programs or features to be protected. Mr. Waldenburg stated that it will be a big challenge on the Superintendent and administration to find resources in the existing budget.

Trustee Sato stated that in the past the Superintendent has come back with a proposed budget including what programs and features would need to be cut at different percentage rates.

Trustee Madden asked if it would be possible to see what a 0% increase would look like including what cuts would have to be made in order to maintain that level of spending. Mr. Madden proposed

maintaining class size at the elementary levels, maintaining core class size at the high school, and then look at the other areas.

There was a brief discussion regarding the proposed technology plan, the current infrastructure and how it impacts the educational programs.

Vice President Dragone stated that she is concerned that if they start with 2% there will be draconian cuts. Mrs. Dragone stated she would like to see what a 2% budget would mean and then what a 3% budget would mean.

There was a brief discussion regarding providing the Superintendent with budget direction not discussion. Several Board members stated that the Superintendent and administration should provide the Board with their recommendations on what reductions should be made. There was further discussion regarding the capital projects planned and how those would be affected by cuts, and requesting two budgets at different tax rate percentages.

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, directing the Superintendent to formulate the 2010-2011 budget targeting a 2% tax rate increase to be presented on March 8, 2010, including a list of reductions made and the costs assigned to them.

Unanimously carried.

5.4 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming Board of Education meetings scheduled for February 22nd, March 8th, March 15th, and March 22nd. President Waldenburg noted that there is a Public Work Session scheduled after the regular meeting on February 22nd to discuss the formation of a Full Day Kindergarten Committee. Mr. Waldenburg also stated that the Superintendent will present the proposed 2010-2011 budget on March 8th and budget discussions will be held at the meetings scheduled for March 15th and 22nd.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.1 The following communications were received regarding the budget:
- 6.1.1 Email from Mr. Jack Rooney, received January 25, 2010
 - 6.2.2 Email from Mr. Anthony J. Morreale, received January 27, 2010

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Charles Slevin Resident	Stated that he liked hearing the tone of the meeting and stated that he was under the impression that the Northport Power Station was undergoing reassessment.

President Waldenburg stated that any filing for a tax certiorari must be made by May 15th. Mr. Waldenburg stated that the District has been monitoring this for many years and at this point it would be very troubling.

Motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to approve all items under 8., including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #17-31), Supplemental 8.1.7 (Schedule B #1-2), and excluding withdrawn item 8.4.1.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated February 8, 2010, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff

There was a brief discussion regarding the high school attendance team and how the initiative is working. Trustee Ingraham requested the Board receive a brief report on how this initiative is working at the end of the school year.

- 8.1.2 Schedule C - Salary Transfers
- 8.1.3 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.1.4 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education
- 8.1.5 Schedule K - PDC NASA
- 8.1.6 Schedule L - PDC UTN
- 8.1.7 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff

8.2 Receiving for a first reading the following textbook:

- 8.2.1 Earth Science The Physical Setting Earth Science
Thomas McGuire AMSCO Grade 8 and 9

8.3 Deleting the following policies:

- 8.3.1 Policy #4144/4234 – “Insurance Workmen’s Compensation”
- 8.3.2 Policy #6162.6 – “Evaluation of Pupil Work”

8.4 Withdrawn

8.5 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the following textbook:

- Basic Steps to Reading Rhythm
James Guarnieri JG Music 1 Instrumental Band Lessons

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT, FINANCIAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

9.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL

- 9.1.1 Award – Musical Instrument Repairs

9.2 Approving the following donations to the District:

- 9.2.1 \$25.00 from Mr. Douglas E. O’Loughlin to the Geraldine Wolf Welch Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 9.2.2 \$4,000.00 from Mr. Steven L. Ingerman to the Henrietta Ackerly Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 9.2.3 \$725.00 from various donors to the Robert Krueger Scholarship Fund
- 9.2.4 \$25.00 from Joseph and Ann Bermudez and \$200.00 from John and Michelle DeFalco to the Michael Kauffman Memorial Scholarship Fund

9.3 Authorizing the administration to apply for a Toyota Tapestry Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to be used to conduct a geological investigation at East Northport Middle School cooperatively with William Floyd Middle School

9.4 Approving the 2009-2010 estimated non-resident tuition charges and the 2008-2009 actual non-resident tuition charges, identifying the amounts that will be charged to other school districts for any of their students who are enrolled in our district.

9.5 Establishing the 2009-2010 health service charge for out-of-district students attending district non-public schools at \$717.89 per pupil and that the Superintendent be authorized to execute contracts with the school districts indicated in the attached memorandum in the amounts specified.

9.6 Authorizing the Board President to sign a contract with the following district to provide Health Services for Northport-East Northport students attending school in that district during the 2009-2010 school year:

9.6.1 Syosset Central School District, sixteen (16) students attending Our Lady of Mercy Academy and one (1) student attending St. Edward the Confessor School @ \$760.92, totaling \$12,935.64

9.7 Authorizing the administration to apply for a Mentoring Partnership of Long Island Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 to be used at Norwood Avenue School and \$3,000.00 to be used at Northport High School. The grants will be used to continue to expand a mentoring program benefitting families who are struggling due to a variety of crisis situations which have significant impact on the children, and for which the program is targeted.

9.8 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2009-2010 budget

9.9 Approving the Corrective Action Plan for the June 30, 2009 external audit.

President Waldenburg thanked the members of the Audit Committee for the tremendously constructive meeting with regards to development of the Corrective Action Plan.

Vote on Trustee Wills' motion to approve all items under 8., including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #17-31), Supplemental 8.1.7 (Schedule B #1-2), and excluding withdrawn item 8.4.1 was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Schedule H – Use of Facilities

10.2 Schedule I – Home Instruction

10.3 School Facility Report Cards

President Waldenburg stated that the District is continuing to investigate savings in energy costs at all buildings, but due to the physical structure of Dickinson Avenue Elementary School there is a lot of energy lost there.

10.4 Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report as of July 2009, August 2009 and September 2009

10.5 Investment Report for the periods July 2009, August 2009, September 2009 and October 2009

10.6 School Lunch Profit and Loss Statement for the period July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

In response to a question regarding the school lunch profit and loss, Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that with the increase in the price of the school lunch and the efforts of Mr. Bromm, School Lunch Manager, to increase student participation, along with the new cook at the high school, the school lunch program will hopefully see an increase in profits.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business to discuss at this time, motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to adjourn the meeting.

At 10:10 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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