

Public Work Session

A Public Work Session of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, February 22, 2010, beginning at 10:00 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, Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: None
One vacant board seat

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.

Public attendance: There were approximately 15 persons present.

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

4. President Waldenburg stated that the purpose of the Public Work Session was to discuss a proposed motion by Trustee Madden to form a Full Day Kindergarten Committee.

Trustee Madden stated that he would like the Board to examine the implementation of a full day kindergarten program and the committee would be charged with looking at research concerning the benefits or lack of benefits of a full day kindergarten, looking at District facilities and space requirements, and considering how such a program would be funded. Mr. Madden stated that the District has examined the issue for more than 20 years now at various intervals, and with enrollment projected to decrease significantly within the District the opportunity opens up to reexamine the space issues. Mr. Madden stated that the committee would look into long term planning and how this program could be implemented in four to five years.

There was discussion regarding the composition of the committee, what the committee would be charged with, how the committee would report to the Board, and the possibility of surveying the public on full day kindergarten.

Trustee Gannon stated that the Board is not deciding whether to have a full day kindergarten program, the Committee would gather information and come up with alternatives and possible plans.

President Waldenburg stated that the committee would not have to start from scratch but could build on the information that is already available.

Trustee Wills stated she was concerned about forming the committee before the budget vote.

Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, stated that the administration is working very hard to come up with a budget that the whole community will accept during these very difficult times and suggested that the Board postpone the initiation of a committee until after the budget vote.

President Waldenburg stated the Board is not making any decisions today regarding a Full Day Kindergarten Committee, a draft motion will continue to be formed and a date will be determined for the motion to be placed on a future Board agenda for consideration by the Board.

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

At 10:40 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn