

Special Meeting of the Board of Education - Northport High School - 7:00 p.m. (Tuesday, April 13, 2021)

Generated by Beth M Nystrom on Friday, April 16, 2021

Members present

David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Members absent

Larry Licopoli

Also present

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Irene McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Dana Boshnack, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Mr. Robert Howard, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Louis Bonadonna, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

Public Attendance: 5 people in-person, approximately 50 virtually

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Badanes called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. IF NECESSARY, THE CHAIR MAY ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION - Note: It is anticipated that the Board will meet in public in the Faculty Dining Room at Northport High School at 6:00 p.m. to act upon a resolution, upon majority vote, to immediately convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the custodial and teacher aide contract negotiations.

Action: 2.01 Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to custodial and teacher aide contract negotiations.

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C. Noonan, David Stein

At 7:05 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the auditorium at Northport High School.

3. Mr. Badanes led those present in the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**; and

4. Pointed out the **EMERGENCY EXITS**

5. EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Report: 5.01 Board of Education receives the Educational Impact Statement prepared by the School Closure Advisory Task Force

President Badanes stated that the Board will be receiving the Educational Impact Statement this evening. The Board will not be taking action on it. There will be a public hearing on April 27th and on April 29th the Board will take action on the proposed school closings. An informational/town hall meeting will be held virtually on April 20th with the Superintendent. The town hall meeting is not a Board meeting.

Superintendent Banzer presented the School Closure Advisory Task Force's Educational Impact Statement.



SCHOOL CLOSURE
Advisory Task Force
Board of Education Meeting, April 13, 2021

Receipt of Educational Impact Statement

Future Study Timeline

- June 2019: District contracts SES Study Team to help answer the question “Are there options that might provide program effective and cost-effective ways or patterns to organize how the PreK-12 program is implemented/delivered over the next three years?”
- November 2019 - June 2020: Community Advisory Committee meets to discuss Future Study
- July 2020: SES Study Team, with Community Advisory Committee, finalizes and presents Future Study to Board of Education
- October 2020: Following feedback from community members, an additional scenario, Adapted Scenario A, is presented.
- December, 2021: Board of Education motions to approve Adapted Scenario A for 2021-2022 school year
- January 21, 2021: Board of Education passes a resolution to form Task Force

Task Force Process Review

- December 3rd: the Board of Education voted to “approve Adapted Scenario A and to direct the Administration to take all necessary actions to proceed including, but not limited to, the educational impact study, for the 2021-22 school year and to complete all tasks without unnecessary delay.”
- February 2021:
 - The Task Force was formed and 22 members and 2 facilitators were chosen.
 - February 2021: Anonymous ThoughtExchange was created to generate topics of interest and importance to the committee members.
- February 23rd - April 8th:
 - Six committee meetings were held and the charge of the committee was reviewed. Each meeting addressed components of the charge.
 - The Educational Impact Statement was drafted, and incorporated feedback, concerns and considerations brought forth by the committee.
- April 12th: The committee met for the seventh time for final discussion and voted 17-5 to move the Educational Impact Statement forward to the Board of Education.

Meeting Overviews

February 23, 2021: Meeting 1

- Introductions, established agenda topics, reviewed the charge, presentation from Assistant Superintendent of Business Robert Howard with regard to the **pupil capacity and cost savings estimate** resulting from implementation of Adapted Scenario A and **proposed new district boundaries**.

March 2, 2021-Meeting 2

- Listened to a presentation from Assistant Superintendent of Business Robert Howard regarding the **cost savings** related to Adapted Scenario A, as well as **potential future use and valuations of closed buildings** and impact on **transportation**.

March 9, 2021: Meeting 3

- Listened to a presentation from Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Support Services Louis Bonadonna, Chairperson of Mathematics Robin Rann, Chairperson of World Language Jennifer Nesfield, Chairperson of Science and Technology David Storch and Director of Fine and Performing Arts Izzet Mergen, regarding the **proposed educational enhancements** resulting from the implementation of Adapted Scenario A.

Meeting Overviews

March 16, 2021: Meeting 4

- Listened to a presentation from both Dr. Timothy Hoss, Principal of Northport Middle School and Mr. Pasquale DeStefano regarding **school climate, culture and placement of 5th graders** in the building.
- Listened to a presentation from Ms. Robin Rann, Chairperson of Mathematics and Ms. Tara Gaiss, Coordinator of AIS, RtI and Reading regarding the **proposal to have teacher teams of two for fifth graders**, where one teacher focuses on the humanities and the other focuses on math and science.

March 23, 2021: Meeting 5

- Listened to a presentation from Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Support Services Mr. Louis Bonadonna and Director of Student Support Services Ms. Shannon Dantuono regarding the **Panorama Education SEL survey and tiered response**.
- Listened to a presentation from Ms. Lori Beekman, principal of Bellerose Avenue, Dr. Michael Genovese, principal of Norwood Avenue, Mr. Thomas Harrison, principal of Fifth Avenue, Mr. Jeffrey Haubrich, principal of Pulaski Road, Ms. Sabina Larkin, principal of Ocean Avenue, and Ms. Laurie Storch, principal of Dickinson Avenue, regarding some of their **plans to welcome new students into their buildings**.

April 6, 2021: Middle School Tours

- Seven committee members voluntarily attended an optional **tour of Northport Middle School**, and seven committee members voluntarily attended an optional **tour of East Northport Middle School**
- There were shown **classrooms, common spaces, and the proposed location of the 5th graders**

Meeting Overviews

April 6, 2021: Meeting 6

- Listened to a presentation from Mr. Robert Howard, Assistant Superintendent of Business regarding the **valuation of the William J. Brosnan building and the estimated cost savings of Adapted Scenario A**.
- Listened to a presentation from Dr. Timothy Hoss, principal of Northport Middle School and Mr. Pasquale DeStefano, Principal of East Northport Middle School, regarding the **arrival, dismissal and movement of 5th graders within the buildings**.

April 12, 2021: Meeting 7

- Allowed members of the committee to **express final thoughts and considerations** to be considered by the district and Board of Education
- **Committee votes to move the Educational Impact Statement forward to the Board of Education.**

Meetings 2-6 included opportunities for committee members to ask questions of the presenters, share feedback and considerations, and discuss the presentations in breakout groups.

Additionally following meetings 2-6, committee members were able to share any additional thoughts or feedback via an anonymous form, which Dr. Boshnack and Ms. McLaughlin responded to during the following meeting.

Educational Impact Statement

- The “background” contains information about the work of the Community Advisory Committee and SES Study team prior to the formation of the Task Force.
- The “district’s response to the charge” is a combination of information and data from the SES Study and the work of the Task Force, organized according to the charge.
 - This was done to provide the reader with a concise description of the work thus far and how this work addresses the charge per Ed. Law 402a.
- A brief summary and conclusion is included in the EIS.
- The meeting agendas, summaries, and minutes are included in the full statement as well.
- The entire Educational Impact Statement is available for review on the [district website](#)

Thank you to the committee members for their feedback and considerations, and their time and commitment.

David Badanes, Board of Education President (ex-officio)
Melissa Baker
Christine Bandrowski
Robert Berger
Leigh Boodoo
Dana Boshnack- Co-facilitator
Janice Conte
Lynn Cromeyn
Lisa DeNisco
Jennifer Falasco
Melissa Fischer
Rosanne Fischer

Deanna Frey
Brooke Gonzales
Julie Hendricks-Atkins
Jacqueline Kleinman
Irene McLaughlin- Co-facilitator
Kendra Monahan
Nora Nolan
Cassie Reilly
Kathy Sheridan
David Stein, Board of Education Trustee
Debra Weissman
Denise Zagari
Nicole Stimitz- Communications Specialist

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

April 20- INFORMATION MEETING

Superintendent Town Hall- Virtual Presentation & Q&A on Reorganization Plan

April 27- BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Hearing on Proposed school closure of Bellerose Avenue & Dickinson Avenue Elementary Schools

April 29 - BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Board vote on proposed school closure of Bellerose Avenue & Dickinson Avenue Elementary Schools

Action: 5.02 Resolution Accepting for Filing the Educational Impact Statement
Recommendation to approve the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, opportunities to realize increased efficiencies within the Northport – East Northport UFSD have been under close study by the Board of Education for a number of years;

WHEREAS, continued enrollment decline, rising costs associated with the underutilization of school buildings, increasing personnel costs, increasing fixed costs, and new State mandates relating to various educational initiatives and programs have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS, the recent settlement of certain tax certiorari court proceedings brought by the Long Island Power Authority (“LIPA”) and others against the Town of Huntington concerning the assessed value of the Northport Power Plant, which is located within the boundaries of the District, have been a concern for the past decade, and which settlement will significantly diminish tax revenue received from the Long Island Power Authority shifting in large measure school tax burdens to the residential taxpayers of the school district, and

WHEREAS, at the June 20, 2019 Board meeting, the Board unanimously voted to approve an Independent Professional Services Agreement between the District and SES Study Team, LLC (“SES Study Team”) for Enrollment Projection/Demographic Study, Pupil/Facilities Capacity Analysis, Program Delivery Study of Options and associated services. SES Study Team to provide research, direction, and facilitation through a guided process that emphasized a data-driven analysis with community involvement to identify possible options to serve pupils in the future, answering the question “Are there options that might provide cost-effective ways or patterns to organize how the Pre-K–12 program is implemented/delivered over the next three years?”, and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2019, by resolution the Board established a Community Advisory Committee for the Future Study comprised of forty-six (46) members consisting of a cross-section of the community who met with the consultant functioning as a steering committee from November 2019 through June 2020 to review/discuss data, offer perspectives and insights, and ask clarifying questions respecting the SES study, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the study was to ‘hold up a mirror’ to district data leading to suggested scenario options to help the Board of Education and District Administration of the Northport-East Northport UFSD and its community answer: Are there options that might provide program effective and cost-effective ways or patterns to organize how the PreK-12 program is implemented/delivered over the next three years?, and

WHEREAS, the findings of the SES Report were submitted to the Board of Education on July 31, 2020. While not making a recommendation regarding the closing of a particular school(s), the SES Report provided five (5) different school closing scenarios for Board and community study that are educationally sound and cost-effective avenues to pursue given the data and inferences gained throughout the research for the Study, and

WHEREAS, during the fall of 2020 the District presented the findings of the SES Report, sought and received extensive community feedback and thereafter a sixth scenario, known as “Adapted Scenario A” was developed in consultation with the SES Study Team and reviewed by the Community Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS, On December 3, 2020, the Board voted to approve Adapted Scenario A and to direct the Administration to take all necessary actions to proceed including, but not limited to, the preparation of an educational impact study, for the 2021-22 school year and to complete all task without unnecessary delay, and

WHEREAS, New York State Education Law §402-a authorizes and recommends that School Boards establish an advisory committee when school closings are under consideration to investigate the educational impact of school closings and prepare a comprehensive Educational Impact Statement for Board of Education consideration of proposed school closings, and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2021, the Board established a “School Closure Advisory Task Force” pursuant to Education Law Section 402-a to further and appropriately study the Board’s initial determination to implement Adapted Scenario A and to prepare an Educational Impact Statement, to be filed with the Board on or before April 8 13, 2021, and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2021, the Board gave the School Closure Task Force the following charge:

To investigate the educational impact of implementing “Adapted Scenario A”, and to draft, in accordance with NYS Educational Law Article 9 Section 402- A, “Procedures for Closing a School Building” and to prepare with the assistance of the School District administration and file an Educational Impact Statement with the Board not later than April 8 13, 2021.

In connection with the foregoing, the School Closure Advisory Task Force shall take into consideration the following factors in its preparation of an Educational Impact Statement:

- a) The current and projected pupil enrollment, the prospective need for such building(s), the ramifications of such closing(s) upon the community, initial costs and savings resulting from such closing(s), the potential disposability of the closed school(s);*
- b) Possible use of such school building(s) for other educational programs or administrative services;*
- c) The effect of such closing(s) on personnel needs, and on the costs of instruction, administration, transportation and other support services;*
- d) Type, age and physical condition of such building(s), outstanding indebtedness, maintenance and energy costs, recent or planned improvements for the building(s), and such buildings’ special features;*
- e) Ability of the other schools in the affected district to accommodate pupils if such school building(s) close(s); and*
- f) Possible shared utilization of space in such school building(s) during or after regular school hours, as permitted in section four hundred fourteen of the Education Law*

In addition to foregoing factors the School Closure Advisory Task Force shall review and rely upon the information and data provided in the July 31, 2020 SES Study Team, LLC and the “Future Study Community Advisory Committee” Report, and

WHEREAS, On February 11, 2021, the Board approved the appointment of twenty-two (22) individuals to the School Closure Advisory Task Force which met on seven (7) occasions between February 12, 2021 and April 12, 2021 to carry out the charge of the Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education on April 8, 2021 approved an amendment regarding the School Closure Advisory Task Force that was adopted at the January 21, 2021 public meeting of the Board of Education, to extend the time by which the School Closure Advisory Task Force must file its Educational Impact Statement with the Board of Education from April 8, 2021 to April 13, 2021, and

WHEREAS, consistent with its charge from the Board of Education, the School Closure Task Force has submitted to the Board of Education for filing its Educational Impact Statement,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts for filing and its subsequent consideration the School Closure Task Force’s Educational Impact Statement dated April 12, 2021."

Motion by David Badanes, second by Donna McNaughton.
Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

11. ADJOURNMENT - Board policy requires adjournment by 10:30 pm, unless meeting is extended by vote.

Information: 11.01 Upcoming Meetings

President Badanes stated that Superintendent Bander will host a virtual informational town hall meeting regarding the Educational Impact Statement on April 20th.

SPECIAL MEETING TO VOTE ON BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET & TRUSTEES
AND PUBLIC HEARING ON EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School Auditorium

SPECIAL MEETING TO RENDER A DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED SCHOOL BUILDING
CLOSINGS

Thursday, April 29, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School Auditorium

PUBLIC HEARING ON FINALIZED BUDGET

Thursday, May 6, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School Auditorium

BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING TO ACCEPT VOTING RETURNS

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Approximately 9:30 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School Cafeteria

Action: 11.02 Adjournment

Recommendation to adjourn the meeting

Motion by David Badanes, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

At 7:37 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk