

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, July 7, 2008, beginning at 8:00 p.m., in the Library at Northport High School, 154 Laurel Hill Road, Northport, New York, with Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, newly elected President, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mr. Warren S. Arthur, Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Steven A. Meyerowitz, Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools

1. President Munson called the meeting to order.

Public attendance: There were approximately 50 persons present.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. The announcement of emergency exits were conducted earlier in the evening.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S AND CASH FLOW REPORTS

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 4.:

- 4.1 Minutes
  - 4.1.1 Public Hearing, June 16, 2008
  - 4.1.2 Regular Meeting, June 16, 2008
  - 4.1.3 Special Meeting to Accept Voting Returns, June 24, 2008
- 4.2 Treasurer's Reports and Cash Flow Reports
  - 4.2.1 Treasurer's Report for the period April, 2008
  - 4.2.2 Cash Flow Report for the Month of April, 2008

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.0 The Superintendent introduced Ms. Anne Whooley, Principal of Dickinson Avenue School and Margaret Koestner, teaching assistant. Ms. Whooley stated that Ms. Koestner preformed the Heimlich maneuver on a child that was choking. Ms. Whooley stated Ms. Koestner's actions were truly above and beyond a heroic deed which saved the life of a child.

The President of the Board and the Superintendent thanked Ms. Koestner for her heroic act and presented her with a commendation. Ms. Koestner received a standing ovation.

- 5.1 For Information: policy #5160, "*Student Attendance*"
  - 5.1.1 Letter from Ms. Kathleen O'Rourke, received June 30, 2008
  - 5.1.2 Letter from Ms. Claudia Tippett, received July 1, 2008
  - 5.1.3 Letter from Mr. Frank Doyle, received July 1, 2008
  - 5.1.4 Email from Ms. Tara Daverio, received July 1, 2008

Ms. O'Rourke, Ms. Tippett, Mr. Doyle and Ms. Daverio read their letters to the Board asking them to institute the proposed changes in the high school attendance policy.

There was a long discussion among the Board members, high school teachers and community members with regards to the proposed changes to the attendance policy. The President of the Board stated that concerns are being heard and progress is being made with the committee in regards to the changes. Mrs. Munson stated that another meeting will be scheduled during the summer and that a first reading of the policy will occur when the final revisions are made. Dr. McDermott commended the teachers for their effort and hard work on the attendance policy.

- 5.2 Discussion of open campus policy at the high school.
  - 5.2.1 Letter from Mr. Tom Maritato, received July 1, 2008

Trustee Ingraham read Mr. Maritato's letter asking the Board to consider closing the campus.

There was a long discussion regarding the issue of a closed campus. Several teachers and parents stated that they were in favor of a closed campus saying that 42 minutes was not enough time for students to go out for lunch and that many students were returning late for class. Several other teachers stated that they had mixed feelings about a closed campus and that it was a parental decision. Other teachers and parents stated that they were opposed to closing the campus.

Trustee Meyerowitz stated that he has supported the open campus policy at the high school for many years and in a perfect world he would like to see it continue. Mr. Meyerowitz said that he had hoped to hear from more students and local food establishments. Mr. Meyerowitz stated that he would like to propose a motion and vote in favor of the motion.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Wills, to close the campus, effective this school year, and direct the administration to provide adequate seating and staffing in the cafeterias for students.

Trustee Dragone commented that she has struggled with this decision and the bottom line is that we need to keep kids safe and keep them in school.

Trustee Sato stated she feels that the issue is being rushed and would not like to vote on this without hearing from students. Dr. Sato stated that she is in favor of giving the kids some freedom.

Trustee Arthur stated that the combination of inexperience, speed and the potential for many distractions are a lethal combination. Mr. Arthur stated that he supports a closed campus policy.

Trustee Gannon stated that he is in favor of a closed campus policy as long as the District can come up with solutions to the logistical problems of having more students in the cafeteria.

Trustee Waldenburg stated that a policy change requires two votes and has to be voted on a second time to become policy. Mr. Waldenburg stated that for now he would approve the motion to close the campus.

President Munson stated that the population has increased significantly and the roads are very dangerous at lunch time and she supports closing the campus.

Trustee Ingraham stated that he will not support closing the campus. Mr. Ingraham stated that he would like to explore having the lunch leave privilege earned by seniors through community service, drivers education and academic standing.

Trustee Wills stated that there is a correlation between student attendance and the open campus policy and that a change needs to be implemented to close the campus.

Several students spoke to the Board regarding their concerns about food choice, overcrowding of the cafeteria and their support for an open campus.

There was discussion among the Board and administration regarding the changes that need to be made to the cafeteria if the closed campus policy passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to table the original motion to close campus and direct the administration to provide adequate seating and staffing in the cafeterias for students.

Yes: Mr. Ingraham, Mr. Meyerowitz, Dr. Sato

No: Mr. Arthur, Mr. Gannon, Mrs. Dragone, Mrs. Munson, Mr. Waldenburg, Mrs. Wills

Motion failed.

Vote on the motion made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Wills, to close campus and direct the administration to provide adequate seating and staffing in the cafeterias for students was as follows:

Yes: Mr. Arthur, Mrs. Dragone, Mr. Gannon, Mrs. Munson, Mr. Meyerowitz, Mr. Waldenburg, Mrs. Wills

No: Mr. Ingraham, Dr. Sato

The first reading of the revised policy to close the campus passed.

### 5.3 For Information: Upcoming Meetings

The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming Board meetings and stated that an extra meeting will be scheduled in July in order to have a first reading of the revised attendance policy, second reading of the closed campus policy and business items. The following meetings will be on August 25<sup>th</sup>, September 10<sup>th</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS

### 6.1 Communications received regarding music teacher:

6.1.1 Letter from Ms. Patricia Gardiner, along with a petition signed by 97 parents/students, received June 30, 2008

6.1.2 Email from Michael and Susan Goz, received June 30, 2008

- 6.1.3 Email from Ed and Vivian DePinter, received June 30, 2008
- 6.1.4 Letter from Virginia A. Cosenza-Locke, received June 30, 2008
- 6.1.5 Letter from Beth Taylor Devlin, received June 30, 2008
- 6.1.6 Letter from Diane M. Viale-Pomes, received July 1, 2008

The President of the Board stated that personnel matters cannot be discussed in public and anyone with concerns can call human resources or the superintendent to set up a meeting to voice their concerns.

6.2 Letter from Mr. Phil Fortuna, received June 30, 2008, re: Reorganization meeting. Mr. Fortuna was not present at the meeting.

6.3 Letter from Mr. Bent Thomsen, received July 1, 2008, re: Bond Proposition Vote

Mr. Thomsen read his letter to the Board and presented his proposal for funding the field renovations. Mr. Thomsen suggested that the District establish a maintenance fund for the field renovations and allocate the funds that will be saved from the bond that will be paid off in 2010 into the maintenance fund.

There was a brief discussion among the Board members regarding the athletic fields bond and Mrs. Munson stated that the District needs to explore all options with regards to putting forth the athletic fields proposal again.

## 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Mike Keisel Parent	Mr. Keisel stated that his children go to private school and he had concerns about the condition and safety of the buses used to transport students to the private schools.

The President of the Board asked Mr. Keisel to address his concerns with a letter to the District and they will look into the transportation issue. Dr. McDermott suggested Mr. Keisel schedule a meeting with the director of transportation.

Tim Robinson Parent	Mr. Robinson stated that he would like to see the bond vote go out to the public again as soon as possible. He asked if there was any discussion regarding this.
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Mr. Blake, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the committee has discussed the current state of the fields and a contractor will come in to do some maintenance on the high school fields including aeration, fertilizing and irrigation. Mr. Blake stated that the District must wait at least ninety days before putting up another bond vote. The committee will be looking at what steps to do next and give recommendations to the Board.

Mr. Cronin, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, stated that the goal is to have the fields ready for August 18<sup>th</sup> with a company coming in to take care of the core aeration, seeding and irrigation to provide good growth on the fields prior to the fall season starting.

There was discussion among the Board regarding the athletic field bond vote and what the next steps would be. The Board asked the administration to come up with a scaled back bond plan and have the components of that available at the late August meeting for the Board to review.

At 11:00 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Waldenburg, to extend the meeting.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Arthur, Mrs. Dragone, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Ingraham, Mrs. Munson, Dr. Sato, Mr. Waldenburg, Mrs. Wills

NO: Mr. Meyerowitz

Motion passed.

Glen Meyerowitz      Asked for an update on the advisor of Students for 60,000 Student

Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, stated that an ad has been placed in the New York Times and the committee will be reconvening to screen the resumes and interview candidates.

Steven Meyerowitz      Stated that at a prior Board meeting there was a question raised by a parent regarding Board Member      the ability of students to take two accelerated English courses and that a memo from the principal states that there is no language in the course catalog that prohibits such course selections.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 8., including Supplemental B (#29-35) and Supplemental D (#47-48), and with the exception of severed item 8.1.1:

8.1      Personnel Schedules, each dated July 7, 2008, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1      Schedule A      -      Certified Staff (including Supplemental A)
- 8.1.2      Schedule B      -      Non-Instructional Staff (including Supplemental B)
- 8.1.3      Schedule C      -      Salary Transfers
- 8.1.4      Schedule D      -      Extra Pay (including Supplemental D)
- 8.1.5      Schedule J      -      Committee on Special Education
- 8.1.6      Schedule M      -      Tenure

8.2      Approving for a first reading revisions to the following policies:

- 8.2.1      Policy #9501, "*Condition of Employment - Cabinet Members*"
- 8.2.2      Policy #9502, "*Condition of Employment - Directors*"

8.3      Receiving for a first reading the following textbook:

- 8.3.1      Imaginez: le francais sans frontieres  
Cherie Mitschke      Vista Higher Learning      11th-12th Grades

Vote on the motion to approve all items under 8., including Supplemental Schedules B and D, was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve severed item 8.1.1 (Schedule A), including Supplemental A (#217-243).

Vote on the motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Arthur, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Ingraham, Mr. Meyerowitz, Mrs. Munson, Dr. Sato, Mr. Waldenburg, Mrs. Wills  
ABSTAIN: Mrs. Dragone

Motion passed.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to approve items 9.1 through 9.5.

9.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL

9.1.1 Award - Driver's Education - In-car Instruction

TRANSPORTATION

9.1.2 Award - Transportation for District Students Attending Out-of-District Schools

9.2 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL

9.2.1 Reject - Periodicals

9.3 Declaring the attached list of selected equipment as surplus and approving disposal in accordance with Board Policy.

9.4 Approving a transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2007-2008 budget.

9.5 Approving an invoice from the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, Inc., re: 2008-2009 Board membership dues.

Vote on the motion to approve items 9.1 through 9.5 was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Student Activity Account Reports as of April, 2008 from:

10.1.1 Northport High School

10.1.2 East Northport Middle School

10.1.3 Northport Middle School

10.2 Schedule H - Use of Facilities

10.3 Schedule I - Home Instruction

10.4 Investment Report as of April, 2008

10.5 Monthly Revenue & Budget Status Reports as of May, 2008

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 New York State School Boards Association 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Educational Trade Show, October 16-19, 2008, Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, New York.

12.2 Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northport-East Northport Board of Education agrees with the placement of a special education elementary school age student within the Gersh Academy located in Melville, New York.”

Unanimously carried.

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

Unanimously carried.

At 11:20 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

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