

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, August 25, 2008, beginning at 6:15 p.m., in the Library at Northport High School, 154 Laurel Hill Road, Northport, New York, with Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, 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.

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to convene in Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:50 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to reconvene in public session in the library at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 30 persons present.

2. Mrs. Munson 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 Wills, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to approve all items under 4.1:

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Annual Organization Meeting, July 7, 2008
 - 4.1.2 Regular Meeting, July 7, 2008
 - 4.1.3 Special Meeting, July 28, 2008
 - 4.1.4 Special Meeting, August 8, 2008

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Gannon, 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 period June 1 through June 30, 2008
 - 4.2.2 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for June, 2008

Unanimously carried.

Vice President Waldenburg commented that due to excellent staff effort the District's short term borrowing rate is lower than last year which will save the District and taxpayers a lot of money.

Mr. Larry Blake, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Business, stated that due to the efforts of staff over the last two to three years and a strong Moody's rating the District's TAN borrowing came in at a rate of 1.66%. Mr. Blake stated that Ms. Kathleen Molander, Director of Finance and Accounting, has done a terrific job and he also gives tremendous credit to the Board of Education and the community for their support in passing the budget.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Elementary Class Sizes as of August 25, 2008.

Dr. Marylou McDermott stated that as projected in June, due to the needs of students, the kindergarten at Dickinson Avenue School will have four sections and the first grade at Ocean Avenue School will have also have four sections. Dr. McDermott also stated that the sixth grade at East Northport Middle School remained constant. Opening day enrollment will be reviewed at the September 8th Board meeting.

There was discussion among the Board and community members regarding the parameters used to create the class sizes, weighted vs. unweighted classes, and long range planning to accommodate a larger school population.

5.2 The President of the Board announced the following upcoming meetings: On Monday September 8th, the Board will review opening day class sizes and instructional initiatives for the 2008-2009 school year. The following meeting will be Monday, September 22nd where a report on the summer programs will be presented. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 6th.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Withdrawn

6.2 Withdrawn

6.3 Email from Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ranieri, received August 18, 2008, re: Asbestos abatement at East Northport Middle School. Mr. & Mrs. Ranieri were not present at the meeting.

Dr. McDermott stated that there was an asbestos abatement project at East Northport Middle School on August 14th. The District followed all rules and regulations set forth by the New York State Department of Labor. Dr. McDermott stated that air samples were taken before, during and after the abatement and air quality was deemed to be safe at all times. Dr. McDermott also stated that she has instructed the administration not to schedule these types of projects when children are in the building.

Mr. Andrew Rapejko, parent, commented that according to Section 155.5 Uniform Safety Standards for School Construction and Maintenance Projects of the Commissioner's Regulations (12 NYCRR 56), that large and small asbestos projects, anything over 10 feet, should not be performed when the building is occupied.

Mr. Tony Resca, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, stated that he will look into Mr. Rapejko's concern and check if there is any discrepancy.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Karen Wills Board Member	Stated that she wanted to recognize fellow Trustee Dragone who was elected to the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Executive Committee and will also serve on the Legislative Committee.

President Munson stated that Trustee Dragone has previously served in this capacity and traveled to Albany to fight for fair state aid on the District's behalf and for other area schools. Mrs. Munson stated that Trustee Dragone has been very influential in getting extra state aid.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 8.1, including Supplemental Schedule B and excluding severed item 8.1.1 (Schedule A):

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated August 25, 2008, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff (including Supplemental A #57-60)
- 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
- 8.1.5 Schedule F - Change of Name
- 8.1.6 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion 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 (#57-60).

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's 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.

In response to a question, Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, stated that when a teacher or teaching assistant goes to Board with certificate pending it means that all the paperwork is in place and filed but the actual certificate is not in hand.

Vice President Waldenburg introduced the following new administrative appointments: Mr. Nolan Briggs, Supervisor of Security, Mr. William Esner, Interim District Chairperson of Science K-12, and Ms. Allyson Giaimo, District Chairperson for Special Education

8.2 Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to approve the following motion regarding the high school attendance policy:

- (1) Teachers, the administration, and the Board of Education agree that regular school attendance maximizes students' interaction with their teachers and peers and is a major component of academic success.
- (2) During the past two months, teachers, administrators, and members of the Board of Education have had several extensive meetings to discuss students' attendance issues and have learned of the frustration of the teachers and administration at student absences, whether they be excused or unexcused, legitimate or illegitimate.
- (3) As a result, teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education will focus on attendance issues during the 2008-2009 school year and will seek to partner with parents and guardians (collectively, "Parents") to improve student attendance.
- (4) In particular, with respect to the "cutting" of classes, the District will promptly and repeatedly communicate with Parents (such as at the High School Open House) and with students about the District's intention to enforce its existing policy of dropping a high school student with three unexcused absences in a semester from the course and placing the student in a structured study hall. This will result in the student receiving a WF in the course.
- (5) To assist with the enforcement of the attendance policy:
 - (i) a Parents' Portal will be opened in e-School, the District's student management system, that will enable parents to view their children's attendance;
 - (ii) the District will use the Connect Ed system to call and text message Parents' home, work, and cell phones to keep Parents informed about their children's attendance and to inform them as early as possible about potential attendance problems relating to "cutting" so that they can be avoided and resolved; and
 - (iii) Parents – and students – will be informed about the requirements under existing policy for a Parent to call the High School's Attendance Office on the day of a student's absence or, where such a call is not made, for a Parent to write and send a note with the student for the student's Assistant Principal within 72 hours of the student's return to school explaining the absence. Parents and students also will be informed that (a) notes received after 72 hours will not be accepted and the absence will be treated as an unexcused absence, and (b) notes written and signed by students will not be accepted at any time.
- (6) Moreover,
 - (i) the primary focus of the Attendance Teacher will be to work with the administration and teachers to reduce "cutting" at the High School;
 - (ii) the High School Assistant Principals will make every effort to promptly deal with referrals relating to "cutting" with the goal of trying to avoid and resolve potential problems for students before they have reached three cuts;
 - (iii) staff will be dedicated to the Attendance Teacher, the High School Principal, and/or the High School Assistant Principals to assist in dealing with "cutting";
 - (iv) the District will enable teachers to work with the High School administration to identify, speak with, and counsel students at risk of being dropped for "cutting";

- (v) teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education will monitor student attendance (on a daily and on a period-by-period basis, including “lateness”) throughout the upcoming year and will meet regularly to review and evaluate the steps that are being taken and to discuss other issues relating to student attendance; and
 - (vi) new teachers and new administrators will be provided with information, training, and guidance on the district’s existing attendance policy and their responsibilities, and teachers working with the High School administration as per item (iv) above will be provided training to be able to meet those responsibilities.
- (7) The administration will make arrangements so that no students will have to leave the High School for an athletic, extracurricular, club, academic, or other school-related event while classes are in session only because of transportation issues; as an example, students will no longer have to take a bus during 7th, 8th, or 9th periods and arrive at their event earlier than necessary because of the availability of transportation but rather will be provided with transportation to such event later in the day and preferably after school to decrease the time out of class. This change is in no way intended to eliminate or cut back any such events and no such elimination or cut back is to occur.
- (8) A committee of teachers, administrators, students, and parents (and perhaps others) shall be formed to review the District’s field trips. The committee’s exact charge will be determined but in general it is expected that the committee will at a minimum review how teachers and administrators select and approve field trips.
- (9) In addition, with respect to field trips, parents and students will be informed about the proper, required procedures for completing High School Field Trip/Activity Cards, including going to e-School to acknowledge their children’s attendance record.
- (10) With the approval of this motion, the “Proposed Revisions to Current Student Attendance Policy” will be tabled; in January 2009, the Board will make a determination regarding returning the discussion of amending the Student Attendance Policy to the agenda.

Mr. Frank Doyle, high school teacher, read a statement to the Board concerning the Board’s tabling of the proposed attendance policy changes. Mr. Doyle stated that working in the confines of the existing attendance policy only addresses up to 20 percent of the attendance problem.

There was discussion among the Board and community members with regards to the current attendance policy. Parents and students will be notified that the current policy will be strictly enforced. Students who have three illegal absences will be dropped from the course and given a WF.

President Munson stated that the Board members are reviewing the tremendous amount of attendance data in order to put the best policy in place for the students.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz’s motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve item 8.3.2 and all items under 8.4

8.3 Receiving for a first reading revisions to the following policies:

8.3.1 Policy #5160, “*Student Attendance*” - tabled

- 8.3.2 Policy #9511, *“Continuing Education and Recreation Teachers and Temporary, Substitute and Student Non-Instructional Employees”*
- 8.4 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the following textbooks:
 - 8.4.1 Java Software Solutions
John Lewis, et. al. Pearson Addison Wesley 11th - 12th Grades
 - 8.4.2 Mathematics Course 3: Pre-Algebra
Jennie M. Bennett, et. al. Holt, Rinehart and Winston 8th Grade
 - 8.4.3 Mathematics Course 2
Jennie M. Bennett, et. al. Holt, Rinehart and Winston 7th Grade

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz’s motion to approve item 8.3.2 and all items under 8.4 was unanimously carried.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 9.1

- 9.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

TRANSPORTATION

- *9.1.1 Award - Transportation for Students with Disabilities and District Students Attending Out-of-District Schools
- *9.1.2 Award - Transportation for District Students Attending In-District Schools, Out-of-District Schools and Field/Athletic Trips

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- *9.1.3 Award - Toilet Renovations at Dickinson Avenue School

LONG ISLAND SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR’S ASSOCIATION
COOPERATIVE

- *9.1.4 Award - Ice Cream w/Equipment
- *9.1.5 Award - Meat
- *9.1.6 Award - Paper/Plastic
- *9.1.7 Award - Grocery
- *9.1.8 Award - Dairy
- *9.1.9 Award - Snack
- *9.1.10 Award - Frozen Foods
- *9.1.11 Award - Bagel
- *9.1.12 Award - Bread
- *9.1.13 Award - Processed Foods
- *9.1.14 Award - Pizza
- *9.1.15 Award - Cleaning Supplies
- *9.1.16 Award - Small Equipment
- *9.1.17 Award - Large Equipment

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve item 9.2

9.2 Approving Type A lunch prices for 2008-2009 at \$1.75 for K-5, \$1.80 for secondary schools 6-12.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz 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.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato to approve all items under 9.3 to 9.11.

9.3 Receiving a donation to the District of a Daewoo flat screen computer monitor, to be used at Dickinson Avenue School, from Mr. Jr. Cardasis, value estimated to be approximately \$100.

9.4 Authorizing the Board President to execute the following contract:

9.4.1 Youth Directions and Alternatives C.Y.A., INC., in the amount of \$32,000 for the 2008-2009 school year - \$4,000 for general services as stated in the contract, and \$28,000 for the employment of a full time street worker.

9.5 Approving the attached 2008-2009 School Service Agreement between the Northport-East Northport School District and United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc.

9.6 Approving the attached contract between the Northport-East Northport School District and the Reading and Writing Project Network, LLC.

9.7 Approving the Northport-East Northport School District's participation in the Huntington Arts Council "Journey" Program for the 2008-2009 school year.

9.8 Approving the attached Settlement Agreement for special education services for an elementary student.

9.9 Approving the attached resolution regarding a plan for a number of public schools and BOCES organizations to bid jointly for the purchase of various types of computers and technology commodities.

9.10 Receiving a donation of books to the Northport-East Northport School District from Barnes & Noble. A new Barnes & Noble will be opening on Jericho Turnpike in East Northport on September 17th. On September 16th they will be open for a preview and will donate 10% of the proceeds from this night in the form of books to the District.

9.11 Approving a transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2008-2009 budget.

Vote on the motion to approve all items under 9.3 to 9.11 was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 State Education Department Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals or free milk for the July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 school year.

10.2 Schedule I - Home Instruction

10.3 Investment Report as of June 2008

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 Discussion of the athletic fields renovation bond.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to table the discussion of the athletic fields renovation bond and to place it on the agenda for the September 8th Board of Education meeting, and requesting the attendance at that meeting of Mr. Drew Cronin, Mr. Anthony Resca and Mr. Larry Blake to answer any questions.

Unanimously carried.

12. NEW BUSINESS

12a. FUTURE BUSINESS

Trustee Ingraham asked that discussion regarding class rank and modifications to the Use of Facilities policy be placed on appropriate upcoming agendas.

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 9:22 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn