

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, September 8, 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 Wills, seconded by Trustee Sato, to convene in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Unanimously carried.

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

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately fifty 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

There were no minutes for approval.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- 5.1 Report on K-6 Class Sizes after Opening Day.

The Board reviewed the opening day elementary class sizes. In response to a question, Superintendent McDermott stated that one factor in determining the number of sections is the educational needs of the children. In determining the number of kindergarten sections at Ocean Avenue School, Dr. McDermott stated that this particular group of children scored very well on the Phelps Kindergarten Readiness Scale.

Mr. Timothy Madden, parent, addressed the Board and read his letter stating that he strongly disagrees with the District's decision to cut the fourth kindergarten section at Ocean Avenue School and urged the Board to restore a fourth section.

Dr. McDermott stated that there is a possibility of placing a teaching assistant in the class during the literacy period and asked Mr. Madden to meet with herself and Mrs. Larkin to discuss his concerns.

5.2 Report on Districtwide Instructional Initiatives for the 2008-2009 school year.

Superintendent McDermott introduced Ms. Carol Anderson-Hoffmann, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. Ms. Anderson-Hoffman reviewed the 2008-2009 district initiatives stating that this year the District will continue to use the detailed, data-drive analysis of the major standardized assessments for targeted and differentiated instruction, but will also include analyses of the same grade to itself, entire programs and grade levels, and individual students. The District will continue to concentrate on literacy but will increase attention to science, social studies and math with numeracy as a particular focal point. The infusion of technology into everyday curriculum will be expanded with the use of the new SmartBoards. Ms. Anderson-Hoffmann also stated that as an extension of the Superintendent's Conference Day keynote address, the District will incorporate the tenets of "Rachel's Challenge" in grades K-12 through the character-education program, and on the secondary level, with many programs such as STARS, LEAD, SHARE, etc. The departmental/program initiatives will be presented by each director, chairperson or program facilitator providing accurate and up-to-date data in regard to student achievement. This year the presenters will also include a report on ongoing practices and programs which require constant monitoring, a summary of the District's many successful innovations and implementations achieved in the 2007-2008 school year, and a status of the current initiatives for the 2008-2009 school year.

There was a brief discussion by the Board regarding the District's use of the SmartBoards. Dr. McDermott thanked Ms. Anderson-Hoffmann for her informative report.

5.3 The President of the Board announced the upcoming Board of Education meetings: September 22, October 5, October 20, November 3, November 17

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Email from Mr. Armand D'Accordo, received August 13, 2008, re: Priorities of the Board.

Mr. D'Accordo addressed the Board emphasizing that he would like to see a published list of the Board's priorities and goals in order to provide more oversight to the community and for the Board to establish committees to enhance public participation. Mr. D'Accordo also stated that he would like to see a five year strategic plan.

Trustee Dragone stated that the District does set up committees as they are needed and that every agenda speaks to the goals of the Board.

Dr. McDermott stated that the first priority of the District is to maximize the learning of every child through instruction targeting the needs of the individual student. Dr. McDermott stated that this is an ongoing process using data to look at the strengths of the grade and the strengths of the programs. In regards to facilities planning, Dr. McDermott stated that the District does have a capital improvements plan and many past projects and future projects have been implemented using this plan in the most fiscally responsible way.

Trustee Ingraham stated that the Board has a very lengthy and open budget process starting in October and welcomed the public to ask questions.

6.2 Email from Mr. Timothy Madden, received September 2, 2008, re: Ocean Avenue Kindergarten class. Mr. Madden presented his letter during the report on K-6 class sizes after opening day.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Rob Ingraham Board Member	Requested that parents be provided with a comprehensive listing of all extracurricular activities available to students at the upcoming open house/back to school nights at the middle schools and high school.
Liz Dragone Board Member	Requested the Board review the New York State School Boards Association proposed ByLaw Amendments/Resolutions and Voting Delegate's Guide to discuss and take a position on the different resolutions at the September 22 nd Board meeting.
Ellen Cangemi Parent	Inquired about the status of the purchase of portable PA systems for each building.

Ms. Carol Anderson-Hoffmann stated that the District was able to test out three different systems for 30 days and were not happy with the product. Ms. Anderson-Hoffmann stated they found a fourth company and have been testing their product for the past few days and will for another week. So far they have gotten very good reviews and if everyone agrees they will go ahead and purchase them.

Lisa Courter Parent	Asked why some elementary schools have a weighted and unweighted number for the kindergarten class and others don't. In particular, since Ocean Avenue does not, does that mean the class does not contain any inclusion students.
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Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, stated that there are various models at the kindergarten level with respect to weighting students. In the inclusion setting the children are accompanied by a classroom teacher, a certified special education teacher, as well as a teaching assistant. Mr. Lynch stated that the inclusion model is not weighted, while models of self-contained with some main stream activities are weighted.

Andrew Cowie Marching Band President, Student	Requested that the Board put the issue of the turf fields back up for a re-vote. Mr. Cowie stated that the marching band contains 300+ students and the practice field is in such disrepair that it makes it very difficult for the band to perform.
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Jim Weis United Taxpayers Of Northport	Asked when the actuals will be posted for the 2007-2008 school year and made available on a line by line basis to the public.
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Mr. Lawrence Blake, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that they are due at the State Education Department on October 15th. Mr. Blake stated the auditors are reviewing them right now.

The President of the Board stated that on October 20th there will be a presentation of the annual report from the Board Auditors.

Andrew Rapeijko Parent	Thanked Dr. McDermott for meeting with him and his wife to discuss the asbestos issue at the East Northport Middle School. Mr. Rapeijko asked the Board to put a policy in place so that no asbestos abatement projects will take place while children are occupying the building.
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Dr. McDermott stated that the District complied with the interpretation of the commissioner's regulations. The abatement site was protected and sealed, and the air quality was monitored before, during and after the project and deemed to be safe at all times. Dr. McDermott also reiterated that she does not want these types of projects taking place while students are in the building.

There was a brief discussion by the Board with several members stating they would like to see a policy in place with regards to asbestos abatement and that a master schedule of these projects be posted to inform the public.

President Munson stated that the Board will temporarily come out of public session into new business.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Dragone, directing the Superintendent to consult with the District's attorneys to prepare a draft policy regarding asbestos abatement in the District's buildings reflecting that no such projects be undertaken during the presence of students or staff in any of the District's buildings, and that when a schedule of upcoming abatement work is available that it be posted on the District's website.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion was unanimously carried.

Adam Donofrio Inquired about the procedures the District uses for purchasing items.
Parent

Mr. Blake, responded that the purchasing policy is implemented by the purchasing agent who checks the prices of either state, county or BOCES contracts, or whether it is prudent to go out to bid.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental A (#23-26) and Supplemental B (#16-20) :

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated September 8, 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

8.2 Receiving for a second reading and adopting revisions to the following policy:

- 8.2.1 Policy #9511, "*Continuing Education and Recreation Teachers and Temporary, Substitute and Student Non-Instructional Employees*"

8.3 Approving the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the appointment of Charles G. Bellino as Teacher of Technology Education for the period of September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, pursuant to Section 211 of the Retirement and Social Security Law and subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education."

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

9.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

CAPITAL PROJECTS - EXCEL

- *9.1.1 Award - District Wide Security System

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

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion to approval all items under 8. and 9., including all supplementals was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Schedule I - Home Instruction

10.2 Schedule H - Use of Facilities

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 Discussion of the athletic fields renovation bond.

The Superintendent introduced Mr. Drew Cronin, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, who presented three options to reduce the cost of the athletic field bond referendum. Option #1 removed all renovations to the Brosnan Building and the lights at the high school for a reduction of \$1,181,250 and a new cost of \$7,793,750. Option #2 included Option #1 plus removed the high school north practice field synthetic turf and changed to re-grade, re-sod and install irrigation system; remove the hockey field, baseball field and softball field at Northport Middle School; and remove the field hockey field, baseball field, soccer field and softball field at East Northport Middle School, for a reduction of \$2,813,750 and a new cost of \$6,161,250. Option #3 included both Option #1 and #2 plus the removal of the Sweeney Field Synthetic Turf and change to re-grade, re-sod and install irrigation, for a reduction of \$887,500 and a new cost of \$5,273,750.

There was a long discussion among the Board members and community members regarding the options to reduce the cost of the athletic field bond referendum. Several members of the District's coaching staff asked that as little as possible be removed from the original bond proposition. Many of the community members stated that there needs to be more information given to the public and that many of the residents were not informed regarding the first vote. President Munson asked for the sense of the Board on whether they would want to put the original bond referendum up for vote again and no Board members wanted to do that.

Discussion then turned to whether to put the proposition up with the budget vote in May or to have a separate bond referendum vote. Mr. Ingraham, Mrs. Dragone, Mr. Meyerowitz and Mrs. Wills felt it should be in with the budget vote in May when there is maximum voter turnout. Mr. Arthur, Mr. Gannon, Mrs. Munson, Dr. Sato and Mr. Waldenburg agreed that they would like to see the bond re-vote as soon as possible in the fall.

President Munson stated that the bond re-vote will be held in the fall, and the Board will convene into committee of the whole at the September 22nd meeting to decide on the athletic field renovation bond that will be presented to the voters.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Trustee Arthur, seconded by Trustee Waldenburg, to approve the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the appointment of the Superintendent of Schools is herewith extended by one (1) year to June 30, 2013, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is herewith authorized to execute, on behalf of the Board of Education, a Second Amendment to the employment agreement between the Superintendent of Schools and the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District”

Vote on Trustee Arthur's motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Arthur, Mrs. Dragone, Mr. Gannon, Mrs. Munson, Dr. Sato, Mr. Waldenburg, Mrs. Wills
NO: Mr. Ingraham, Mr. Meyerowitz

Motion passed.

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 10:25 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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