

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, October 20, 2008, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Career Counseling Center 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., Ms. Karen Wills

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools

1. Mrs. Munson called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to convene in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Unanimously carried.

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

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 50 persons present.

2. Mrs. Munson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. Special Reports/Announcements from the Superintendent

- 4.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

- 4.1.1 Mr. Daniel Drance, Chairperson of Mathematics K-12, introduced Peter Kahng, Mathematics Department Student of the Month. Peter is a top notch student who has distinguished himself not only in the classroom but in highly rigorous, challenging, and competitive mathematics contests and competitions. Peter has presented research projects at the annual Long Island Math Fair earning one Silver and three Bronze Medals. Peter was a member of the Silver Medal winning Upper Division team at last year's annual Suffolk County Mathematics Tournament, and was the individual 3rd place winner in the Suffolk County Math Contest Calculus contest. Peter hopes to pursue the study of Biology or Bio-Chemistry at Dartmouth, Cornell or Johns Hopkins.

- 4.1.2 Governor David Paterson has declared the week of October 20 - October 24, 2008 as School Board Recognition Week. The Governor designated this special week to commend school board members for their dedicated service to the children of New York State. Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, and Ms. Patricia Gardiner, PTA Council President, presented the nine members of the Board with commendations from the Northport-East Northport School District and PTA Council, and Western Suffolk BOCES.

4.1.3 The President of the Board honored Dick Manning for his thirty-one years of dedicated service to the children of the Northport-East Northport School District as Board Trustee and President. Mrs. Munson presented a plaque to Mr. Manning as the District's first Honorary Lifetime Board Member.

5. Overview by Mr. Drew Cronin and Mr. Larry Blake of the revised bond proposition vote to be held on November 18, 2008 to renovate the athletic fields and outdoor facilities

Mr. Drew Cronin, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, reviewed the \$8,190,000 in proposed renovations for each of the schools :

Northport High School

. Environmentally safe synthetic turf for the football/lacrosse stadium field	\$ 972,000
. Environmentally safe synthetic turf for the Sweeney Field (soccer/girls lacrosse)	\$ 892,000
. Remove and replace stadium field home bleachers	\$ 754,000
. Remove and replace press box	\$ 40,000
. New concession building including ADA accessible lavatory facilities	\$ 60,000
. New "dark skies" football field lighting	\$ 320,000
. Re-grade, re-sod and install irrigation system for the football/lacrosse practice field (S)	\$ 182,000
. Environmentally safe synthetic turf for the football/lacrosse practice field (N)	\$ 892,000
. Re-grade, re-sod and install new irrigation for field hockey field	\$ 192,000
. Remove and replace clay infields, re-grade, add new sod, sports drainage system and irrigation for the baseball field	\$ 75,000
. Install two concrete dugouts with roof and fencing for the softball field (E)	\$ 50,000
. Pole Vault box and asphalt base runway	\$ 15,000
	Total construction estimated cost \$ 4,444,000
	(Architect fees, legal fees & contingency @ 25%) \$ 1,111,000
	TOTAL \$ 5,555,000

Northport Middle School

. Remove and replace four tennis courts with new drainage and fencing	\$ 237,000
. Re-grade, re-sod football/soccer/lacrosse field and install irrigation system and new multi-sport goal posts	\$ 190,500
. Remove and replace running track with new 400 m asphalt track with proper drainage, 4' high fencing, and install new long jump and high jump area	\$ 389,500
. Re-grade, re-align and renovate field hockey field turf, and install new drainage system	\$ 97,000
. Install sports drainage system in infield, remove and replace clay infield, install new irrigation system install new batting cage for baseball field	\$ 95,000
. Sports drain system in infield and install 12' high chain-link fence for softball field	\$ 30,000
	Total construction estimated cost \$ 1,039,000
	(Architect fees, legal fees & contingency @ 25%) \$ 259,750
	TOTAL \$ 1,298,750

East Northport Middle School

. Re-grade, re-sod and install irrigation system for football/soccer/lacrosse field with new multi-sport goals	\$ 190,500
. Remove and replace running track with new 400 m asphalt track with proper drainage, 4' high fencing, and install new long jump and high jump area	\$ 389,500
. Re-grade, re-align and renovate field hockey field turf, and install new drainage system	\$ 97,000
. Install sports drainage system in infield, remove and replace clay infield, install new irrigation system install new batting cage for baseball field	\$ 95,000

. Re-sod and irrigate soccer field	\$ 167,000
. Sports drain system in infield of softball field	\$ 15,000
Total construction estimated cost	\$ 954,000
(Architect fees, legal fees & contingency @ 25%)	\$ 238,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,192,500

William J. Brosnan School

. Remove and replace two tennis courts, new drainage and fencing	\$ 115,000
Total construction estimated cost	\$ 115,000
(Architect fees, legal fees & contingency @ 25%)	\$ 28,750
TOTAL	\$ 143,750

TOTAL BOND REFERENDUM \$ 8,190,000

Mr. Larry Blake, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business, discussed the time line for the bond referendum, subject to voter approval. Mr. Blake stated that the estimated cost to the average taxpayer would be \$55.10 per year. Mr. Blake also stated that the current capital improvement bond will be satisfied in 2010 and the field referendum bond would commence in 2011, subject to voter approval.

6. Board and community discussion regarding the proposed improvements and renovations to the District's outdoor athletic facilities

Karen Wills Board Member Asked if the architect, legal and contingency fees are subject to change and how long the architectural plans are valid.

Mr. Blake stated that architect, legal and contingency fees should be constant at 25% . Mr. Blake also stated that the architectural plans are property of the district and the district will use those plans to send to the state.

Nancy Swain Gustave Community Member Asked if it was fiscally sound to float the bond issue now with the current economic times. Ms. Gustave also stated that she feels there has been concealment and that people who do not have a direct involvement with the district may be out of the loop. Ms. Gustave stated that many residents do not get The Observer or The Record and don't know a bond vote is going to happen and that is should have been listed in the current issue of Our Schools.

President Munson stated that the District is preparing an Our Schools solely dedicated to the bond proposition vote and the marquee at the high school had information on the public hearing being held tonight. Mrs. Munson also stated that the costs would not begin until 2011 if the bond is approved now. President Munson stated that the District has more and more children and community members using the fields.

Bent Thomsen Community Member Stated that he does not agree with the District paying for a re-vote and also feels that the District does not need the turf fields.

Vice President Waldenburg stated that the fields are in desperate need of renovation and the Board felt that a vote should be held sooner rather than later. Mr. Waldenburg also stated that the fields are part of the community infrastructure and the community will decide whether the fields should be upgraded.

Timothy Madden Parent Asked what the District has done with the grant money from Senator Flanagan and if there are any forecasts in state aid for the upcoming school year. Mr. Madden also stated he believes the vote should be held in May

and is concerned that if the bond proposition passed that there would be a backlash on the next budget vote.

Mr. Cronin stated a portion of the grant money from Senator Flanagan was used to purchase new wrestling mats for the high school wrestling room and due to the poor condition of the scoreboards in the gym new ones will be purchased. Mr. Cronin also stated that some of the grant money was used for field maintenance.

Mr. Blake stated that he has not heard anything regarding the legislature cutting any state aid this year and the District should receive the state aid anticipated for this year. Mr. Blake also stated that we will not know about next year's aid for another three months or so.

President Munson stated that the District is holding a Legislative Breakfast this Saturday morning, October 25th, in the high school library, with Senator Flanagan, Senator Marcellino and Assemblyman Raia. Mrs. Munson invited every member of the community to come and express their concerns about state aid.

President Munson stated that it would be wonderful if every community member came out to vote. The bond vote in June failed by 39 votes so you can't say that the overwhelming majority did not want the referendum to pass. Mrs. Munson stated that the fields are in desperate need and the bond proposition is not a frivolous activity.

Vice President Waldenburg stated that the vote needs to be done now rather than later and if the District waited until May it may delay the state approvals by another six months.

Armand D'Accordo
United Taxpayers of
Northport-East Northport

Noted that the actual debt service would not start until the 2010-2011 budget and asked when the actual funds would be borrowed and interest would accrue, and if the District had to spend the whole \$8,190,000 and if could only be used for the field renovations. Mr. D'Accordo asked if there was a draw down schedule and if someone donated the costs of the field could that money be used to pay down the original debt. Mr. D'Accordo also asked about the report on the safety of turf fields, the cost of maintenance and refurbishment of the turf fields.

Mr. Blake stated that the funds would be borrowed and interest would accrue approximately 10 months before the debt service began. Mr. Blake also stated that the District has to follow the letter of the law when it comes to the proposition and that whatever is borrowed must be spent on the items specified in the proposition. The District cannot spend more than the authorized borrowing and any leftover funds can be used to pay down the debt.

Mr. Cronin stated that the grooming machine required for the turf fields is donated to the District and that a one year maintenance contract is given. Mr. Cronin also stated that the cost of refurbishing a field, usually required after approximately ten years, would be one-third of the original cost of the field.

President Munson stated that the Board will only approve environmentally safe fields and will wait until the New York State DEC report is completed.

Dan Campbell
Parent and Coach

Stated that the large cost in waiting to put the athletic fields bond proposition up for vote is the unnecessary injuries to our children. Mr. Campbell stated that he gets to view the conditions of the fields every day and it is a dangerous situation.

Brian Loeber
Parent

Stated that he was sympathetic to the first speakers but he has a different perspective on the bond vote and that in ten years the turf fields will begin paying for themselves. Mr. Loeber stated that when times are tough you need to make good, fiscally responsible decisions.

The President of the Board thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and voicing their concerns.

There being no further discussion, at 9:30 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Waldenburg, to adjourn the public hearing and to convene into regular meeting.

Unanimously carried.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn