

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, November 3, 2008, beginning at 6:30 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 Meyerowitz, to convene in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:30 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to reconvene in public session in the library 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

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

- 4.1 Minutes
  - 4.1.1 Public Hearing, October 20, 2008
  - 4.1.2 Regular Meeting, October 20, 2008
- 4.2 Treasurer's Report and Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements
  - 4.2.1 Treasurer's Report for the period July 1 - July 31, 2008
  - 4.2.2 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for July 2008

Unanimously carried.

- 4.2.3 For Information: Claims Auditor's Report for Warrants and Schedule of Claims for periods ending July 1, July 15, and July 31, 2008.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, announced that the District has joined in a purchasing cooperative with the Town of Huntington and asked Mr. Larry Blake to explain briefly.

Mr. Blake stated that the Board approved the District joining the purchasing cooperative with the Town of Huntington at the Board meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The District will work with the Town of Huntington purchasing department to generate savings in various areas such as supplies, equipment, and services.

Dr. McDermott stated that in an effort to reduce paper and as a cost savings measure, the high school course catalog will be printed for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders only and the 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> graders, who received their catalogs in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, will be able to view the course catalog online.

5.1 Ms. Patricia Schmitt, Chairperson of English Language Arts K-12, introduced the English Language Arts Student of the Month, Samantha Hoffmann. Ms. Schmitt stated that Samantha has demonstrated her commitment to scholarship and academic growth by continuing to challenge herself by enrolling in rigorous courses and by performing in the top five percent of her class. Samantha's gift as a writer and her extraordinary insight when analyzing literature inspires her teachers and peers. Ms. Schmitt stated that Samantha boasts many talents and academic interests and balances her attention to academics with her love of music. Samantha desires to pursue her passion for English and Music through a double major in college. Ms. Schmitt stated that Samantha's teachers recognize her command of and gift for the English Language.

President Munson and Dr. McDermott presented Samantha with a commendation from the Board and congratulated her on her accomplishments.

5.2 Mr. Peter Falotico, Director of Art, Media and Computer Science, introduced Katie Atkinson, Long Island Arts Alliance Scholar Artist. Mr. Falotico stated that the Long Island Arts Alliance and Roslyn Savings Bank started the Scholar Artist Program last year and received 65 applications. Twenty students were selected based on talent, dedication to their craft, and academic accomplishments. Katie will be featured in a Newsday article later this month, and TBS will be interviewing her for an upcoming special.

Trustee Arthur and Dr. McDermott congratulated Katie for her Scholar Artist award and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

5.3 Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Sato, to receive the Annual Report on Secondary Class Size.

There was a brief discussion by the Board regarding the guidelines for various departments, the established minimums and maximums for class sizes, level loading, singletons, and co-seating.

5.4 For Information: Report on Course Catalog changes being considered at Middle Schools and High School. The final recommendations will be on the agenda for the December 1, 2008 meeting.

5.5 Review of instructional initiatives in the following areas:

5.5.1 Ms. Patricia Schmitt stated that English Language Arts Department's use of authentic assessment and shared inquiry are being implemented in the classrooms. Authentic Assessment incorporates the use of portfolios, inquiry based products and assessment based instruction. Shared Inquiry involves text-based discussions, students learning to listen and respond to peers, students discovering the meaning in text, and enhancement of critical thinking and reading. Ms. Schmitt reiterated the importance of

classroom instruction with the use of summative and formative assessment. Ms. Schmitt discussed the 3-8 Grade assessments, standards and analysis of data, and the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade English Regents.

There was a brief discussion by the Board and President Munson thanked Ms. Schmitt for her very informative report.

5.5.2 Ms. Sally Herzog presented her report on Library Initiatives. Ms. Herzog stated that the Library Media Center is a central, organized, accessible doorway to knowledge. The facility is a welcoming environment that provides access to resources and state of the art technology. Ms. Herzog stated that the Destiny Library Manager combines circulation, cataloguing, searching, reporting and management in one centrally installed library software system. Students and faculty can access the system through any workstation with a supported web browser, through the district's network and the Internet. Ms. Herzog demonstrated how the Destiny system is used by the library media specialists and how it provides students the opportunity to find appropriate materials to meet their needs for information and leisure learning experiences.

The President of the Board and Dr. McDermott thanked Ms. Herzog for her fine presentation.

5.6 The President of the Board announced the upcoming Board of Education meetings: November 17<sup>th</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, and December 15<sup>th</sup>.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no letters of communication.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Steve Waldenburg Board Member	Reminded everyone that the applications for absentee ballots for the Bond Vote must be received in the district clerk's office by Monday, November 11th.
Arlene Munson Board President	Thanked all the community members that were able to attend the Legislative Breakfast on October 25 <sup>th</sup> with Senator Flanagan, Senator Marcellino and Assemblyman Raia. Mrs. Munson stated that the Board is very concerned about what is happening in Albany and the District is planning ahead for any potential cuts.

Dr. McDermott stated that she met with other Huntington area superintendents and asked them to work together to determine the costs of unfunded mandates to give to our state senators to bring to Albany to fight for fair share of state aid.

Jean Baron Parent	Asked the following questions: What the status is of the study regarding full day kindergarten, why some groups of parents had to send their children to the Elwood school district for summer camp, and safety concern in regards to children walking on Rinaldo Road to Northport Middle School.
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Dr. Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources stated that the District is expecting to receive the space utilization study from BOCES by the end of this month.

In response to Ms. Baron's inquiry regarding the summer camp program, Dr. McDermott state she would check into it with Ms. Jo Imwalle.

Vice President Waldenburg responded to Ms. Baron's question regarding the safety concerns of walkers on Rinaldo Road. Mr. Waldenburg stated that a study was done by the Town of Huntington and that it was determined that there were no safety issues. Mr. Waldenburg suggested that the parents should contact the Town of Huntington and pressure them to upgrade the sidewalks.

Bent Thomsen  
Community Member

Presented his proposal for renovating the District's athletic fields. Mr. Thomsen suggested that each of the approximately 29,000 voters pay and extra \$100 for three years which would add up to \$8,700,000 to pay for the costs of the field renovations.

There was a brief discussion by the Board and Vice President Waldenburg stated that only the homeowners are taxed, not the registered voters. Mr. Waldenburg also stated that each year the budget is subject to different pressures and by putting the renovations to the fields up for a bond vote, there would be a guarantee that the fields would get done if it passes.

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 Schedule B (#6), and Supplemental 9.1.7:

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated November 3, 2008, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff
- 8.1.2 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff (Supplemental #6)
- 8.1.3 Schedule C - Salary Transfers
- 8.1.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.1.5 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

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

9.1 Authorizing the administration to apply for the following Suffolk's Edge Teacher Center Grants:

9.1.1 \$1,500 to be used to fund supplies for year-long environmental projects within the school community.

9.1.2 \$1,500 to be used to provide portable Playaways for use during reader's workshop and walk, talk and read during recess at Dickinson Avenue Elementary School.

9.1.3 \$1,500 to be used to continue the 5<sup>th</sup> grade mock trial program based upon the book Shiloh at Fifth Avenue Elementary School.

9.1.4 \$1,500 to be used to continue the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Detectives program based upon a model program that supports literacy skills at Pulaski Road Elementary School.

9.1.5 \$1,500 to be used to continue the involvement of our High School Forensics Program.

9.1.6 \$1,500 to be used to conduct a joint program between Project PATCH and Tiger TV to develop students' News Literacy Skills and civic competencies related to the First Amendment at East Northport Middle School.

9.1.7 \$1,200 to be used to provide the resources necessary for teachers and students to create "Studycasts".

9.2 Approving an agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Maryhaven Center of Hope for education of handicapped children in accordance with the education law.

9.3 Receiving the following donation to the District:

9.3.1 An Eastern Redbud tree with surrounding ground cover from Ms. Anne Whooley, to Dickinson Avenue School, in memorial to the families of students at the school who have passed away, value estimated by the donor to be approximately \$780.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion to approve all items under 8. and 9. was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Schedule H - Use of Facilities

10.2 Schedule I - Home Instruction

10.3 Investment Report for July, 2008

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

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 9:50 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

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