

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, February 9, 2009, 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, 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: Mrs. Liz Dragone

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools

1. President Munson called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Arthur, seconded by Trustee Wills, to convene in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:45 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Sato, to reconvene in public session in the library at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried by those present.

Public attendance: There were approximately 70 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 Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Wills, to approve all items under 4.1:

- 4.1 Minutes
  - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, January 26, 2009

Trustee Ingraham asked that the minutes be amended to include the statement that there was a consensus that the Board would strive to make driver's education available to all students and look into finding ways to expand the roster of certified driver education teachers.

Vote on Trustee Waldenburg's motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2009 with an amendment by Trustee Ingraham was unanimously carried by those present.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
  - 5.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.1.1 Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, Chairperson of World Languages K-12, introduced the World Languages Department Student of the Month, Tyler Logigian. Ms. Nesfield stated that Tyler is a top notch student who has distinguished himself not only in the classroom but in our community. Ms. Nesfield noted that Tyler achieved a perfect score on his Spanish New York State Regents Examination and continues to earn the highest grades in his IB courses. Tyler is an IB Diploma candidate and a National Merit Commended Scholar. Ms. Nesfield stated that Tyler is very involved in Students for 60,000 and also volunteers his time to teach English in Farmingdale. Tyler is a source of pride for the Department of World Languages, Northport High School, and our community.

The President of the Board and the Superintendent congratulated Tyler on his accomplishments and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

5.1.2 Mr. Don Strasser, A Midwinter Night's Dream Committee Advisor, introduced the 2009 student committee who raised \$345,000 at this year's event. This sum along with the past four years surpassed their goal of raising \$1 million for ALS research: Nicole Albino, Vicki Arthur, Katie Atkinson, Briana Azzarelli, Alanna Baldassare, Gina Borden, Kate Burrows, Katherine Cryer-Hassett, Chelsea Culbert, Michelle Dondero, Rebecca Duchi, Taylor Fleming, Shaylyn Forte, Christie Garrecht, Taylor Gubitosi, Sam Hager, Kaitlyn Hansen, Blair Ingraham, Erica Jennings, Sam Karpp, Jennifer Koniuk, Jennifer Kornblatt, Kate Macina, Emily Marchesano, Kim McGeever, Kim Moran, Kristi Newton, Theresa Nobs, Sara Norouzieh, Brittany Pagnotta, Laura Raheb, Rebecca Rose, Jason Roskowski, Tim Rozmus, Alec Rubenstein, Hallie Sacca, Jill Shotwell, Kelley Stanford, Jenna Theofield.

Mr. Strasser thanked the Board, administration, PTA, local business, and community members for the tremendous amount of support they have received over the past five years.

Mrs. Munson congratulated the students on their outstanding achievement and thanked Mr. Strasser for teaching such a valuable lesson on how to give and give back.

## 5.2 Review of Instructional Initiatives

### 5.2.1 World Languages

Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, Chairperson of World Languages K-12, presented the department's initiatives including data analysis to improve classroom instruction, improving articulation between the middle schools and high school, emphasizing development strategies to assist special education students in LOTE classes, and the meaningful use of technology in the World Language classrooms. Ms. Nesfield discussed the New York State Proficiency and Regents examinations data and the AP and IB results. Ms. Nesfield noted that The College Board announced the last administration of the Italian AP exam in June 2009. At the elementary level, the LINGUAS Program continues to run at Norwood Avenue, Ocean Avenue, Fifth Avenue and Dickinson Avenue Elementary schools. Ms. Nesfield discussed the enrollment trends in the ELL program and noted the increased use of technology in the ELL classrooms.

A discussion regarding the use of technology, the LINGUAS program, and the college language requirement with regards to the special education population ensued. The Board requested information on the level of interest among students in the American Sign Language course.

The President of the Board thanked Ms. Nesfield for her informative report.

### 5.2.2 Art, Computer Education and Technology

Mr. Peter Falotico, Director of Art and Computer Education, presented his report stating that the Art Department continues to add literacy components through the expanded purchase of books. The exhibition

component in the high school continues to be expanded and the art students continue to enter competitions.

Mr. Falotico stated that the Technology Department's initiatives include revitalizing the labs at the middle schools. At the high school level, the new I.B. Design Tech course will satisfy the fifth course requirement in Project Lead The Way. Mr. Falotico noted that the students from the Tech Honor Society are working with Englemann Energy to create a solar powered guard house. Mr. Falotico thanked the Board for their continued support.

Mr. Falotico stated that with regard to district-wide technology, there is a curriculum server for K-12 usage. A fiber optic campus plan will be added for 2009-2010. Mr. Falotico noted that the use of clickers in the classrooms enable teachers to poll students and their responses. This serves as a quick assessment tool.

After a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Falotico and stated that his impact on the children of the District cannot be measured. Dr. McDermott thanked Mr. Falotico for his dedication to the District for twenty-seven years. Mr. Falotico received a standing ovation.

5.3 The President of the Board announced the upcoming Board of Education meetings of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Munson noted that there will be a discussion of the Special Education Inclusion Program at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Email from Mr. Armand D'Accordo to members of the Board, received February 2, 2009, re: Audit Committee

Mr. D'Accordo presented his letter and stated that he is offering his services to the Board as a member of the Audit Committee and hoped the Board would accept his application in time for the February 11<sup>th</sup> Audit Committee Meeting.

Trustee Arthur, Audit Committee Chairman, stated that according to the Audit Committee Policy, the Board must first accept Mr. Burton's resignation and then an announcement will be made in the official newspaper and press releases sent out to local newspapers on filling the vacant term. An application deadline will be set and the Board will review the applications.

## 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Steve Meyerowitz Board Member	Stated that the principal reason his family moved to Northport fifteen years ago was the stellar reputation of the Northport-East Northport School District. Mr. Meyerowitz stated that he is now in his 12 <sup>th</sup> consecutive year as a school board trustee and he will not be a candidate for reelection to the Board this May. Mr. Meyerowitz stated that he is humbled to have been a part of a school district with so many dedicated school board trustees, administrators, teachers, clerical workers, custodians, bus drivers and staff and with a vibrant, active and aware group of parents who believe in investing in our children. Mr. Meyerowitz stated he is extremely proud of the District's students who have taken advantage of all the district has to offer. Mr. Meyerowitz strongly encouraged community members interested in enriching children's lives to run for school board trustee.

The President of the Board stated she has had the privilege of serving with Trustee Meyerowitz and they have not always been on the same side of the issues but have always been on the same side of education.

Warren Arthur  
Board Member                      Commented that he had the privilege of attending the invention convention and was very impressed by the students and their projects.

Karen Wills  
Board Members                      Commented that she accompanied the members of Students for 60,000 to Farmingdale and observed them teaching English. Mrs. Wills stated that it was such a moving experience that she shared it with the Spanish teachers in Harborfields School District and they decided to organize a food drive and donate all proceeds to Students for 60,000.

Rob Ingraham  
Board Member                      Stated that the canteen at Northport Middle School should not have been cancelled. Mr. Ingraham commented that the canteens at the middle schools have become community centers and every effort should be made to schedule as many as possible in a supervised setting.

Kevin McGrath  
Resident                              Stated he wrote a letter to the Board after attending the January 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and wanted to comment on the presentation format of the meetings. Mr. McGrath asked that the presentations and awards be scheduled only once a month and that public participation be pushed up earlier. Mr. McGrath also asked that, due to the present economic conditions, that the administration consider taking a salary cut and talk to the unions about rescinding their salary increase.

The President of the Board stated that public participation is not mandatory but it is the Board's desire to hear from the community. Trustee Meyerowitz stated that the District has so many students doing remarkable things that the Board could not limit the recognition to once a month.

Armand D'Accordo  
UTN-EN Representative              Stated he spoke to the Office of the State Comptroller's auditor who confirmed that the draft audit was only for immediate members of the District but would include the members of the audit committee. Mr. D'Accordo stated that the audit committee members are sworn in and fully understand the responsibilities of confidentiality. Mr. D'Accordo commented how Elwood School District handled their State Comptroller's draft audit.

Dr. McDermott stated that she worked very closely with the auditor from the State Comptroller's office and during the exit interview it was not mentioned that the document was to be shared with the audit committee. The Superintendent noted that the Corrective Action Plan is being refined and will be brought to the audit committee for input.

Jean Baron  
UTN-EN Representative              Discussed the District's cost per pupil and lack of national recognition. Mrs. Baron also asked if the IB survey has been tabulated, the procedure for handwritten checks, the signature requirement on checks over \$50,000, certification of payroll, and the Board's support of Manhasset School District's amendment to Education Law 3635 regarding transportation

Ms. Irene McLaughlin, High School Principal, stated that the IB surveys have not been tabulated.

In response to Mrs. Baron's questions, it was noted that currently the Vice President of the Board and the District Treasurer sign checks over \$50,000. It was also noted that after switching software systems, the District no longer uses hand written checks.

Dr. McDermott commented that the hallmark of a great high school is that every student has found a place in that school and demonstrates person and academic growth.

Andrew Rapejko                      Inquired regarding the development of a Board of Education policy  
Resident                                      regarding asbestos removal.

After a brief discussion, Dr. McDermott stated she would contact the District's attorneys regarding an asbestos policy and report back at the next Board meeting on February 23rd.

Phil Fortuna                              Commented that Mr. Burton's resignation was emailed to the school district  
Resident                                      on January 14<sup>th</sup> and the Board should have know about it at the January 26<sup>th</sup>  
Board meeting. Mr. Fortuna also thanked Trustee Meyerowitz for his  
service.

Trustee Arthur (Audit Committee Chairperson) stated that he was not present at executive session on January 26<sup>th</sup> and the Board chose not to proceed until he was available. Mr. Arthur stated that the process for this evening is to accept Mr. Burton's resignation, direct the district clerk to advertise the vacancy, and set a deadline for accepting applications.

Dr. Nina Dorata                              Stated that according to the minutes of the July 2007 meeting, the Board  
Audit Committee Member                      agreed to have Mr. Burton on the audit committee and asked that the Board  
expedite Mr. D'Accordo's application.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to change the order of business on the agenda to accept the resignation of Audit Committee Member Tim Burton.

Unanimously carried by those present.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to accept the resignation of Tim Burton from the Audit Committee.

Unanimously carried by those present.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to direct the District Clerk to advertise the audit committee opening, according to policy, and establish the deadline for accepting applications be March 12, 2009.

Unanimously carried by those present.

Denise Mumm                                      Asked if the District has legislatively supported Manhasset's  
UTN-EN Representative                      transportation endeavor, and stated she supports Mr. McGrath's  
comments regarding board presentations. Mrs. Mumm also asked  
the Board to look at Sachem School District's website and how they  
present their budget.

The President of the Board stated that as members of the New York State School Boards Association the Board does vote in support of reducing unfunded mandates when they are brought forward.

Dr. McDermott stated that she met with other local superintendents and each are formulating budgets in ways that suit the needs of their own communities. The Superintendent also stated that the administration is working on a daily basis to prepare the most fiscally responsible budget that includes preservation of programs.

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 8.1.1 (Schedule A #17 - #28) and 8.1.3 (Schedule C #15):

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated February 9, 2009, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff (including supplemental A #17 - #28)
- 8.1.2 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff
- 8.1.3 Schedule C - Salary Transfers (including supplemental C #15)
- 8.1.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.1.5 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

8.2 Receiving for a first reading the following textbooks:

- 8.2.1 Algebra 2 and Trigonometry      Advanced Alg/Trig  
Ann Xavier Gantert                      Grade 11  
Amsco, 2009
- 8.2.2 Mathematics Course 1              Math  
Bennett, et.al                              Grade 6  
Holt, Rinehart and Winston 2008

8.3 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the following policies:

- 8.3.1 Policy #2220, "*Board Officers*" - (new numbering system - old numbers 9210 and 9220)
- 8.3.2 Policy #6410 "*Authorization to Sign Checks*" - (new numbering system - old number 3360)

Vice President Waldenburg noted that the Deputy District Treasurer is also an authorized signatory according to the District's annual re-organization, and that Policy #6410 "*Authorization to Sign Checks*" should include the Deputy District Treasurer.

Trustee Meyerowitz accepted Vice President Waldenburg's amendment and Policy #6410 "*Authorization to Sign Checks*" will be amended and submitted for a second reading at the February 23, 2009 Board meeting.

8.4 Adopting the proposed School Calendar for 2009-2010.

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

9.1 Approving the 2008-2009 estimated non-resident tuition charges and the 2007-2008 actual non-resident tuition charges, identifying the amounts that will be charged to other school districts for any of their students who are enrolled in our district.

9.2 Establishing the 2008-2009 health service charge for out-of-district students attending district non-public schools at \$670.73 per pupil and that the Superintendent be authorized to execute contracts with the school districts indicated in the attached memorandum in the amounts specified.

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

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Student Activity Account Reports for December 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 for December, 2008

10.5 For Information: Claim's Auditors Reports for Warrants and Schedule of Claims for periods ending December 12, December 15, December 23, and December 30, 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 by those present.

At 10:45 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

bmh