

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 23, 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, Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Steven A. Meyerowitz, Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: Mr. Joe Gannon

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools

1. President Munson called the meeting to order.

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

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:40 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Wills, to reconvene in public session in the library at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried by those present.

Public attendance: There were approximately 60 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 Dragone, to approve all items under 4.1:

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, February 9, 2009

Unanimously carried by those present.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- 5.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.1.1 Ms. Bill Esner, Interim Chairperson of Science K-12, introduced the Science Department Student of the Month, Glen Meyerowitz. Mr. Esner stated that Glen is an Intel Science Search Semifinalist and National Merit Scholar Finalist. Glen has also won \$1,000 from the Young Epidemiology Scholar's Competition and was recently announced a winner of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Mr. Esner commented that Glen has been described by some of his teachers as being an insightful, inquisitive and fastidious worker achieving exemplary academic accomplishment. Glen earned perfect scores of 5 on

the AP Chemistry exam, 7 on the IB Chemistry exam, and 800 on the SAT Chemistry exam. Mr. Esner noted that Glen is a leader of Northport High School's Students for 60,000 and is chairperson of the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative which provides men in the local community with shelter. Glen has also been a member of the Varsity Tennis Team, Mathletes, National Honor Society and the Language Honor Society. Glen is president of the Model UN, Law Club, Multicultural Club, and French Club. Mr. Esner stated that Glen plans to continue a liberal arts education and has already been accepted to the University of Chicago and Caltech, and is waiting to hear from Stanford, Columbia, and Harvard.

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

5.2 Review of Instructional Initiatives

5.2.1 Health Education

Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupils Services, introduced Ms. Tracey Braun, the lead health education for the District who presented the Health Education Instructional Initiatives.

Ms. Braun stated that literacy is infused into health education at the elementary, middle and high school levels and all students met the health education requirements. Ms. Braun noted that the core health curriculum is based on self-confidence, compassion, and consideration for one's self and others, therefore it was easy to incorporate "Rachel's Challenge" into the curriculum. Ms. Braun stated that the Drug and Alcohol Task Force survey is being used to address issues in class and "Heartlinks" is being incorporated into nutrition lessons. Ms. Braun discussed the successful implementation of programs at the elementary, middle school and high school levels including health awareness weeks, use of health related websites, and the promotion of positive choices. Ms. Braun stated that last year's high school health fair was very successful and the intent is to hold one every three years.

There was a brief discussion regarding the use of health related data bases, elementary health awareness weeks, the drug and alcohol task force survey and teens as teachers.

Dr. McDermott thanked Ms. Braun for her excellent presentation and commended the health department for not only teaching students about important health issues but also teaching them research skills, skills of independence, and critical thinking.

5.2.2 Science

Mr. Bill Esner, Interim Chairperson of Science K-12, stated that the achievement at the elementary level continues to be strong with 97% of students scoring at levels 3 and 4. Mr. Esner noted that work continues on the District's middle school curriculum mapping initiative and strong achievement in intermediate level science continues with 94% of students scoring at levels 3 and 4 districtwide. Mr. Esner commented that 100% of students passed the Earth Science Regents at the middle school level with over 90% scoring mastery level. At the high school, there was strong overall performance in Regents, Advanced Placement, and IB courses. The ongoing goal is to utilize Data-Link Item Analysis database in an effort to improve instructional weaknesses in all subject areas.

Mr. Esner stated that the Science Department continues to offer eleven college credit-bearing science courses and offers a full complement of elective courses. Mr. Esner also noted the Science Research program produced numerous entrants into various science competitions.

After a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Esner for his very thorough report.

5.3 The President of the Board announced the upcoming Board of Education meetings of March 9th, March 16th, March 30th, and April 15th. The Superintendent will present the proposed budget on March 9th and the detailed budget discussion will be held on March 16th and March 30th. A preliminary public hearing will be held on April 15th to receive additional input from the public on the budget.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Letter from Mrs. Joan Johnson, Clerk of the Western Suffolk BOCES, received February 6, 2009, re: nominations for component boards of education which must be submitted by March 27, 2009.

6.2 Letter from SEPTA Needs Assessment Committee, received January 13, 2009, re: Inclusion program expansion to include 11th and 12th grades.

Dr. Beth Gonzalez-Dolginko addressed the Board and stated that members of SEPTA have identified a need to expand the current inclusion program to include 11th and 12th grades. Dr. Gonzalez-Dolginko explained that when inclusion became policy in New York State approximately fifteen years ago the District determined that inclusion from kindergarten through 10th grade was adequate. Effective beginning with the class of 2005, New York State legislated that students pass five mandatory regents examinations to earn a NYS Regents diploma. Two of the mandated Regents exams are administered in the 11th grade. Dr. Gonzalez-Dolginko also noted that college entrance examinations are administered in the 11th and 12th grades. Dr. Gonzalez-Dolginko stated that SEPTA feels it is important to continue the support the special education students have received since kindergarten to optimize success in those examinations and beyond high school and recommends expanding inclusion through 12th grade.

The President of the Board thanked Dr. Gonzalez-Dolginko for the information she provided. There was discussion among the Board members regarding the District's current inclusion program and the type of services offered students. There was consensus among the Board that the inclusion program needed to be re-evaluated to determine the best practices for students in the 11th and 12th grades.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to direct the administration to amend the current special education program to provide a pilot program for inclusion classes in Social Studies and English beginning in September 2009 for 11th and 12th grade. A study group will also be formed consisting of Board members, administration, SEPTA members, community members and other interested parties to explore the potential to permanently amend this program to incorporate the best practices for the special needs children.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion was unanimously carried.

Dr. Gonzalez-Dolginko urged the board to tell New York State official that the elimination of a local diploma would be a tragedy.

Trustee Dragone stated she will be in Albany for a State Legislative Network Conference meeting with local legislators and educational leaders throughout the state and will advocate for more value added assessments and less testing to lessen mandates imposed on school districts.

6.3 Letter from Mr. Kevin McGrath to members of the Board, received January 28, 2009, re: Board meetings and budget.

Mr. McGrath addressed the Board and asked if the Superintendent considered taking a salary cut, in light of the economy, as an initiative for other members of the administration to do the same, and to set an example

in talking with the unions about freezing salaries. Mr. McGrath stated he is concerned that if the District does not come in with a zero increase budget, the budget would go down twice in voting and then students will be affected by cuts due to an austerity budget.

Dr. McDermott stated she is considering all aspects of the budget, including her salary and all levels of spending throughout the District. Dr. McDermott stated as the budget is being created the administration is very cognizant of the fact that the District is losing approximately \$900,000 in State Aid. Dr. McDermott commented that she respected the board's directive to come in with a budget under 3% and will present that budget in March. At the budget meetings the District will receive community feedback and if further cuts are needed that is what the administration will do.

In response to Mr. McGrath's question regarding the stimulus package, Mr. Larry Blake, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that he has not been given any definitive number. Mr. Blake noted that the stimulus package includes certain restrictions and certain funds will be distributed at the discretion of the Governor's office.

Trustee Dragone announced that an Education and Taxpayer Rally will be held on Saturday, February 28th in Farmindale and encouraged everyone to attend to voice their concerns.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Andrew Rapeijko Resident	Stated that in September 2008 the Board passed a resolution asking the attorneys to look into formulating an asbestos policy and inquired about the status.

Dr. McDermott stated that she spoke counsel and should hear from them within the next day.

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 8.1.7 (Schedule B):

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated February 23, 2009, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff
- 8.1.2 Schedule C - Salary Transfers
- 8.1.3 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.1.4 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education
- 8.1.5 Schedule K - PDC NASA
- 8.1.6 Schedule L - PDC UTN
- 8.1.7 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff

8.2 Receiving for a second reading and adopting 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 #6410 "*Authorization to Sign Checks*" - (new numbering system - old number 3360)

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

9.1 Authorizing the Board President to sign a contract with the following district to provide Health Services for Northport-East Northport students attending school in that district during the 2008-2009 school year:

9.1.1 Huntington Union Free School District, two students attending St. Patrick School @ \$629.28, totaling \$1,258.56.

9.2 Approving the attached Tuition Agreement for the 2008-2009 school year between Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Bethpage Union Free School District.

9.3 Receiving the following donations to the District:

9.3.1 \$850 from Chase Bank for the purchase of supplies and/or equipment for Ocean Avenue Elementary School and authorizing an increase in the 2008-2009 budget of \$850 for this purpose.

9.3.2 Two \$500 scholarships from Mr. David Quigley, in memory of Laurene G. Quigley, to be established as follows: Laurene G. Quigley Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500, and Laurene G. Quigley ESL Scholarship in the amount of \$500, each to be awarded to a student from the Class of 2009.

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

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.1.7 (Schedule B), was unanimously carried by those present.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve item 12.1.

12.1 Approving expenses for a State Legislative Network board member to attend the New York State School Boards Association 2009 State Issues Conference, March 1-3, 2009, Albany, NY at approximately \$800.

Unanimously carried by those present.

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 9:30 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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