

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, July 6, 2009, beginning at 8:35 p.m., in the Library at Northport High School, 154 Laurel Hill Road, Northport, New York, with Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., newly elected President, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Tim Madden, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, 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 Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Public attendance: There were approximately 25 persons present.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. The announcement of emergency exits were conducted earlier in the evening.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S AND CASH FLOW REPORTS

Motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 4.:

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, June 15, 2009
 - 4.1.2 Special Meeting, June 29, 2009

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, announced the upcoming Board of Education Meetings scheduled for August 31st, September 14th and October 5th.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Email from Mr. Frank Rasizzi, received June 29, 2009, re: Ocean Avenue Kindergarten Class

Mr. Rasizzi addressed the Board stating that he is strongly opposed to large class size for kindergarten and would like to see the class numbers lowered. Mr. Rasizzi stated that he is concerned with the amount of kindergarten students that are enrolled in the summer reading program and would like to know how many children entering first grade have been recommended to attend the program. Mr. Rasizzi also inquired about the additional 30 minutes for kindergarten and if a certified teacher will be teaching during that time. Mr. Rasizzi commented that he hoped the school board would consider cost effective ways to extend the kindergarten to full day.

President Waldenburg stated that the District has struggled with the concept of going to a full day kindergarten for years with continual issues involving the costs.

Dr. McDermott stated that she is waiting for the numbers from two schools and will provide Mr. Rasizzi with the information he requested. Dr. McDermott noted that the administration has worked with the six elementary principals and the District has lowered the class size guidelines that were in use over the past twenty years. The new guidelines for class size are kindergarten - 20, first grade - 22, second grade - 22, third grade - 23, fourth grade - 24, and fifth grade - 25.

Dr. McDermott explained that the additional 30 minutes of instructional time for the kindergarten classes will be taught by certified teachers. Dr. McDermott noted that the District is very specific about the balanced literacy program delivered by the kindergarten teachers and the most important aspect is to enhance reading and writing skills in all content areas. Dr. McDermott stated that teaching assistants, who are certified by the state to assist in the teaching process, will also be in the kindergarten classrooms and staff development for the teaching assistants is provided.

Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, stated that there are four levels of certification for teaching assistants. Level one requirements include obtaining a high school diploma and passing a New York State Office of Teaching Initiatives assessment. The teaching assistants are required to obtain additional college undergraduate courses and have experience as a teaching assistant to move to level two. Level three requires additional college undergraduate courses and professional development to maintain the level three certification which is renewable every five years. Level four is the professional teaching assistant certification which they hold on the way to becoming certified as a teacher. Dr. Bouton noted that teacher aides are civil service employees who are not allowed to provide instruction such as hall monitors, lunch monitors, playground monitors, or one to one aids for special needs students.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Carl Litt Resident	Stated that he came to address the lack of a capital funding budget and is quite disturbed with regards to the Board approving long term capital plans and budgets and then not funding them. Mr. Litt stated that the District has lost more than just one year on funding and capital improvements within the district. Mr. Litt commented that the District has saved tens of millions of dollars over the past 20 years by funding projects and that the District is doing a disservice to the taxpayers and the District by pulling out capital funding. Mr. Litt also commented that there should be a policy in place regarding not allowing advertisement or commercial use of school property and removing signs from fences. Mr. Litt inquired about the Superintendent's Annual Report.

Dr. McDermott stated that the Superintendent's Annual Report in the past presented subjective information regarding the District and that the state report cards require the District to give information on students' achievements based on state assessment.

Mr. Litt suggested that the Superintendent put together a concise, consolidated, comparative annual report for the community to track from year to year.

Lisa Schiede
Parent

Stated that she has a daughter moving into 4th grade at Fifth Avenue School and is requesting that a sixth section be added. Ms. Schiede stated that six sections will greatly help the children through this transitional year full increased responsibilities and even more standardized testing. Ms. Schiede also requested a copy of the elementary average class size projections for 2009-2010.

Dr. McDermott stated that the elementary class size projections will be made available. Dr. McDermott also stated that the administration will continue to monitor the class sizes and a section goes over its cap a new section will be added.

Jean Baron
Member UTN-EN

Requested a copy of the completed IB survey. Ms. Baron also inquired regarding employing L.P.N.s versus R.N.s as a cost saving measure. Ms. Baron stated that the UTN-EN will be audio recording the Board meetings. Ms. Baron also urged Dr. McDermott to review the public officers law regarding executive session.

Dr. McDermott stated that she will inquire about the IB survey results from Mr. Storch.

In response to Ms. Baron's question about L.P.N.s, Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, stated that the District employs R.N's.

Warren Arthur
Former Board Member

Thanked Vice President Munson for her many years of service as President.

Cathy Madden
Parent

Expressed her concerns regarding how the District determines the number of kindergarten and first grade sections. Ms. Madden stated that within the last four years Ocean Avenue School has had four new kindergarten teachers. Ms. Madden suggested the District make class section decisions earlier so there is not a large turnover in teachers.

Dr. McDermott stated that the process for determining class sections has been pushed up considerably and it is very difficult to determine kindergarten and first grade sections prior to August due to fluctuations in registrations. Dr. McDermott also stated that teachers are hired district-wide, not for individual schools.

Dr. Terry Bouton stated that the District has positions for all existing teachers and no one has been let go. Dr. Bouton commented that the principals have started the interview process and many of the perspectives have already worked or currently work per diem. Dr. Bouton also stated that it is an unfortunate situation but it is impossible for the District to determine the number of sections in kindergarten and first grade until August due to the fluctuations in registration.

Jeanne Dowling
Parent

Asked if points of discussion at the elementary principal meeting could be regarding a comparison of special education students in the fourth grade across the district, if there are any significant behavioral concerns, and the ratio of boys to girls.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Munson, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 8 and 9, including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #144-148), Supplemental 8.1.2 (Schedule B #26-27), and Supplemental 8.1.3 (Schedule C), with the exception of severed items 8.1.4 and 9.6.1, and withdrawn item 8.2.2:

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated July 6, 2009, 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 (including Supplemental C)
- 8.1.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay - severed
- 8.1.5 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education
- 8.1.6 Schedule M- Tenure

8.2 Approving for a first reading revisions to the following policies:

- 8.2.1 Policy #5020.1, "*Sexual Harassment of Students*"
- 8.2.2 Policy #5020.4, "*Hazing, Harassment and Bullying of Students*" - withdrawn

The Board requested changes to Policy #5020.4 to include language regarding cyber-bullying, consulting with counsel regarding those changes, and to have them available for a first reading at the August 31, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

- 8.2.3 Policy #9510.1, "*Terms and Conditions of Employment for Security Personnel*"

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

9.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL

- 9.1.1 Award - Driver's Education - In-car Instruction

9.2 Declaring the attached list of selected equipment as surplus and approving disposal in accordance with Board Policy.

9.3 Approving the attached resolution agreement for special education services for a high school student.

9.4 Approving Western Suffolk BOCES commitments for the 2009-2010 school year.

9.5 Approving an invoice from the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, Inc., re: 2009-2010 Board membership dues.

Vote on Trustee Munson's motion to approve all items under 8 and 9, including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #144-148), Supplemental 8.1.2 (Schedule B #26-27), and Supplemental 8.1.3 (Schedule C), with the exception of severed items 8.1.4 and 9.6.1, and withdrawn item 8.2.2 was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Munson, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve severed item 8.1.4 (Schedule D).

Personnel Schedule, dated July 6, 2009, and attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay

Vote on Trustee Munson's motion as follows:

YES: Mrs. Dragone, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Madden, Mrs. McNaughton, Mrs. Munson, Dr. Sato, Mr. Waldenburg, Mrs. Wills
ABSTAIN: Mr. Ingraham

Motion passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Munson, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve severed item 9.6.1.

9.6 Receiving the following donation to the District:

9.6.1 A 1995 8-passenger GMC Safari by Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., value estimated by the donor to be approximately \$600.

Vote on Trustee Munson's motion as follows:

YES: Mrs. Dragone, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Ingraham, Mr. Madden, Mrs. McNaughton, Mrs. Munson, Dr. Sato, Mrs. Wills
ABSTAIN: Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Student Activity Account Reports as of May, 2009 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

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Wills inquired about the current CPI, stating that the transportation contracts were discussed at the last Board meeting but the current CPI was not available.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the CPI came in at 0%, therefore all state contracts have a 0% increase, resulting in a savings of approximately \$440,000. Ms. Molander stated that those savings will go to support the fund balance, keeping the amount consistent in future years in order to keep the tax levy stable.

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 For Information: New York State School Boards Association 90th Annual Convention and Trade Show, October 15-18, 2009, Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, New York.

There being no further business to discuss at this time, motion was made by Trustee Munson, seconded by Trustee Sato, to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

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

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn