

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, September 14, 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Board Conference Room at the William J. Brosnan School, 158 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, with Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Chairperson, 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 (arrived at 8:45 pm), 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.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to custodial negotiations.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:45 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Madden, to reconvene in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 35 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
2. Pointed out the emergency exits.

Before the start of the meeting, President Waldenburg asked for a moment of silence in memory of music teacher Mike Kauffman. President Waldenburg stated that Mike was a gifted musician and an extraordinary teacher who will be sorely missed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve all items under 4.1:

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, August 31, 2009

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, stated that she will be discussing the District's finances once a month at a Board meeting to incorporate the budget process year round. The announcements are intended to make the public aware of the ongoing efforts to look at every aspect of the budget in preparation for the 2010-2011 budget. Dr. McDermott asked Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, to discuss some of the large savings and also the small savings that have been recognized.

Ms. Molander stated that there were several areas where the District has already realized some savings. The main, and largest of those areas, is in the TANs (Tax Anticipation Notes). Ms. Molander stated that the District has a borrowing of \$36 million and the percentage rate the District received was .4408, which realized a savings of \$823,980. In addition, due to the 0% contractual increase from the state extended transportation contracts, savings of \$440,869 were realized. Reduction in overtime in the custodial staff, non-instructional clerical staff, and security staff during the months of July and August has realized a savings of \$33,678. The staff directory will now be online which realizes a savings of \$2,703. Ms. Molander noted that those four items realize a total savings of \$1,301,230.

In regards to concerns about the H1N1 virus and how the District will handle protecting the children, Dr. McDermott stated that she attended a meeting with all the Suffolk County Superintendents and Suffolk County Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Humayun Chaudhry. The most important aspect discussed at the meeting was good hygiene on the part of students. Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, has met with all the District's nurses and the nurses have informed the teachers and faculty about procedures of instructing the students about good hygiene. Dr. McDermott noted that the District is in the process of finalizing the purchase of hand sanitizers which will be placed in the cafeterias in each building.

Dr. McDermott addressed an article that appeared in Newsday on Saturday, September 12, 2009, regarding LIPAs tax certiorari. Dr. McDermott stated that she spoke to the attorney who represents the District in tax certioraris and he stated that no tax certioraris have been filed in the 2009-2010 school year. The next filing is not until May 2010. Dr. McDermott stated that it is imperative that the District and residents lobby local, county and state legislators so it will not happen.

President Waldenburg stated that agenda item 8.3.1 – Student Attendance Policy has been withdrawn due to concerns regarding certain paragraphs and issues that need to be resolved. Dr. McDermott stated that those concerns will be discussed in consultation with the teachers at high school, Mrs. McLaughlin, members of UTN, Board members and herself in a meeting with the school District's attorney.

5.1 Review of Opening Day Class Sizes

In response to a question, Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, stated that the numbers were accurate as of 11:00 am on Friday, September 11, 2009. Mr. Lynch noted that some adjustments were made to the projections but nothing that caused any staffing changes.

There was a brief discussion regarding the 0.5 unallocated teaching position. Dr. McDermott stated that she had a conversation with the principals at Fifth Avenue and Ocean Avenue Elementary schools to be certain that the students are receiving the necessary academic support. Dr. McDermott noted that additional staff members were assigned to the fourth grade to help students with specific academic concerns.

5.2 Overview of Instructional Initiatives for 2009-2010

Dr. McDermott introduced Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, who presented his overview of the instructional initiatives for 2009-2010. Mr. Nelson stated that the common instructional goals are to develop common mid-term assessments in all courses that culminate in a NYS Regents examination, initiate staff development conducted and/or coordinated by department chairpersons and directors throughout the school year, and use of the *MOODLE* online learning system to develop course curricula, curriculum maps, and virtual collaboration spaces. Mr. Nelson explained that *MOODLE* is an open-source, on-line course content management system that replaces "three ring binder" curriculum, enables ongoing online curricular revision, provides a template for virtual classrooms for students, allows for free distribution and use via an open-source software license and serves as a vehicle for the sharing of best instructional practices. Mr. Nelson stated that the following online functions will be developed through the use of the *MOODLE* online learning system: course curriculum,

resource areas, research and language skills tool boxes, formal writing processes for document based questions, world language maps, adaptive physical education best practices collaboration, and district-wide learning communities. Mr. Nelson presented an overview of the departmental initiatives in Mathematics, Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies, World Languages, English Language Learners, Physical Education & Athletics, Music, Art, and Technology & Engineering.

There was a discussion regarding the midyear common assessments replacing midterm examinations or just being used as assessment tools. Several board members inquired about the different teaching styles and how the use of the common assessments might inhibit individual styles. Mr. Nelson stated that the midyear common assessments would replace the midterm exams and will make sure that the students are where they need to be at the halfway point in the curriculum.

In response to a question regarding the physical education and athletic initiative of developing a district-wide physical education plan and delivering it to the New York State Education Department, Mr. Drew Cronin, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, stated that the only way to become compliant with the NYS Education Department is to add more time. Mr. Cronin stated that he is brainstorming with his colleagues and will attend a conference in November to come up with a solution.

The Board President and Superintendent thanked Mr. Nelson for his informative report.

5.3 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming Board of Education Meetings of October 5th, October 19th, November 2nd and November 16th.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Letter from Ms. Susan Silbernagel, Ms. Adrian Forman, Ms. Caryn Nye and Ms. Pam Brill, addressed to member of the Board, received September 8, 2009, re: busing issue at Norwood Avenue Elementary School.

Ms. Silbernagel and Ms. Forman addressed the Board and expressed their concerns about a transportation issue regarding busing to The Village Preschool from Norwood Avenue Elementary School. Families that request transportation to the preschool are required to pay up to \$125 per month for the service whereas families from Ocean Avenue do not have to pay for this service because the preschool falls within their bus zone. Ms. Silbernagel and Ms. Forman requested that the Board consider extending bus service from Norwood Elementary to The Village Preschool.

Several Board members stated that the District has to operate within the laws and guidelines that the State Education Department puts in place for transportation. Dr. McDermott stated that she is waiting to hear from legal counsel regarding the District's current policy and will advise the Board as soon as it is received.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Comment</u> |
|----------------------|--|
| Nina Dorata UTNEN | Stated that the UTNEN encourages the District to tap into the expertise of the community by establishing a budget and finance committee and that it is crucial for the District to do some active long range planning. |

President Waldenburg stated that he appreciated Dr. Dorata's suggestion and that the Board has from time to time created committees to deal with issue and understands that they can have a value.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Rob Ingraham Board Member | Stated that there was an article in Newsday last week which reported on the Smithtown School District's savings that resulted from installing a solar energy |
|------------------------------|--|

system and that the District should take some tangible steps to study what was done in Smithtown.

Dr. McDermott stated that she will look into what the Smithtown School District has done and report back to the Board.

Trustee Ingraham also stated that the problems with the District's athletic fields and facilities are not going to go away and need to be addressed. Mr. Ingraham asked Mr. Cronin to give a brief summary of where the most needs are and if the District has the manpower to make some improvements.

Mr. Cronin, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, stated that his priorities would be the Northport Middle School baseball field, the East Northport Middle School softball field, and as soon as the season is over to immediately aerate and seed the Sweeney field and field hockey field, and to irrigate the practice fields that were just re-sodded.

Dr. McDermott stated that she will have a discussion with Mr. Cronin and Ms. Molander to see if the repairs can be made within the budget established.

Lisa Courter Parent Stated that the grade six weighted class size numbers seem high at Northport Middle School and that if a section was added it would be more in line with East Northport Middle School.

In response to a question, Mr. Timothy Hoss, Northport Middle School Principal, stated that presently there is no extra space to add another section and that every room is utilized virtually every period.

Trustee Madden suggested that setting class size caps in the middle school should also be taken into consideration in the future.

Susan Ronde Parent Inquired about the planners at the high school, stating that they were only provided to freshman this year and stated that they are very useful for all the high school students.

There was a brief discussion regarding the planners and providing them to all the students. A decision was made that planners would be made available at cost to those students who wished to sign up or prepay for them.

Karen Wills Board Member Inquired if there is a portal on the District's website to put homework online.

Mr. Matt Nelson stated that there is currently a front page system and that he is working on evaluating a portal system to allow teachers to have their own space to put homework on.

Tim Madden Board Member Asked if there was a clear document that states the specific procedures for filling vacancies with teachers in particular, and if there wasn't one there should be one. Mr. Madden stated that if there is a perception of the hiring practices in the District out there it discourages people from applying for positions.

Dr. McDermott stated that she will look into the District's documents.

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 #19-24) and Supplemental 8.1.2 (Schedule B #18-24), with the exception of severed items 8.1.4 (Schedule D) and 9.1 (Driver Education Tuition Increase).

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

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated September 14, 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

8.2 Receiving for a second reading and adopting revisions to the following policies:

- 8.2.1 Policy #5020.4, "*Hazing, Harassment and Bullying of Students*"
- 8.2.2 Policy #9510.4, "*Title I Parental Involvement*"

8.3 Receiving for a first reading, revisions to the following policies:

- 8.3.1 Policy #5160, "*Student Attendance*" - withdrawn

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

9.1 Approving a tuition increase of \$35 in the Driver Education Program – severed.

9.2 Approving the following donations to the District:

9.2.1 \$320 to the Deborah A. Shavalier Memorial Scholarship Fund - \$50 from Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Goldberg, \$50 from Mr. and Mrs. William Peterson, \$20 from Ms. Janis Digirolamo, \$100 from Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Levine, \$100 from Mr. and Mrs. John Lundy.

9.2.2 Ten used Dell LCD energy efficient 17 to 18 inch monitors, from Jason Byer of Suburban Exterminating, value estimated to be approximately \$800.

9.2.3 \$1,000 from the Northport Tigers Baseball Camp to be used for the improvement of the Northport High School Varsity Baseball infield and authorizing an increase in the 2009-2010 budget (Code A2855-5030-30-1501) for this purpose.

9.3 Approving the 2009-2010 License Agreement between SCOPE Education Services and the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District for the Introductory and Exploratory Foreign Language Program (LINGUAS).

In response to a question, Ms. Anne Whooley, Dickinson Avenue Principal, stated that there are various centers throughout the District depending upon the enrollment and students pay for the program through SCOPE.

9.4 Approving the 2009-2010 License and Operating Agreement between SCOPE Education Services and the Northport-East Northport School District for the After School Child Care Programs and Extended Kindergarten Program.

Vote on Trustee Munson's motion to approve all items under 8 and 9, including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #19-24) and Supplemental 8.1.2 (Schedule B #18-24), with the exception of severed items 8.1.4 (Schedule D) and 9.1 (Driver Education Tuition Increase) was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Munson, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to approve severed item 8.1.4 – Schedule D.

8.1.4 Schedule D – Extra Pay

Vote on Trustee Munson's motion was as follows:

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

ABSTAIN: Mrs. McNaughton

Motion passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve severed item 9.1

9.1 Approving a tuition increase of \$35 in the Driver Education Program. The new tuition rate will be \$405 for resident students and \$3 for resident students on free or reduced lunch.

Ms. Jo Imwalle, Administrator of Community Services, stated that as part of Community Services, the Driver Education Program is self-sustaining. Ms. Imwalle stated that last year the program had five students on free and reduced lunch who pay just the registration fee of \$3. This year there are no students on free and reduced lunch. Ms. Imwalle noted that the driving school raised the fees to \$312 per student and there was also an increase for the theory teachers.

In response to a question, Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that for 2008-2009 the program closed with a loss of \$2262. As far as reserving any additional money should the program finish in black next year, to book that as a deferred revenue item is not an acceptable accounting practice and the auditors would not approve of that.

Vote on Trustee Dragone's motion to approve item 9.1 was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Schedule H – Use of Facilities

10.2 Schedule I – Home Instruction

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

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