

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, October 5, 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, 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 McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Wills, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to an individual student.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:50 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Munson, seconded by Trustee Sato, to reconvene in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 75 persons present.

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

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

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, September 14, 2009
 - 4.1.2 Special Meeting, September 21, 2009

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, made several announcements about the many wonderful things happening in the District. The Community Drug and Alcohol Task Force has placed several posters throughout the District. H1N1 posters encouraging the practice of good hygiene were also placed throughout the District buildings. The high school varsity football team is 4-0 and the homecoming event was a great celebration. The high school girls cross country team won the invitational tournament at St. Anthony's. Student Devin Dwyer is one of ten national finalists in the Discovery 3M Young Scientists Challenge. Dr. McDermott recognized Mr. Bryan Horan, advisor, and students James Lauria, Emily Carbone, Matt Sarcona, Jennifer Koniuk and Chelsea Culbert who are entering the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology.

Dr. McDermott asked Assistant Superintendent John Lynch to give an update on the Community Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

Mr. Lynch stated that the task force is in its fourth year and approximately 40 community members attend the meetings. The task force logo is being displayed throughout the District and the community to promote increased awareness to protect the children from drug and alcohol issues. Mr. Lynch noted that upcoming events include the 7th grade parent education forum, and a one act play festival, sponsored by the Northport Arts Council in conjunction with the drug and alcohol task force, about parent communication with children regarding drug and alcohol issues.

5.1 Dr. McDermott introduced Ms. Barbara Falotico, Bellerose Avenue Elementary School Principal. Ms. Falotico introduced Bellerose Avenue School Teacher Aide Patricia Inman. Ms. Falotico stated that during the first week of kindergarten while the students were eating lunch one youngster displayed the signs of choking. Within seconds, Ms. Inman noticed the student choking, performed the Heimlich maneuver and saved the student's life.

Mr. Stephen Waldenburg, Board President and Dr. Marylou McDermott presented Ms. Inman with a certificate of appreciation and Ms. Inman received a standing ovation.

5.2 Report on 2009 Summer Programs

5.2.1 Summer Elementary School Report

Ms. Sandy Dobise-Barrett, Elementary Summer School Principal, presented her report on the Summer Elementary School. Ms. Dobise-Barrett stated that the purpose of the elementary summer school is to provide students identified in need of academic intervention in English language arts and mathematics with instructional support. Students are identified for remediation through standardized tests, criterion referenced tests and teacher recommendation. Ms. Dobise-Barrett noted that first priority is given to those students participating in the regular Academic Intervention Service (AIS) programs in English language arts and mathematics as well as special education students. There were 430 students in this year's program with a student/teacher ratio of 8:1. Computer instruction was given in grades K-5. Ms. Dobise-Barrett stated that in addition to the instructional staff there was a full time school nurse and twelve teacher aides. Students are evaluated through kindergarten evaluation forms, objectives summary reports (grades 1-5), parent conferences (grades K-5), and student progress reports (grades K-5).

After a brief discussion, the President of the Board and the Superintendent thanked Ms. Dobise-Barrett for her report.

5.2.2 Academic Summer School

Ms. Jo Imwalle, Administrator of Community Services, presented her report on the 2009 Academic Summer School. Ms. Imwalle stated that the Western Suffolk BOCES Regional Academic Summer High School is registered and approved by the New York State Education Department. Registration is open to resident and non-resident students. Ms. Imwalle noted that non-participating districts pay a registration fee. Middle school courses offered include Academic Intervention Services, English, Social Studies, Math and Wilson Reading. The high school courses offered included English, Math B, Integrated Algebra, Geometry, Global Studies I and II, US History and Government, Participation in Government and Economics, Living Environment, Physical Education and Health. Ms. Imwalle noted that Chemistry and Earth Science were not offered due to under enrollment but stated that those students were able to go to Commack or Huntington to take those courses. Ms. Imwalle stated that the 2009 Academic Summer School enrollment was very low with a 213 student seat count which also reflected the enrollment of Commack and Huntington. Ms. Imwalle noted that she researched the regents scores and found a very high passing rate

this year which contributed to the low enrollment. Ms. Imwalle thanked Ally Giaimo, Summer School Assistant Principal, and Bethany Rivera, Administrative Intern, for running things so smoothly.

Following a brief discussion, President Waldenburg and Dr. McDermott thanked Ms. Imwalle for her informative report.

5.2.3 Summer Camp Report

Ms. Jo Imwalle, Administrator of Community Services, stated that the 2009 Recreational Summer Camp was held at Northport Middle School from July 6th through August 7th for a total of 25 days. Enrollment over the course of the summer in the full day camp was 664 students, in the a.m. half day camp 323 students, and in the p.m. half day camp 412 students. Ms. Imwalle noted in addition to the full and half day camps, early morning and late afternoon camps are also offered. Ms. Imwalle thanked FRIENNDNS for providing scholarships to three students to attend camp for the whole summer. The Counselor-in-Training Camp, offered to students in grades 9-11 in preparation for becoming counselors, had an enrollment of 143 students. The Pre-School Camp, which is offered for 3 and 4 year olds at the William J. Brosnan School, had an enrollment of 114 children. Ms. Imwalle stated that the campers enjoyed enriched and structured programs, including field days, cooking, art, trips and special events such as a science program, disc jockey and a variety show. Ms. Imwalle thanked Camp Director Mr. Michael Kullack, District-wide Security Supervisor Nolan Briggs, and Denise Lovaglio and Janet Tures from the Office of Community Services for working diligently to keep the children smiling and safe.

The Board Members and the Superintendent thanked Ms. Imwalle for running such a wonderful summer camp program.

5.2.4 Summer Music Program

Mr. Izzet Mergen, Director of Music Education K-12, stated that during the summer of 2009 the Music Department operated eleven separate programs with a total of 1,801 student participants. Mr. Mergen noted that the Elementary/Middle School Exploratory Instrumental Program provides an opportunity for elementary students to begin exploring the study of instrumental music. Students who have completed the third grade may begin to learn any band or orchestra instrument. The program also provides other elementary or middle schools students the opportunity to study of different instrument or switch to a secondary school band instrument or more advanced horn. Mr. Mergen stated that the Continuing Instrumental Lessons had an enrollment of 305 students.

Mr. Mergen stated the music evening-clinic rehearsal program allows students to learn the music and basic marching techniques prior to the summer music clinics. The pre-clinic rehearsals enable freshman students to adjust to the high school music program prior to entering the high school. Mr. Mergen noted that Maestro Maurice Peres, former Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic under Maestro Leonard Bernstein, was a guest clinician at the Summer Choral Clinic. The Choral Clinic included 125 students. The Northport High School Tiger Marching Band, Flagline and Tigerettes attended the annual Long Island Summer Workshop at SUNY Farmingdale. Mr. Mergen noted that the 290 Tiger Marching Band members participated in daily rehearsals working on the half-time routine.

The members of the Board and Dr. McDermott thanked Mr. Mergen for his informative report.

5.3 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming Board of Education Meetings of October 19th, November 2nd and November 16th. Mr. Waldenburg noted that the presentation of the Annual Report from the Board Auditors has been moved to the November 2, 2009 meeting. Also at the meeting of November 2nd, Mr. John Gross, Board Counsel, will be in attendance to discuss busing issues.

In response to a question regarding the postponement of the Audit Report, Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, responded that Mr. Rodriguez of the District's audit firm Coughlin Foundotos Cullen and Danowski, recommended that it would be in the best interest of the District to take advantage of the grace period offered in order for the District to look at all accounts and funds, and verify all balances so that the report is as accurate as possible.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no letters of communication

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Joe Gannon Board Trustee	Inquired about the District registering for Stop and Shop's A+ Bonus Bucks program and if there are more similar programs available that give back to the District.
Dr. McDermott stated that she will look into it. Trustee Dragone stated that the District is registered with Target they give a percentage back to the schools.	
Adrian Forman Parent	Stated that she is here regarding the busing issue from Norwood Avenue Elementary School to the Village Preschool. Ms. Forman read a section of the New York State Education Law regarding transportation and stated that the decision is with the Board of Education and the Superintendent. Ms. Forman stated that what the District does for one, they must do for all, and that there is nothing preventing the District from making the right decision.
Andrew Rapiejko Parent	Read a letter to the Board stating his concerns about the District's decision to move from quarterly report cards to trimester report cards at the elementary level and why the parents were not notified of this decision until open house night. Mr. Rapiejko also inquired about the decision to no longer hire substitutes for two full-time teachers each day at the high school and the direct impact on students by reducing instructional time with a certified teacher in a traditional classroom setting.
Dr. McDermott stated that on recommendation of the elementary report card committee, chaired by Carol Anderson-Hoffmann and consisting of teachers from the elementary schools, the decision was made to institute trimester report cards which the teachers felt would better reflect what is being taught in the classrooms. The teachers wanted to give a more substantive report to the parents.	
With regards to the substitute teachers at the high school, Dr. McDermott stated that it was brought to her attention that substitutes in the higher level classes did not have the expertise in that area and were basically supervising the class. Dr. McDermott noted that they are in the process of reviewing other options as to where the students will be supervised during those periods but nothing has been determined as of yet.	
There was a long discussion between the Board, the Superintendent and the community members. Several community members stated that these are concerns that the District should have included parents in the decision making process.	
Rachel Friedman Parent	Stated that in comparing the last week of school in District's school calendar with other area districts, they don't have all the half days that this District has it is unnecessary to have all of them.

Dr. McDermott stated that it is part of the contractual agreement with the UTN.

Antoinette Blanck
UTN President

Ms. Blanck read a statement from the UTN regarding several union concerns. The union feels that the flow of communication between teachers and administrators has eroded to the point where the faculty no longer feels they are a part of the decision-making process. Requests for teacher-administrative council meetings have gone unanswered. The union clarified the misperception that teachers are supporting several district-wide initiatives. Ms. Blanck stated that the union questions the efficacy of such top-down leadership style and expects that in the future the teachers of Northport will be consulted for input in the decision-making process in the school district.

Mike Kucza
Parent

Stated that he agreed with Ms. Blanck and feels that the key element missing is the administration, faculty and Board working together in the best interests of the children, and that parents need to be a part of the decision make process as well.

Armand D'Accordo
UTN-EN

Stated that the UTN-EN strongly urges the district to adopt a strategic planning process that includes a comprehensive strategic plan. Mr. D'Accordo also urged the Board to utilize the financial expertise of several community members to establish a budget planning and analysis committee and hoped that the suggestion would be an agenda item for a future meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding the value of committees, the needs that exist for formation of committees, and the ultimate specifics in forming those committees. Several Board members stated that they are open to the idea of committees regarding certain issues.

Jen Montgomery
Parent

Stated that she speaks on behalf many people who are happy to entrust the elected officials with running the district.

Denise Mumm

Asked the Board to contemplate what Mr. D'Accordo said regarding forming committees, asked about putting NYSSBA email updates on the website, and if the District still employed the lawyers in reference to the LIPA tax certioraris.

Dr. McDermott stated that the District still had a relationship with the law firm regarding the LIPA tax certioraris and the law firm stated that no certioraris have been filed for this year and the cannot be filed again until May of 2010. Vice President Munson stated that the District does not have the law firm on retainer and they are not on a billing basis unless the District contacts them to prepare or respond to something.

Several Board members stated that it is important for all taxpayers within the District to join forces to make the point to local and state legislators regarding the LIPA tax certioraris.

Roseann Moran
Parent

Stated that she is concerned about the substitute teacher coverage and that the teachers leave lesson plans for the substitutes to follow and students cannot afford to miss class.

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to approve all items under 8, including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #43) and Supplemental 8.1.3 (Schedule C #28-39), with the exception of severed item 8.1.7 (Schedule L).

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

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated October 5, 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
- 8.1.3 Schedule C - Salary Transfers (including Supplemental C)
- 8.1.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.1.5 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education
- 8.1.6 Schedule K - PDC NASA
- 8.1.7 Schedule L - PDC UTN - severed

8.2 Approving requests for travel for students to countries outside of the United States during the 2009-2010 school year:

- 8.2.1 Nicaragua (Leon) – February 2010
- 8.2.2 Italy (Rome, Florence, Venice) – February 2010
- 8.2.3 France (Paris) – March/April 2010
- 8.2.4 Spain (Madrid/Barcelona) – March/April 2010
- 8.2.5 Nicaragua (Leon) – March/April 2010

Vote on Trustee McNaughton's motion to approve all items under 8, including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #43) and Supplemental 8.1.3 (Schedule C #28-39, with the exception of severed item 8.1.7 (Schedule L) was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to approve severed item 8.1.7 (Schedule L).

- 8.1.7 Schedule L - PDC UTN

Vote on Trustee Dragone'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 Munson, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 9.

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

9.1 Approving the following donations to the District:

9.1.1 \$3,182 from the Fifth Avenue Parent Teacher Association to Fifth Avenue Elementary School to purchase a Smart Board for one classroom, and authorizing an increase in the 2009-2010 budget (Code A2110.2030.12.0200) for this purpose

9.1.2 \$2,035 to establish a memorial scholarship in the name of Geraldine Wolf Welch, to be given to a female graduating senior in 2010

9.1.3 \$715 from various donors to the Deborah A. Shavalier Scholarship Fund

9.1.4 \$317.37 from Target to Norwood Avenue Elementary School for the purchase of supplies, and authorizing an increase in the 2009-2010 budget (Code A2110.5030.14.0200) for this purpose

9.1.5 \$50 from Astoria Federal Savings to Dickinson Avenue Elementary School for the purchase of art supplies, and authorizing an increase in the 2009-2010 budget (Code A2110.5030.11.2000)

9.2 Approving the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$4,000 from the Northport High School Student Activities fund for the purchase of a Smart Board and desktop computer for the High School Social Studies Department and authorizes an increase in the 2009-2010 budget (Code A2110.2030.00.2804) for this purpose”

9.3 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2009-2010 budget

Vote on Trustee Munson’s motion to approve all items under 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 Student Activity Account Reports for June, July and August, 2009 from:

10.3.1 Northport High School

10.3.2 East Northport Middle School

10.3.3 Northport Middle School

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Dragone reminded everyone of the importance of the 7th grade parents attending the upcoming drug and alcohol forums. Mrs. Dragone stated that the programs are invaluable in informing parents of what is out there and how to protect their children. Trustee Ingraham asked that the message being sent to all parents is a strong message in terms of the forum being imperative for them to attend.

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 10:25 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn