

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, March 8, 2010, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the Gymnasium 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, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: None
One board seat vacant

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent
Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services
Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Public attendance: There were approximately 350 persons present.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to reorder the agenda to move items 8 through 12 directly following item 5.1.1 – Student of the Month.

Unanimously carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

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

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, February 8, 2010
 - 4.1.2 Regular Meeting, February 22, 2010
 - 4.1.3 Public Work Session, February 22, 2010
 - 4.1.4 Special Meeting, March 2, 2010

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to approve all items under 4.2:

- 4.2 Treasurer's Report and Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements
 - 4.2.1 Treasurer's Report for the period November 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009
 - 4.2.2 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for November 2009

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.1.1 Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, District Chairperson of World Languages and ESL, introduced the English Language Learner Department Student of the Month, Nancy Melghem. Ms. Nesfield stated that Nancy has succeeded in all of her classes due to the fact that she is a very dedicated student with an outstanding work ethic. After arriving from Honduras, Nancy worked hard to improve her English skills, catch up on missing credits, and pass all of the required Regents examinations. Ms. Nesfield noted that Nancy has demonstrated that she not only wants to succeed in her ESL classes, but in her mainstream classes as well. Nancy's current schedule is comprised of several college preparatory classes, including chemistry and advanced mathematics. Ms. Nesfield stated that Nancy was inducted into the World Language Honor Society in December. Nancy has successfully balanced a demanding academic schedule with outside commitments, and still finds time to participate in school clubs and activities. Ms. Nesfield stated that Nancy is a source of pride for her family, the English as a Second Language Department, and Northport High School.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Nancy on her fine achievements and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #11-12), Supplemental 8.1.5 (Schedule B #1-4) and Supplemental 9.4.

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

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated March 8, 2010, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff (including Supplemental 8.1.1)
- 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 B - Non-Instructional Staff

8.2 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the following textbook:

- 8.2.1 Biology Concepts & Connections 6th Edition AP Biology
Campbell, Reece, et. al Pearson Grade 11 and 12

8.3 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board Policy and State Regulation, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Eric Nachman to serve as Impartial Hearing Officer for the purpose of conducting an impartial hearing in accord with Policy 4321, Program for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA”

8.4 Receiving for a first reading revisions to the following policy:

Policy #6690 – “Audit Committee”

8.5 Receiving for a first reading revisions to the following policy:

Policy #2250 – “Board Committees” (new numbering system – old number 8130)

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

9.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL

9.1.1 Award – Medical Supplies and Equipment

9.1.2 Award – Athletic Supplies and Equipment

9.1.3 Award – Science Supplies and Equipment

9.2 Approving the following donation to the District:

9.2.1 \$100.00 from the Ronde Family to the Deborah A. Shavalier Memorial
Scholarship Fund

9.3 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 2009-2010 school year:

9.3.1 West Islip Public Schools, six (6) students attending St. John the Baptist High School @ \$635.25, totaling \$3,811.50

9.4 Approving an engagement letter from Cullen & Danowski, LLP for the review of the capital projects fund and the reconciliation of that fund to the Assetmaxx inventory system.

Vote on Trustee Ingraham’s motion to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #11-12), Supplemental 8.1.5 (Schedule B #1-4) and Supplemental 9.4 was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Student Activity Account Reports for November and December 2009, and January 2010

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 the period November 2009

10.5 Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report as of November 2009

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 Motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Wills, to approve the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the appropriation in A1980.4000.00.7000 of the budget by \$278,850.00 with the understanding that this increase in appropriations is the result of the unanticipated expense associated with the establishment of the MTA tax”

There was a brief discussion by the Board regarding the options of increasing the 2009-2010 budget or budgetary transfer to the appropriation code. Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Molander stated that there is a line in the Governor’s executive proposal to reimburse school districts for the MTA tax. Trustee Ingraham inquired if Dr. McDermott has spoken to any local legislators regarding which option is the wiser choice. Dr. McDermott stated that she had not heard from the legislators on this particular issue and noted that the budget increase is the preferred option. Vice President Dragone stated that it is the recommendation of the District’s attorneys and Assistant Superintendent Molander to increase the 2009-2010 budget.

Vote on Trustee Sato’s motion was as follows:

YES: Mrs. Dragone, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Madden, Mrs. McNaughton, Dr. Sato, Mr. Waldenburg, Mrs. Wills
NO: Mr. Ingraham

Motion passed.

12. NEW BUSINESS

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.2 Superintendent’s proposed budget for 2010-2011

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools, presented the proposed general fund budget which was developed in compliance with the Board’s direction at its February 8, 2010 meeting. Dr. McDermott stated that the Board’s directive was to prepare a budget with a tax rate increase of no greater than 2%. Dr. McDermott noted that in order to accomplish this directive, 7.4 million dollars needed to be cut from the rollover budget presented on January 25, 2010. The proposed 2010-2011 budget of \$146,977,339 reflected a budget to budget increase of 0.484% and a 1.94% tax increase.

Dr. McDermott stated that the budget process began with an anticipated loss of State Aid of \$1,200,000. Dr. McDermott also noted that it was a very laborious process and a districtwide effort with the philosophical approach to be as equitable as possible in terms of cuts across the board and not targeting one level, department or program to have the least impact on children and programs.

Dr. McDermott reviewed the unfunded State and Federal mandates and districtwide ongoing economies and efficiencies. Dr. McDermott also delineated the proposed districtwide reductions for 2010-2011 for a total reduction of \$7,383,224.

There was a brief discussion by the Board regarding the proposed budget cuts, technology enhancements, clarification of the interfund transfer, and replacement of retiring teachers.

Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Molander stated that she anticipates getting the proposed budget book to the printer by Wednesday with a target of having it available for download from the District’s website on Friday.

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to accept the Superintendent’s proposed 2010-2011 budget.

Unanimously carried.

5.3 For Information: Upcoming Board of Education meetings scheduled for March 15th, March 22nd, and April 14th.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 The following communications were received regarding the budget:

6.1.1 Email from Mr. Armand D'Accordo, UTN-EN, received March 1, 2010

Mr. D'Accordo addressed the board and stated that there are a number of things that can be examined to produce long term savings such as evaluate health insurance options and the Board should find ways of saving without cutting teachers, equipment and use more strategic planning.

President Waldenburg stated that the administration has been working continually on finding better rates and are always in the process of reevaluating the healthcare options and plans.

6.1.2 Email from Ms. Sheila Whitlow, received March 1, 2010. Ms. Whitlow was not present at the meeting.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Christine Lentz Parent	Asked if it was the 2010 or 2011 special education summer program and summer music program would be affected.
Dr. McDermott	stated that it was the 2010 programs. Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, stated that the program referenced is the elementary reading and writing program for K-5, not the special education extended school year program which is a mandated program by special education laws and regulations.
Steve Brown Resident	Stated the he has a local business and noted that Albany County operates on a \$19.7 million budget and managed to cut the budget with no tax levy increase. Mr. Brown stated he would like to see a 2.7% reduction in spending.
Armand D'Accordo UTN-EN	Stated that the Audit Committee has not been established and that the District is not in compliance law and the five point plan.
President Waldenburg	stated that the Board has not completed that entire process and it will be resolved quickly.
Antoinette Blanck UTN President	Stated that the teachers are the backbone of the district and are dedicated to the children and committed to the community. Ms. Blanck stated that in these dire economic times the union is doing everything they can to move forward and be a part of the budget process. Ms. Blanck asked that the Board relocate the next board meeting in order to accommodate everyone.

President Waldenburg stated that they will change the venue to the high school and make certain that no one is standing in the future.

Megan Asked if the teachers who received letters could be presented before the Board.

President Waldenburg stated that that was not appropriate at this time.

There being no further business to discuss at this time, motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Wills, to adjourn the regular meeting and reconvene in Executive Session in the Board Conference Room to discuss contract negotiations.

At 8:45 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn