

Special Meeting to Finalize Budget

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday evening, April 21, 2010, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in Faculty Dining Room at Northport High School, 154 Laurel Hill Road, 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.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Wills, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to contract negotiations and matters pertaining to an individual employee.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:45 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Sato, to reconvene in public session in the Large Cafeteria at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 300 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 Dragone, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to reorder the agenda to move item 5 before item 4.

Unanimously carried.

5. There were six candidates who submitted their petitions to the District Clerk before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2010. The six candidates were present and drew numbers to determine their positions on the official ballot for the May 18, 2010 Annual District Meeting and Election. The order of the ballot is: Lori McCue, Fred Trudwig, Jr., Andrew Rapiejko, Phil Fortuna, Jennifer Thompson, Julia R. Binger.

4. Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, reviewed the proposed 2010-2011 budget. On March 8, 2010, Dr. McDermott presented the 2010-2011 proposed budget of \$146,977,339 to the Board. The proposed budget represented a dollar change of \$708,448 from the adopted 2009-2010 budget, a budget increase of 0.484%, and a tax increase of 1.94%. The proposed budget represented \$7.4 million in district-wide reductions. Dr. McDermott noted that through reprioritizing budget allocations and budget

code corrections \$1,017,029 was identified for restoration of programs. Dr. McDermott recommended the Board restore the elementary academic summer school program, intramurals, all athletics and all summer music programs for a total of \$948,781. Dr. McDermott noted that an additional \$483,800 would be needed for restoration of all student programs. Dr. McDermott reviewed the program implications of staffing reductions in grade K-12.

Motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to reorder the agenda and move all items under 8.1.1. through 8.1.21, Communications, before item 6.

Unanimously carried.

8.1.1 Email from Mr. Albert Prisco, received April 9, 2010, re: 403b

Mr. Prisco addressed the Board and stated that the District should offer its employees either a pension or a 403b, not both.

8.1.2 Email from Ms. Christine Wagner, received April 12, 2010, re: Early Intervention Pre-School Program

8.1.3 Email from Ms. Robert Heller, received April 13, 2010, re: Elementary Health Program

Ms. Heller addressed the Board and stated that she hopes the elementary school teachers will be able to deliver the same program that the current elementary health teachers teach. Ms. Heller also stated that she hopes the District doesn't become reactive instead of proactive.

8.1.4 Email from Ms. Laura Caderas, received April 14, 2010, re: AOF Program

8.1.5 Email from Ms. Amy Connor, received April 14, 2010, re: Teacher's pay freeze

8.1.6 Email from Ms. Suzanne Strakhov, received April 14, 2010, re: YMCA The Place

8.1.7 Email from Ms. Mary Speed-Perri, received April 14, 2010, re: Budget

8.1.8 Email from Ms. Karin Stucchio, received April 15, 2010, re: Swimming in 2010-2011 Budget

8.1.9 Email from Mr. & Mrs. Brian Washburn, received April 15, 2010, re: Budget cuts to Summer Music and Marching Band

8.1.10 Email from Ms. Francine Mauro, received April 15, 2010, re: SAT prep course

Ms. Mauro addressed the Board and urged the Board to rethink eliminating the SAT prep course at the high school. Ms. Mauro stated that it is an important and valuable course to the students.

8.1.11 Email from Ms. Krista Boland, received April 16, 2010, re: 2010-2011 Budget Considerations

8.1.12 Email from Ms. Suzanne Fox, received April 15, 2010, re: Summer Music Program

Ms. Fox addressed the Board and commended the District on the incredible music program offered to the students and expressed her concern about the proposed cut to the Summer Music Program.

8.1.13 Email from Ms. Jen Montgomery, received April 16, 2010, re: Budget

Ms. Montgomery addressed the Board and stated that she was disappointed that the public did not hear from the teachers union regarding the proposed pay freeze and was hoping to be able to understand their position.

8.1.14 Email from Ms. Rachel Friedman, received April 16, 2010, re: Budget

Ms. Friedman addressed the Board and stated that she hoped a fair agreement is made between the Board of Education and the teachers' union. Ms. Friedman also asked the Board to reconsider cuts to health education and SAT prep course.

8.1.15 Email from Ms. Tracy Bernson, received April 16, 2010, re: Proposed School Budget Concerns

Ms. Bernson addressed the Board and stated that she would approve a higher raise in taxes if it meant less cuts to the 2010-2011 budget.

8.1.16 Email from Ms. Audrey Flick, received April 19, 2010, re: Early Intervention PreSchool Program

8.1.17 Emails from Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Hatch, received April 19, 2010, re: Budget

8.1.18 Email from Ms. Rene Fiechter (Ms. Eileen Callahan), received April 19, 2010, re: School Budget and YDA

Ms. Eileen Callahan addressed the Board and stated her concerns that the students were under the impression that the YDA program would cease to exist if the District cut the funding for the street outreach worker. Ms. Callahan stated that the YDA programs and after school activities would continue despite the possible financial loss.

Mr. Rod Miller, YDA Director, addressed the Board and stated that Ms. Callahan was incorrect and that if the street outreach worker funding is cut some of the programs offered to students will end.

8.1.19 Email from Ms. Christine Lentz, received April 19, 2010, re: 2010-2011 Budget

Ms. Lentz addressed the Board and requested the Board take a closer look at the money slated to be spent on technology. Ms. Lentz stated that these expenses are not necessities, they are luxuries. Mrs. Lentz urged the Board to work with the teachers to get them back into the classrooms as their role is grossly underestimated.

8.1.20 Email from Ms. Sheila Whitlow, received April 19, 2010, re: Budget

Ms. Whitlow addressed the Board and thanked Dr. McDermott and Ms. Molander for meeting with her to discuss her concerns. Ms. Whitlow stated that no one thing will answer the budget crisis and sacrifices need to be equitable and across the board. Ms. Whitlow asked all community members to write letters to representatives to get fair share of State Aid.

8.1.21 Email from Ms. Deborah Brockwell, received April 19, 2010, re: Budget 2010-2011

6. At 9:04 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Sato, to convene into Committee-of-the-Whole to discuss informally the budget that will be presented to the voters on May 18, 2010.

Unanimously carried.

At 11:00 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to extend the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

7. At 12:55 a.m., motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to come out of Committee-of-the-Whole and to reconvene into Special Meeting.

Unanimously carried.

8. Finalize proposition that will be submitted to the voters on May 18, 2010.

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve the following resolution:

8.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the following proposition shall be submitted to the voters at the May 18, 2010 Annual Vote as “Proposition No. 1”:

RESOLVED, that the Annual School District Budget for the 2010-2011 School Year in the amount of \$147,487,339 and the necessary taxes therefor be approved.

Vote on Trustee Ingraham’s motion was unanimously carried.

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

8.2 BE IT RESOLVED, that the following proposition shall be submitted to the voters at the May 18, 2010 Annual Vote as “Proposition No. 2”:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law §3651, the Board of Education is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$600,000 from the General Construction/Electro-Mechanical Capital Reserve Fund, to extend the chimney at Northport High School to a proper height at an estimated cost of \$100,000, and to replace two (2) boilers and associated mechanical systems at Fifth Avenue Elementary School at an estimated cost of \$500,000.

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to adjourn the meeting to finalize the budget and convene into a brief special meeting to consider business items.

Unanimously carried.

At 12:57 a.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

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