

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, January 24, 2011, 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: Ms. Julia Binger, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Mr. Andrew Rapiejko, Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: None  
One board seat vacant

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools  
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 McCue, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to potential litigation, the discussion of which in public would compromise the District's position in that litigation.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 60 persons present.

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

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

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Binger, to approve all items under 4.01

- 4.01 Minutes

- 4.01.1 Special Meeting, December 20, 2010

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve all items under 4.02

- 4.02 Treasurer's Report and Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements

- 4.02.1 Treasurer's Report for the period November 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010

- 4.02.2 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for November 2010

Trustee Binger noted that there was a typo in the date on the report as it should be November 30, not November 31.

Vote on Trustee Wills motion to approve all items under 4.02 was unanimously carried.

4.03 For Information: Claims Auditor's Report for Warrants and Schedule of Claims for payments dated:

November 2010 (Wire Transfer Report), November 15, 2010 (Accounts Payable Warrant), November 5, 2010 (Payroll Trust & Agency Warrant), November 30, 2010 (Accounts Payable Warrant), November 19, 2010 (Payroll Trust & Agency Warrant), November 2010 (Claims Audit Report)

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.01.1 Mr. Izzet Mergen, Music Director K-12, introduced the following NYSSMA All State Participants: John Barry, Suzanne Farber, Elizabeth Murphy, Daniel Park, Christopher Schaefer, Ariana Warren, Jennifer Yland, Jaclyn Gradel, Julie Falango and Tyler Bonilla.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott presented the students with commendations from the Board.

5.02 Superintendent Presents on 2011-2012 Budget Process:

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, stated that the guiding principles for developing the 2011-2012 budget are to maintain and enhance quality education district-wide in the most fiscally responsible manner; examine every budget line and reduce/eliminate wherever possible; avoid spikes by including necessary appropriated fund balance; include reasonable allocations for contingent expenses; utilize reserves appropriately to stabilize the District tax rate; recognize contracts, mandates, and laws govern much of the District's operation; and meet today's needs and plan for tomorrow's challenges in this turbulent fiscal climate.

In summary of the District's expenditures, Dr. McDermott noted that expenditures are comprised of approximately 76.49% employee salaries and benefits, 6.68% Contractual Services, 6.28% BOCES Services, 4.52% Contract Transportation, 3.37% Debt Service, 1.40% Supplies, Software, Books, etc., 0.99% Interfund Transfers and 0.27% Equipment. The variables that impact the District's expenditures are pension costs, including TRS and ERS, health insurance, transportation and interest rates.

The District's revenue sources are comprised of 80.96% Tax Levy, 7.64% State Aid, 6.69% STAR, 2.37% Appropriated Fund Balance, 0.34% Appropriated Reserves, and 2.00% Miscellaneous Revenue. The variables that impact revenue include State Aid which is contingent on Governor's Executive Proposal, BOCES AID which is contingent on State formula, Assessed Valuation which is contingent on property assessments, and Interest Earnings which are subject to market fluctuations.

Dr. McDermott stated that the proposed instructional initiatives in the 2011-2012 budget are to lower class size in core academic subjects at the secondary level, to purchase and install interactive whiteboard technology in all instructional classrooms; and to provide wireless computing devices for professional staff. Superintendent McDermott stated that the targeted budget range for 2011-2012 is a proposed budget between \$150,437,086 and \$151,911,959, which relates to a proposed budget-to-budget increase between 2.0% and 3.0% and a proposed tax rate increase between 1.33% and 2.48%. Dr. McDermott noted that the tax rate range is contingent on no change to State Aid from 2010-2011 and assessed valuation.

Dr. McDermott stated that every program, grade level, course is being evaluated for consistency throughout the District. Dr. McDermott noted that the proposed budget is a living document based on current need.

There was a discussion regarding ERS and TRS projections, the initiative to lower core class sizes at the secondary level, District reserves, interactive white boards and computing devices, and health and dental insurance premiums.

#### 5.02 NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) presentation

Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, stated that the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is a research-based, not-for-profit organization with 4,400 partners worldwide with a shared vision of child-centered education. NWEA measures academic progress by identifying the instructional level of each student, identifying the areas of strength at the sub goal levels, identifying the gaps in learning down to the sub goal level, and measuring achievement and growth across time. Mr. Nelson stated that NWEA uses a RIT Scale (Rasch Unit) which is a stable, equal interval achievement scale linked to curriculum measuring item difficulty with cross graded measurement and shows growth over time. Mr. Nelson noted that NWEA is uniquely adaptive and dynamically built for all students and provides valuable learning statements to teachers, students and parents.

Mr. Nelson stated that the District's plan is to implement the NWEA testing in K-8 reading and mathematics with three testing periods during the year and one over the summer for AIS students. The testing implements are approximately one hour for each subject area and results are available within a 24-48 hour turnaround time. Mr. Nelson noted that the learning statements target classroom instruction facilitating differentiated instruction and tiered assignments tailored to where students are struggling and where they are doing well.

After a brief discussion, President Waldenburg thanked Mr. Nelson for his very informative report.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Rapiejko, to reorder the agenda and push item 13. forward and move into the Public Work Session to discuss solar energy.

Vote on Trustee Gannon's motion was as follows:

YES: Ms. Binger, Mr. Gannon, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Thompson,  
Mr. Waldenburg

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Wills

Motion passed.

#### 13. Public Work Session to discuss solar energy

Mr. Ben Waller of Mercury Solar Systems, Inc. stated that energy problems are growing and investing in solar energy would provide cost reductions through energy efficiency and drive new revenue and create income from SREC and Carbon credits. Mercury Solar Systems, Inc. is headquartered in Port Chester, NY with multiple offices through New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Mr. Waller noted that they have performed over 1500 installations in the northeast and are a single source solution for design, procurement, installation and service. Mr. Waller stated that installation can be performed through a rooftop system or a ground mount system. Solar electricity works by sunlight hitting the panels which creates DC power, inverters convert DC to AC and AC power is used inside the buildings. Mr. Waller noted that a true south, 180 degree exposure is optimum for installation. Northport High School has approximately 120,000 sq ft of open unshaded roof space with the potential for an approximately 1mW system based on space, which could produce an estimated 1,387,000 kWh. Mr. Waller noted a first year

electricity savings estimate of approximately \$141,228.95 at the high school with a 1mW system. Mr. Waller stated that a Solar PV Project could be financed through a capital investment, purchase power agreement or lease option. The cost of a turn-key 50kW PV system would be \$250,000 and LIPA rebates assigned to Mercury Solar are \$137,500 with a net school cost and capital outlay of \$112,500. Mr. Waller stated that the incentives offered are capped at a 50 kW system and schools are not eligible for tax credits or depreciation.

There was a brief discussion and President Waldenburg thanked Mr. Waller for his presentation on solar energy.

5.04 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming Board of Education meetings of February 7<sup>th</sup>, February 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, March 21<sup>st</sup>, and March 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.01 Email from UTN-EN to Members of the Board, received January 18, 2011, re: Platform of UTN-EN

Mrs. Jean Baron thanked the Board for recognizing the platform of the UTN-EN and appreciated them taking it into consideration.

President Waldenburg requested that the superintendent and administration review the suggestions in the UTN-EN's platform and give comment and feedback to the Board by February 7<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Albert Prisco Resident	Stated that the taxpayers are probably not ready for the idea of one school district in Suffolk County but suggested that the Board meet with other districts and explore the possibility of a merger or consolidation. Mr. Prisco also stated that he disagreed with the use of mediation after seeing what the union received in previous contracts. Mr. Prisco stated that the District is putting Counsel John Gross up against Sean Callahan who is a person that only does contract negotiations.

President Waldenburg stated that Mr. Gross is an exceptional man who gives his full attention and devotion to the District and provides the Board with very clear information as to how negotiations proceed, laying out exactly what each unit is focused on, taking back the interests of the Board. Mr. Waldenburg noted that there is no binding arbitration at any point.

Antoinette Blanck UTN President	Ms. Blanck stated that Mr. Callahan is a labor relations specialist working with a number different local districts and that his sole job is not to negotiate. Ms. Blanck stated that she and Mr. Callahan share the responsibility of being chief negotiator. Ms. Blanck noted that Mr. Callahan has resources from the State but so does Mr. Gross.
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Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to approve all items under 8.0 and 9.0, including Supplemental 8.01.1 (Schedule A #12-23), and Supplemental 9.07 amending the wording from "to apply for" to "to receive".

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

8.01 Personnel Schedules, each dated January 24, 2011, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.01.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff (including Supplemental A #12-23)
- 8.01.2 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff
- 8.01.3 Schedule C - Salary Transfers
- 8.01.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.01.5 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

8.02 Receiving for a second reading and rescinding the following policy:

- 8.02.1 Policy #5121 – *“Guidelines for Student Scheduling”*

At 10:30 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to extend the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

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

- 8.03.1 Policy #3301 – *“Substantive Changes in District Administrative Regulations or Procedures”*

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

- 8.04.1 Theory of Knowledge for the IB Diploma  
Richard van de Lagemaat Cambridge University Press  
IB Theory of Knowledge Grades 11/12

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

9.01 Receiving the following donations to the District:

- 9.01.1 \$1,000.00 from Mark Tracy to the Judith P. Tracy Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 9.01.2 \$200.00 from John DeFalco to the Michael C. Kauffman Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 9.01.3 \$250.00 from Eric W. Welch to the Geraldine Wolf Welch Memorial Scholarship Fund

9.02 Approving the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$567.40 from Box Tops for Education Program to be used for the purchase of supplies at Fifth Avenue Elementary School and increase the 2010-2011 budget code A2110.5030.12.0200 by \$567.40 for this purpose

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2010-2011 budget by \$567.40 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of the Fifth Avenue Elementary School participation in the Box Tops for Education Program”

9.03 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 6-p for the 2010-2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$40,635.69 and to increase the appropriations A9089.1600.00.6001 by \$33,333.68 and A9089.1601.00.6001 by \$7,302.01”

9.04 Approving a 2010-2011 SEDCAR I Sub-Allocation Contract for Services between Half Hollow Hills Central School District (Local Education Agency-LEA) and the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District (Approved Special Education Program-ASEP)

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Rapiejko to table item 9.05, 2010-2011 Instructional Service Agreement between Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and S.A.I.L. at Ferncliff Manor.

Unanimously carried.

9.05 Tabled

9.06 Authorizing the Board President to sign a contract with the following school district to provide Health Services for Northport-East Northport students attending school in that district during the 2010-2011 school year.

9.06.1 Jericho Public Schools, seventeen (17) students attending Long Island Lutheran, and two (2) students attending Solomon Schechter @ \$931.65, totaling \$17,701.35

9.07 Authorizing the administration to receive a grant from the Mentoring Partnership of Long Island in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the purpose of running SAT test prep classes for English Language Learner (ELL) students during the 2010-11 school year

Vote on Trustee Gannon’s motion to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.01.1 (Schedule A #12-23), excluding tabled item 9.05 (Instructional Service Agreement), and including amended Supplemental 9.07 was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.01 Student Activity Account Reports for November 2010 from:

- 10.01.1 Northport High School
- 10.01.2 East Northport Middle School
- 10.01.3 Northport Middle School

10.02 Schedule I – Home Instruction

10.03 Investment Report for November 2010

10.04 Collateral Report for November 2010

10.05 Bank Reconciliation Report for November 2010

10.06 Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report as of November 2010

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS
13. PUBLIC WORK SESSION – presented earlier in evening
14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Gannon to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried

At 11:00 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

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