

Public Hearing on Finalized Budget

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, May 9, 2011, beginning at 6:05 p.m., in the Board Conference Room at 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 (arrived at 6:10 p.m.), 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 McCue, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person, and matters pertaining to potential litigation and contract negotiations.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 8:05 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the large cafeteria at William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 55 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. SPECIAL REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

4.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

Mr. Robert McGrath, District Chairperson of Science and Technology Education, introduced the Technology Department Student of the Month, Cliff Fratello. Mr. McGrath stated that Cliff has been involved in the Woodworking Program for two years and his thirst for knowledge has grown more and more with each woodworking course. He has developed excellent communication skills and has collaborated on group projects. Mr. McGrath stated that this past fall Cliff assisted the building principal at Norwood Elementary School, Mr. Genovese, with a school beautification project, designing and constructing a plaque that now hangs on the school podium in Mr. Genovese's office. Mr. McGrath stated that Cliff is often referred to as the mayor of Northport High School because of his friendly demeanor and willingness to help others. Cliff has embraced life's challenges, and has channeled his talents and convictions in the finest ways. Mr. McGrath stated that Cliff is a wonderful young man, and the Technology Education Department is honored and proud to name him the department's student of the month.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Cliff on his fine achievements and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

4.02 The President of the Board appointed the following members to bring voting returns to the William J. Brosnan School (Election Headquarters) on May 17, 2011: Mrs. McNaughton – Fifth Avenue School, Mrs. McCue – Dickinson Avenue School, and the Board President will report the returns from Election Headquarters.

5. BRIEF OVERVIEW BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PROPOSITIONS ON THE MAY 17, 2011 BALLOT

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, stated that Proposition #1 is to vote on the annual school district budget for the 2011-2012 school year in the amount of \$151,178,758. Proposition #2 is to approve an expenditure out of the capital reserve fund in the amount of \$900,000 to replace two boilers at East Northport Middle School and the front stairs at the William J. Brosnan School.

In response to a question, President Waldenburg stated that both propositions are independent.

Superintendent McDermott stated that the tax levy will be 1.69% which is the lowest in the eighteen component districts in Western Suffolk BOCES.

6. COMMUNITY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSITIONS ON THE MAY 17, 2011 BALLOT

6.01 Communications received regarding the budget:

6.01.1 Email from Mr. Albert Prisco to Members of the Board, received April 19, 2011, re: reserve fund

Mr. Prisco addressed the Board and stated that Governor Cuomo said a lot of school districts have too much money in reserves and wants the money to go back to taxpayers to make taxes lower. Mr. Prisco asked the Board to explain the district's \$22 million in reserves. Mr. Prisco also stated that the board candidates should have been asked a question regarding their opinion on the teacher's contract.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that reserves are established for specific purposes and stated that the district's entire reserve fund balance is \$22 million. Ms. Molander stated that approximately \$12 million are reserved funds to be used for a specific purpose. Ms. Molander stated that the unreserved fund balance is just under \$10 million including \$3.5 million which will be returned to the taxpayers to keep the tax rate and tax levy low. The approximately \$6 million in unreserved fund is used for possible contingencies.

In response to a question, Ms. Molander stated that the \$600,000 interfund transfer is a line item in the 2011-2012 budget and will be used for field renovations at Northport Middle School and East Northport Middle School and electrical service at Northport Middle School.

7. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AND CONVENE INTO SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Binger, to adjourn the Public Hearing and to convene into Special Business Meeting.

Unanimously carried.

President Waldenburg stated that the Board has received several communications from the public regarding the middle school softball field and noted that Dr. McDermott has looked into the issues and some action has been taken.

Dr. McDermott stated that on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> she inspected both middle school softball and baseball fields with Mr. Anthony Resca, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and Mr. Drew Cronin, Athletic Director. Dr. McDermott stated that there needs to be equity among both schools and genders. Dr. McDermott stated that the following actions were taken: dragging and grooming the four fields with a new layer of clay placed on each field, spectator bleachers will be installed at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> baselines with the exception of the Northport Middle School baseball field baseline which could only accommodate one large bleacher; and signs will be placed at each field identify the school teams. Dr. McDermott stated that the delivery date of the bleachers to the District is May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cronin stated that in addition the groundskeepers have been working on the fields, fixing monuments and getting rid of rocks. Mr. Cronin noted that the fields are safe and playable.

There was a brief discussion regarding maintenance of fields, drainage, growing season and sports seasons and rotation of fields.

7.01 The following communications were received regarding the middle school softball field:

7.01.1 Email from Ms. KimMarie Ranieri, received April 14, 2011

Mr. Ralph Ranieri addressed the Board and stated that the schools are in shambles and falling apart and that there needs to be fair and equitable distribution between all the teams. Mr. Ranieri noted that the girl's softball team shared uniforms with another team.

7.01.2 Email from Mr. Tom Morrison, received April 27, 2011

7.01.3 Email from Mr. Carmine Martuscello, received April 27, 2011

7.01.4 Email from Mr. Pasquale DeSimone, received April 27, 2011

7.01.5 Email from Mr. Richard Mauro, received April 28, 2011

7.01.6 Email from Ms. Angela McCusker, received April 29, 2011

7.01.7 Email from Ms. Catherine Warnock, received May 3, 2011

Mr. Steve Navas from the Northport Little League addressed the Board and stated that the District needs to take a proactive approach to field maintenance and noted that the JV field at the high school is substandard. Mr. Navas stated that the fields are not ready for use in the spring for the athletes and noted that the field maintenance should be in March and that the fields should be raked before every game and every other day.

There was a brief discussion regarding field maintenance schedules, preventative maintenance and equity among teams.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Rapiejko, to move an item of new business forward and approve the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the school attorney, Ingerman Smith, L.L.P., to initiate legal action on behalf of the Board of Education to enforce promises and/or representation made concerning the Northport Power Plant property, including the promise not to challenge real property tax assessments on the property, against Long Island Power Authority, Long Island Lighting Company d/b/a LIPA, National Grid, US8, Inc. a/k/a National Grid USA, Inc., National Grid Generation, LLC, National Grid, P.L.C., KeySpan Corporation, KeySpan Generation, L.L.C., Keyspan Electric Services, L.L.C., KeySpan Energy Trading Services, L.L.C., and Brooklyn Union Gas, and any other predecessor or successor entities.”

Board Counsel John Gross, stated that the resolution authorizes Ingerman Smith LLP to institute a suit on behalf of the District against LIPA and various LIPA corporations on the premises that certain promises

were made to the Town of Huntington and the Northport-East Northport School District to not institute a tax certiorari proceeding until after 20123. Mr. Gross stated that he will be co-counsel along with the Town of Huntington attorney and that the town attorney is instituting a separate proceeding. The suit seeks an injunction to stop the tax certiorari proceeding.

There was a brief discussion regarding the initiation of the suit, separate litigation between the District and the Town, and costs of litigation.

Vote on Trustee Gannon's motion to move the new item of business forward and approve the resolution to authorize Ingerman Smith LLP to initiate legal action was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to approve all items under 8. and 9.

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

8.01 Minutes

- 8.01.1 Regular Meeting, February 28, 2011
- 8.01.2 Special Meeting, March 1, 2011
- 8.01.3 Special Meeting, March 7, 2011
- 8.01.4 Special Meeting, March 21, 2011
- 8.01.5 Special Meeting, March 28, 2011
- 8.01.6 Preliminary Public Hearing and Business Items, April 6, 2011
- 8.01.7 Special Meeting to Finalize Budget and Business Items, April 13, 2011
- 8.01.8 Special Meeting for BOCES Vote and Business Items, Public Work Session, April 28, 2011
- 8.01.9 Special Meeting, May 2, 2011

Trustee McCue requested that item 9.01.6 (Schedule M – Tenure) be withdrawn.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee McCue, to table item 9.01.6 (Schedule M – Tenure).

Unanimously carried.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL

9.01 Personnel Schedules, each dated May 9, 2011, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 9.01.1 Schedule A – Certified Staff
- 9.01.2 Schedule B – Non-Instructional Staff
- 9.01.3 Schedule C – Salary Transfers
- 9.01.4 Schedule D – Extra Pay
- 9.01.5 Schedule J – Committee on Special Education
- 9.01.6 Schedule M – TABLED
- 9.01.7 Schedule L – PDC UTN
- 9.01.8 Schedule K – PDC NASA

9.02 Rescinding the following policies (first reading):

- 9.02.1 Policy #4116.24 “Personnel – Duties and Responsibilities”
- 9.02.2 Policy #9410 “Date of Board Elections”
- 9.02.3 Policy #9510/9520 “Absentee Ballots/Disabled Voters”

Vote on Trustee Gannon’s motion to approve all items under 8. and 9. with the exception of tabled item 9.01.6 (Schedule M – Tenure) was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee McCue, to approve all items under 10., excluding severed items 10.06 and 10.08.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT FINANCIAL

10.01 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL:

- 10.01.1 Award – Musical Instrument Sanitizing
- 10.01.2 Award – Musical Instrument Accessories
- 10.01.3 Award – Musical Instrument Repairs

CAPITAL PROJECT:

- 10.01.4 Award – Boiler Replacement at Fifth Avenue Elementary School

10.02 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2010-2011 budget

10.03 Approving a grant donation in the amount of \$500 from Stanley and Marion Bergman Family Charitable Fund in the Long Island Community Foundation to be used for general support of the Academy of Finance

10.04 Receiving the following donations to the District:

10.04.1 \$200.00 from Robert Schildkraut to the Lt. Commander Christopher C. Tragna Memorial Scholarship

10.04.2 \$250.00 from Charles and Barbara Tragna to the Lt. Commander Christopher C. Tragna Memorial Scholarship

10.05 Approving the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$200.00 toward the purchase of supplies for Dickinson Avenue Elementary School and increase the 2010-2011 budget code A2110.5030.11.0200 by \$200.00 for this purpose.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2010-2011 budget by \$200.00 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of a donation from Newsday for participation in the FutureCorps program”

10.06 Severed

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

10.07.1 South Huntington Union Free School District, one-hundred-four (104) students attending St. Anthony's High School @ \$732.84, plus one (1) student attending St. Anthony's high School for 24 weeks @ \$439.68, and eighteen (18) students attending Long Island School for the Gifted at \$ 732.84, totaling \$89,846.16.

10.07.2 Hauppauge Union Free School District, two (2) students attending Ivy League School @ \$755.51, totaling \$1,1511.02.

10.08 Severed

10.09 Approving the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of supplies for Pulaski Road Elementary School and increase the 2010-2011 budget code A2110.5030.16.0200 by \$1,000.00 for this purpose.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2010-2011 budget by \$1,000.00 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of a donation from Lifetouch National School Studios”

Vote on Trustee Gannon's motion to approve all items under 10., excluding severed items 10.06 and 10.08, was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to approve item 10.06

10.06 Approving the following resolution:

**TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE RESOLUTION OF NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK, ADOPTED MAY 9, 2011, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000,000 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RECEIPT OF TAXES TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2012**

“RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Tax Anticipation Notes (herein called “Notes”) of Northport-East Northport Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York (herein called “District”), in the principal amount of not to exceed \$50,000,000, and any notes in renewal thereof, are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 24.00 and 39.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called “Law”).

Section 2. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) The Notes shall be issued in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes to be levied for school purposes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, and the proceeds of the Notes shall be used only for the purposes for which said taxes are levied.

(b) The Notes shall mature within the period of one year from the date of their issuance.

(c) The Notes are not issued in renewal of other notes.

(d) The total amount of such taxes remains uncollected at the date of adoption of this resolution.

Section 3. The Notes hereby authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00, 60.00 and 61.00 of the Law, the power to sell and issue the Notes authorized pursuant hereto, or any renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution, of such Notes, and to execute arbitrage certifications relative thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 5. The Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Trustee Gannon stated that he drafted a letter sponsoring an amendment to the Suffolk County Tax Act which would adjust the tax collection schedule. Mr. Gannon noted that school districts through the state issue tax warrants in August and collect the tax levies in September to coincide with the start of school. Only in Suffolk County requires that such bills be sent in December. As a result, school districts must borrow on tax anticipation notes and the interest charged could be substantial if the amount borrowed is large. Mr. Gannon noted that Suffolk County accounts for 60% of the statewide total in TAN borrowing. Mr. Gannon requested the Board solicit the assistance of the New York State School Boards Association and also place the letter on the District's website for the community to join this effort.

10.06.1 Email from Mr. Albert Prisco to Members of the Board, received May 2, 2011, re: TANs. Mr. Prisco was unavailable to address his letter.

President Waldenburg requested that a copy of Trustee Gannon's letter be forwarded to Mr. Prisco.

Vote on Trustee Gannon's motion to approve item 10.06 was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to table item 10.08 until the June 20, 2011 meeting.

Unanimously carried.

Dr. McDermott introduced Ms. Julia Lang-Shapiro, the new District Chairperson of Art, and Mr. Terrence Hinson, the new District Chairperson of Guidance

## 11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

11.01 Schedule H – Use of Facilities

11.02 Schedule I – Home Instruction

President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming meetings: Budget Vote and Election of Trustees on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Special Meeting to Accept the Voting Returns on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Regular Meetings on June 6<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>.

At 9:40 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to adjourn the meeting and to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to collective bargaining negotiations, the discussion of which in public would adversely affect the District's position in the negotiations.

Unanimously carried.

At 11:30 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

bmn