

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, September 12, 2011, beginning at 6:40 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, Mrs. Kristen Gavin, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Mr. Andrew Rapiejko, Mr. Joseph Sabia, Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mrs. Tammie Topel, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr.

Members absent: None

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
Ms. Carrie-Anne Tondo, Board Counsel

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee McCue, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to current litigation, the discussion of such in public may compromise the District's position in that litigation.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:45 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the cafeteria at William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 40 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 Topel, seconded by Trustee Binger, to approve all items under 4.01

4.01 Minutes

4.01.1 Regular Meeting, August 31, 2011

Vote on Trustee Topel's motion to approve all items under 4.01 was as follows:

YES: Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Sabia, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg

ABSTAIN: Mr. Rapiejko

Motion passed.

5. SPECIAL REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.01 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming meetings of September 26th, October 3rd and October 17th.

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools, stated that she visited all nine schools on opening day and that students were quite happy. The Superintendent noted a potential busing issue due to one of the town post offices' loss of power due to Hurricane Irene and the resulting late delivery of transportation information. Dr. McDermott thanked the Bellerose Avenue PTA President for alerting her on this issue.

Dr. McDermott stated that all nine schools conducted age appropriate, respectful 9/11 commemoration ceremonies on Friday, September 9th.

Dr. McDermott announced that Northport High School Italian Teacher, Kerri Titone, was named the National Italian American Foundation Italian Language and Culture Teacher of the Year for 2011.

In response to a question from Trustee Rapijko, the Superintendent stated that there were no significant problems caused by Hurricane Irene, just some cleanup around each building.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no letters of communication.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Tim Farrell Parent	Update regarding transportation to Stony Brook School

Dr. McDermott stated that she spoke to Dr. Agruso, Superintendent of the Kings Park School District, to see if an arrangement could be made to transport the student. Dr. McDermott stated that she heard from Dr. Agruso who stated that there are two students attending the Stony Brook School from her district and that an agreement could be drawn up to transport the Northport student to a pickup point in the Kings Park District for transportation to the Stony Brook School. Dr. McDermott stated that the cost to transport the student in collaboration with the Kings Park School District would be \$9,384.97. Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the contract would specify the terms of the agreement regarding State Aid implications.

Motion was made by Trustee Topel, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to provide transportation for a student at a cost of \$9,384.97 from a point in the Kings Park School District to the Stony Brook School and direct counsel to draft a transportation contract.

There was a discussion regarding the costs to bus the student independently which would be approximately \$18,000 - \$19,000, the costs involved in sending students to other private schools, the transportation policy and concerns about setting a precedent, providing students an educational opportunity, concerns regarding in-district students who do not qualify for busing because they live just outside the boundaries.

President Waldenburg recommended that there be another motion to table until the Board receives more financial data and consults with counsel regarding the format of an agreement. Mr. Waldenburg stated that there is a definite desire to do what is right but the Board must be mindful of their responsibilities to the District.

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee McCue to table the item until additional information is obtained and a contract is prepared by counsel.

Mr. Farrell addressed the Board and stated that he appreciates the Board's consideration of this matter and recommended that the Board table the item.

Vote on Trustee McNaughton's motion to table the item was unanimously carried.

Jim Matthews
Northport-Cow Harbor
Soccer Club

Mr. Matthews asked the Board to accommodate the Northport-Cow Harbor Soccer Club's Annual Columbus Day Tournament in letting them use the fields at 7:30 a.m. on the Sunday of the tournament. Mr. Matthews stated that this is the 24th year of the tournament which involves 355 teams and that they have used the District fields prior to 11:00 am on Sunday in all the previous years. Mr. Matthews stated that they just learned last week that they were not allowed to use the fields prior to 11:00 am on Sunday and that it would be impossible to redo the schedule.

Dennis Kropp
Northport-Cow Harbor
Soccer Club

Stated that the club is proud to host one of the largest soccer tournaments in the country and taking away three hours on Sunday would take away 1/3 of the scheduled games. Mr. Kropp stated that the club uses 45 fields including 26 district fields.

There was a discussion regarding past practices, consideration of school neighborhoods and parking, the Use of Facilities policy and application forms.

President Waldenburg stated that he would like to grant permission, regardless of application form and based on past practices and accommodations with respect to the Cow Harbor Soccer League, to permit the soccer tournament to occur early on Sunday morning October 9, 2011, in consultation with counsel and the Athletic Director.

President Waldenburg stated that the Board will get additional information and will consult with counsel to obtain an agreement with respect to Cow Harbor Soccer use of fields on Sunday of the tournament.

Debbie Sullivan
Patch.com

Asked about the status of the Audit Committee recommendation for the internal auditor

Trustee Rapiejko, Chairman of the Audit Committee, stated that the committee met on August 1, 2011 and recommended the audit firm of R.S. Abrams & Co. be appointed as the external auditor. Trustee Rapiejko stated that the audit committee met this afternoon to discuss the RFP process pertaining to the audit committee. Mr. Rapiejko stated that a motion was made to rescind the recommendation made on August 1, 2011, which was defeated 4:1. A second motion was made to recommend the Board of Education hold off on the appointment until the Audit Committee interviews one additional firm. This motion was also defeated 3:2, requiring four votes to have a positive outcome.

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to appoint R.S. Abrams & Co. as the internal auditor for the 2011-2012 school year.

There was a discussion regarding the recommendation of the audit committee. Trustee Thompson stated that she recommends that the Board direct the audit committee to interview the additional firm and then finalize their recommendation. Trustee McCue stated that she is in favor of appointing the firm recommended by the audit committee on August 1st. Trustee Sabia stated that there were eight firms who responded to the RFP and only four were interviewed, but he was very comfortable with the firm that was recommended. Trustee Topel stated that she would recommend the audit committee interview the additional firm. Vice President McNaughton stated that the consensus in the room after the interviews was that the firm recommended gave a phenomenal interview. Trustee Binger stated that based on the input of the accountants on the audit committee she thought it would be appropriate to interview one more firm.

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Topel, to sever item 8.02.1 (Policy #1500) and to approve the remaining items under 8. (8.02.2, 8.02.3, 8.02.4, 8.03, 8.04, and 8.05)

8.02 Receiving for a first reading revisions to the following policies:

8.02.1 Severed

8.02.2 Policy #2160 – *“School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics”*
(replaces the following policies: #4001 – Code of Ethics for All Officers and Employees, #9270.1 – Code of Ethics for Board Members, #4116.24 – Personnel Duties and Responsibilities, #1313 – Gifts to School Personnel, #4134.1 – Paid Tutoring by District Staff, #8230 – Remuneration and Reimbursement

8.02.3 Policy #8332 – *“District Owned Cellular Telephones”*

8.02.4 Policy #9522 – *“Pay Rates for: Continuing Education and Recreation Teachers, Temporary, Substitute and Student Non-Instructional Employees”*

8.03 Appointing Cynthia Fitzgerald as the District’s Census Enumerator

8.04 Appointing Cynthia Fitzgerald as the District’s Attendance Officer

8.05 Appointing the following firm as Broker of Record, commencing September 13, 2011, to manage insurance programs authorized by the Board of Education for the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District

- RSK LLC/Emerson Reid and Co., 174 Park Avenue, Hicksville, New York 11801

Vote on Trustee McNaughton’s motion to sever item 8.02.1 (Policy #1500) and to approve the remaining items under 8. (8.02.2, 8.02.3, 8.02.4, 8.03, 8.04, and 8.05) was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Binger, to remove item 8.02.1 – Policy #1500 “Use of District Facilities” from the agenda and discuss it at the next available work session.

Unanimously carried.

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT FINANCIAL

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.01 Schedule H – Use of Facilities

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Topel, to set aside funds not to exceed \$3,000 for registration, hotel, travel, car rental, parking and mileage expenses to send two delegates to the New York State School Boards Association 92nd Annual Convention & Education Expo from October 27-30, 2011 at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo, NY.

President Waldenburg stated that he highly recommends sending two delegates to the NYSSBA Convention to support the resolution presented by the Northport-East Northport School Board regarding the tax collection schedule.

Unanimously carried.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. McDermott stated that in an effort to streamline operations, the Board of Education meeting agendas are available online and for the community to print out before the meetings. Dr. McDermott noted that the District will no longer provide copies of the agenda items and that if anyone does not have access to a computer and printer to call the District Clerk's office to request a copy.

13. ADJOURNMENT INTO PUBLIC WORK SESSION

At 10:15 p.m., motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to adjourn the regular meeting and convene into a Public Work Session.

Unanimously carried.

13.01 Discussion of the following Board Policy:

13.01.1 Policy #5131 "Code of Conduct"

The Board discussed the suggested changes to the Code of Conduct Policy with High School Principal McLaughlin, Assistant Principals Iocolano, Keenan and McKeon, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselor Anthony Ferrandino, Sean Boylan from the Alternative High School. The discussion included minimum periods of suspension for use, possession or sale of drugs or drug paraphernalia, possession or use of alcohol, and attending school or a school sponsored event under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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

Unanimously carried.

Several Board members stated that the changes should include conditions stated under students who bring a weapon to school, specifically that the Superintendent has the authority to modify the one year suspension on a case-by-case basis.

There was a long discussion regarding current disciplinary actions when students are found with drugs or alcohol, the incorporation of the Suffolk County Police Department's policy requirements for using their narcotics detection dog, the athletic code of conduct, participation in co-curricular activities and academic eligibility.

The Board suggested that the high school administration, Drug and Alcohol Task Force and Athletic Director review the current policy and make suggestions to the Policy Committee for review.

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee McCue, to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

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

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk