

Preliminary Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, March 24, 2014, beginning at 6:05 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: Mr. David Badanes (arrived at 6:22 p.m.), Ms. Julia Binger, Mr. James Maloney, Mrs. Lori McCue, 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  
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration  
Ms. Rosemarie Coletti, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Topel, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:13 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the Cafeteria at the 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes for approval.

5. DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED 2014-2015 BUDGET

5.01 Discussion of Revenue, Fund Balance and Reserves

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated the 2014-2015 Preliminary Draft Budget totals \$158,885,342. The projected budget to budget increase is 1.46%, projected Tax Levy is increase 2.15%, NYS Allowable Levy Limit is 2.18%, Estimated Tax Rate for 2014-2015 is 2.51%, Average Prior 5-Year Tax Levy Increase 1.68% and Average Prior 5-Year Tax Rate Increase 1.79%. Ms. Molander reviewed the Projected Revenue for 2014-2015: Tax Levy \$138,838,310 – 2.15% increase, State Aid \$11,992,317 – 3.93% increase, Assigned Fund Balance \$3,000,000 – 9.90% decrease, Restricted Reserves – Retirement \$1,800,000 – 0% change, Workers' Compensation \$500,000 – 0% change, EBALR \$125,000 – 64.29% decrease, Unemployment \$125,000 – 0% change, Miscellaneous Revenue \$2,504,705 - \$18.29% decrease, equaling a 1.46% percentage change from 2013-2014. The proposed 2014-2015 Fund Balance includes Assigned Fund Balance (used to lower levy) of \$3,000,000 and Unassigned Fund Balance (no greater than 4% of 2014-2015 budget) of \$6,300,000. Ms. Molander reviewed the following restricted reserves: EBALR (Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve), ERS (Employees' Retirement System), Unemployment, Workers' Compensation, Insurance. The recommended use for the 2014-2015 reserves are as follows: EBALR - \$125,000, Retirement - \$1,800,000, Unemployment - \$125,000,

Workers' Compensation - \$500,000, totaling \$2,550,000. The 2014-2015 Benefits Budget was as follows: ERS – 3.2% increase, TRS – 9.2% increase, FICA – 6.4% increase, Health Insurances - \$10.4% increase, Workers' Compensation – 30% increase and Other Insurance Benefits – 16.9% increase. Ms. Molander reviewed the capital projects for the Board to consider for 2014-2015. The priority is to upgrade fire alarms at six elementary schools for ADA compliance.

There was discussion regarding ERS and TRS, salary requirements per month, the Gap Elimination Adjustment, EBALR, capital projects, State Aid, use of reserves, declining enrollment and reduction of 32.55 FTE.

6. BOARD AND COMMUNITY DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED 2014-2015 BUDGET

6.01 Opportunity for public input regarding the school budget for 2014-2015

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Joanne Lanzilotta Parent	Stated that she was advised that funding for Long Island High School for the Arts is being eliminated for those students that have fulfilled the required courses at the high school and asked what program will be put in place to provide a serious musical theater student with a similar intensive experience.

Ms. Irene McLaughlin stated that Musical Theater 3 and Musical Theater 4 will be added to the program at the high school. Students will have to sit through those courses first before being considered for placement outside of the District. Ms. McLaughlin noted that this is in the discussion phase and the goal is to build a better musical theater program at the high school.

Pat Gardiner Resident	Asked the following questions: what the difference was between 2.15%, 2.16% and 2.17% tax levy increase in dollars? Does the assigned fund balance have to be returned to the tax payers and does that need public approval? What is the cost of bus transportation to various "walks" as outlined in budget? What is the cost of late bus transportation at each school? How many students use this after school? What is the cost of the scoreboard for Northport High School? What maintenance/upgrades are planned for high school fields? Does the budget include any funds for this? What is the cost to print calendars? And is there any feedback from community on not mailing to homes. What is the total amount for the auditorium upgrades in all three schools? How many teachers, if any, returned to Northport Schools after last year's layoffs?
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The following was in response to Ms. Gardiner's questions: The voters approve the spending side of the budget. The cost of bus transportation to various walks is budgeted at \$4,500. The cost of the high school scoreboard is \$18,000 split between boys and girls athletics. There are no upgrades planned to the fields, just maintenance. The cost of the auditorium upgrades are as follows: \$1.27m at high school, \$220k at East Northport Middle School and \$437,500 at Northport Middle School. Three teachers returned to Northport Schools after last year's layoffs.

Ms. Molander stated she will provide the Board responses to Ms. Gardiner's questions that were not able to be answered in Update.

Tara Schaefer Parent	Stated that they were told no programs would be cut, if we are cutting cultural arts isn't that a cut in an existing program?
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Ms. McLaughlin stated that the program is not being eliminated, they are asking students to qualify for the program.

Lori Basel Resident Asked if the District could consider no longer mailing home report cards/progress reports since Parent Portal is being used as a saving in costs of postage and printing.

Antoinette Blanck Asked when the 2014-2015 school calendar will be available.

Dr. McDermott stated that it will be no the April 7<sup>th</sup> agenda for Board approval.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to approve all items under 7. and 8.

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT, GENERAL – FOR BOARD ACTION

7.01 Personnel Actions Report, dated March 24, 2014, attached and made part of the official minutes.

President Waldenburg announced the retirement of Christine Ancewicz after twenty-six years of service to the District.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT, FINANCIAL – FOR BOARD ACTION

8.01 Approving the Updated 2013-2014 Districtwide Five Year Capital Projects Improvement Plan, and authorizing the administration to continue planning for a separate proposition seeking authorization to expend funds from the capital improvements fund.

8.02 Receiving the following donations to the District:

8.02.1 \$500.00 from David L. Quigley to the Laurene G. Quigley Memorial Scholarship

8.03 Approving a Rider to Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and North Fork Express (NMS)

8.04 Approving a Rider to Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and North Fork Express (OAS)

8.05 Approving a Rider to Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and North Fork Express (NHS JFK)

8.06 Approving a Rider to Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and North Fork Express (NAS)

8.07 Approving a Rider to Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and North Fork Express (NHS Boston)

8.08 Approving a Rider to Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and North Fork Express (NHS Six Flags)

Vote on Trustee McCue’s motion to approve all items under 7. and 8. was unanimously carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming meetings of April 7<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Maloney congratulated Ms. Allison Noon for receiving the Distinguished Teacher Award.

Trustee Sabia thanked UTN President Antoinette Blanck for providing pizza for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Northport

Middle School students who were moved to the high school.

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

At 9:10 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

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