

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 23, 2012, beginning at 6:40 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, 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

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee McCue, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons. The Board convened into Executive Session because discussion of such matters in public may compromise privacy rights.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:38 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the cafeteria at 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 Sabia, to approve all items under 4.01

- 4.01 Minutes

- 4.01.1 Special Meeting, January 7, 2012
- 4.01.2 Regular Meeting, January 9, 2012

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Binger, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, 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, 2011 through November 30, 2011
- 4.02.2 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for November 2011

Unanimously carried.

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

November 2011 (Wire Transfer Report), November 15, 2011 (Accounts Payable Warrant), November 4, 2011 (Payroll Trust & Agency Warrant), November 30, 2011 (Accounts Payable Warrant), November 18, 2011 (Payroll Trust & Agency Warrant), November 2011 (Claims Audit Report)

5. SPECIAL REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.01.1 Ms. Julia Lang-Shapiro, District Chairperson of Art K-12, introduced Cassandra "Sunnie" Martensen, Art Department Student of the Month

Ms. Lang-Shapiro stated that Sunnie is an exceptionally talented young artist whose commitment, passion and dedication inspire both her classmates and teachers. Sunnie has taken Studio in Art, Drawing and Painting II, Sculpture I, and AP Drawing, where as a junior she received a 5 which is the highest mark a student can achieve. She is both a 2nd year High Level International Baccalaureate Artist and a second year Advanced Placement artist, and also a member of the National Art Honor Society. Ms. Lang-Shapiro noted that as a junior, Sunnie was the recipient of the Congressional Art Award for 2011 from Congressman Steve Israel and her artwork is currently hanging in the U.S. Capital building. Ms. Lang-Shapiro stated that Sunnie's reputation and abilities are known throughout the entire art department and her bright smile and upbeat personality, combined with her humility, allows her to grow each day and work harmoniously with her teachers and fellow artists. Sunnie has not yet decided on which school she will be attending in the fall, but among her choices are Carnegie Mellon, Rhode Island School of Design, Towson and Loyola Marymount. Ms. Lang-Shapiro noted that Sunnie will no doubt succeed in life and her professional artistic career.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Sunnie on her achievements and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

5.02 Dr. Marylou McDermott presented the Preliminary 2012-2013 Budget Overview.

Superintendent McDermott reviewed the budget cycle calendar which begins this evening with her presentation on the budget overview and ends on May 15th with the budget vote. Dr. McDermott noted that the Board will give direction on the budget at the February 6th meeting and she will present the proposed budget at the March 5th meeting. Special meetings will be held on March 19th and March 26th to discuss the proposed budget line by line. Dr. McDermott reviewed the New York State Local Property Tax Cap Law stating that the legislature approved a tax levy limit for all municipalities, including counties, cities, towns, villages and school districts setting an allowable tax levy growth at lesser than 2% or the rate of inflation. The tax cap is on the tax levy, not the tax rate and is effective for the 2012-2013 school year. A tax levy cap above 2% must be approved by greater than 60% of the voters, a super majority, and the tax levy will be frozen at the prior years if voters do not approve in two attempts. The property tax levy cap is set by the school district and the tax rate is set by the Town of Huntington. Dr. McDermott noted that a 2% property tax levy cap does not mean the increase in the tax rate is capped at 2%. The tax levy formula is the proposed budget minus anticipated sources of revenue. Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, reviewed Northport-East Northport's tax levy for 2011-2012. The tax rate is set by the Town of Huntington based on the assessed valuation of property in the Northport-East Northport School District and the tax levy set by the School district. Dr. McDermott noted that the tax rate will increase if the assessed valuation decreases and will decrease if the assessed valuation increases. The annual percent increase in the tax rate can be higher or lower than the percentage increase in the tax levy. The tax rate formula is the property tax levy divided by the taxable assessed valuation. Dr. McDermott noted that the 2009-2010 tax levy increase was 1.85% and the tax rate increase was 1.99%, in 2010-2011 the tax levy increased was 1.48% and the tax rate increase was 1.53%, and in 2011-

2012 the tax levy increase was 1.69% with a tax rate increase of 1.99%. The New York State Formula for the Calculation of the Tax Levy was reviewed by Assistant Superintendent Molander. Dr. McDermott stated that consistent with the three prior fiscal years, she will propose a tax levy increase of 2% or less and does not intend to pierce the cap through exemptions.

Ms. Molander reviewed the estimated increased District costs for 2012-2013 including ERS increase of \$478,229, TRS increase of \$1,013,921, Health Insurance increase of \$1,440,167, Utilities increase of \$129,718, Interfund Transfer to Capital Fund increase of \$400,000, Interfund Transfer to School Lunch Fund increase of \$50,000, and Special Education increase of \$62,668. Ms. Molander stated that these are preliminary estimates that increase the 2012-2013 budget by \$3,574,263.

Superintendent McDermott stated that she will present to the Board a proposed budget for 2012-2013 within the range of \$152,695,545 to \$153,807,675, with a proposed budget % range of 1.00% to 1.74%, and a proposed tax levy range of 1.15% to 2.00%. Dr. McDermott stated that the district-wide initiatives for 2012-2013 will be presented at the March 5th Board of Education meeting, after consultation with the District's administrators and teachers at their faculty and department meetings. Dr. McDermott concluded her presentation by reviewing the proposed capital projects, which must be approved by the Board of Education, and reviewing the District's future challenges including the LIPA tax certiorari and meeting the 2% or less tax levy cap with increasing expenses.

There was a brief discussion regarding the proposed budget range and its impact on the District's programs, the proposed capital projects, the LIPA tax certiorari, the gradual reduction of the \$3.5 million undesignated fund balance, the teacher contract negotiations, the assessed valuation of property, and the District's designated reserves.

5.03 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming meetings of February 6th, February 27th, March 5th, March 19th and March 26th.

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to reorder the agenda and move item 7.0 Public Participation ahead of 6.0 Communications.

Unanimously carried.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Nina Dorata Resident	Asked about the status of the internal audit report and requested that the internal audit reports from 2009, 2010 and 2011 be available on the District's website.

Trustee Rapiejko, Chairman of the Audit Committee, stated that there is an Audit Committee meeting scheduled for Monday where they will meet with the internal auditors. Mr. Rapiejko stated that the internal auditors have a schedule and plan and so far they are on schedule.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that she spoke with Ms. Feldman from R.S. Abrams who said the Audit Committee will have the report by the end of the week.

Dr. McDermott stated that the 2009, 2010 and 2011 internal audit reports will be available on the District's website.

Allison Noonan Resident	Asked if there was any grassroots community campaign regarding the LIPA reassessment and inquired about the status of the teacher negotiations.
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President Waldenburg stated that the District has reached out to local legislators regarding the LIPA reassessment and both the town and District have filed lawsuits to block it.

President Waldenburg stated that, in regards to the contract negotiations, an impasse was declared and they have been in mediation to try to come to a fair resolution.

Trustee Thompson stated that all nine board members are interested in bringing the contract negotiations to a close and have been working very diligently to do so.

Motion was made by trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee McCue, to reorder the agenda and move 6.0 Communications after 9.0 Superintendent's Report, Financial.

Unanimously carried.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to approve all items under 8.01, including Supplemental 8.01.2 (Schedule B #4)

8.01 Personnel Schedules, each dated January 23, 2012, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.01.1 Schedule A – Certified Staff
- 8.01.2 Schedule B – Non-Instructional Staff (including Supplemental B #4)
- 8.01.3 Schedule C – Salary Transfers
- 8.01.4 Schedule D – Extra Pay
- 8.01.5 Schedule J – Committee on Special Education

President Waldenburg announced the retirement of Fifth Avenue Elementary School Teacher Janice Byrne after twenty-nine years of service to the District.

Vote on Trustee McCue's motion to approve all items under 8.01 was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to approve item 8.02

8.02 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board Policy and State Regulation, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Kenneth Peters to serve as Impartial Hearing Officer for the purpose of conducting an impartial hearing in accord with Policy 4321, Program for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA”

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Topel, to approve all items under 9.0

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT FINANCIAL

9.01 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2011-2012 budget

9.02 Receiving the following donations to the District:

9.02.1 \$200.00 from Mr. John DeFalco to the Michael C. Kauffman Memorial Scholarship

9.02.2 \$200.00 from Mr. Charles Tragna to the Lt. Commander Christopher C. Tragna Memorial Scholarship

9.03 Authorizing the Board President to sign a contract with the following district to provide health services for Northport-East Northport students attending schools in that district during the 2011-2012 school year:

9.03.1 Syosset Central School District, fifteen (15) students attending Our Lady of Mercy Academy @ \$833.01, totaling \$12,495.15

Vote on Trustee Thompson's motion to approve all items under 9.0 was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to table agenda item 6.0 Communications to the next meeting.

Unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.01 Schedule I – Home Instruction

10.02 Student Activity Account Reports for November 2011 from:

10.02.1 Northport High School

10.02.2 East Northport Middle School

10.02.3 Northport Middle School

10.03 Investment Report for November 2011

10.04 Collateral Schedule for November 2011

10.05 Bank Reconciliation Report for November 2011

10.06 Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report for November 2011

10.07 School Lunch Profit and Loss Report for the months ending September 2011, October 2011, and November 2011

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Trustee Rapiejko, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to approve item 12.01

12.01 Approving the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the current members of the Board of Education's Audit Committee whose terms are expiring on April 15, 2012, remain in their respective positions until June 30, 2012”

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to remove from the table and reconsider item 6.0 Communications.

Unanimously carried.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.01 E-mail from Mr. Albert Prisco to Members of the Board, received January 17, 2012, re: “my letters and more”

Mr. Prisco addressed the Board and stated that he feels that every letter that is written to the Board of Education should be put on an agenda. Mr. Prisco asked why the audience has to fill out the public participation forms instead of just raising their hand to be recognized. Mr. Prisco stated it should be easier for the taxpayer to let the board know what their feelings are. Mr. Prisco also asked the school board to invite Dr. King to a meeting so he could explain his comments in Newsday regarding making one school district in Suffolk County.

President Waldenburg stated that every letter that comes in to the District Clerk is copied and given to all nine board members. Any letters that require board consideration or board action or question board procedures or the function of the board are added to an agenda. If a letter is received that can be addressed by the appropriate department it is handled at that level. Mr. Waldenburg stated that the agendas and backup documents are available on the District’s website prior to the meeting. Mr. Waldenburg stated that there have been many instances where during public participation many hands are raised and that it becomes difficult to keep a fair following and that is why the card system was put in place for public participation.

In response to Mr. Prisco’s request that the board invite Education Commissioner Dr. King to a meeting, President Waldenburg stated that the Board has looked at the philosophy of mergers and in Northport’s case any merger with any other district would help the other district more than Northport due to the fact that Northport has the lowest tax rate in the Town of Huntington. Mr. Waldenburg also stated that at this stage the board is not interested in pursuing a merger.

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:45 p.m., motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to adjourn the regular meeting and convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment of a particular corporation.

Unanimously carried.

At 11:50 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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