

Special Meeting to Finalize Budget

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, April 16, 2012, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Faculty Dining Room at Northport High School, 154 Laurel Hill Road, 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 appointment of particular persons.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the Large Cafeteria at Northport High School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 65 persons present.

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

President Waldenburg stated that the petitions for candidacy for the Board of Education were due to the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. today. The District Clerk stated that four candidates for the Board of Education submitted their petitions: David Badanes, James Maloney, Stephen Waldenburg and Donna McNaughton. The drawing for petitions on the ballot will take place at 8:00 a.m. April 17<sup>th</sup> in the District Clerk's office.

4. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- 4.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students:

- 4.01.1 Dr. Patricia Schmitt, District Chairperson of English, introduced Ms. Sandy Schumacher, winner of the Library Media Specialist of the Year Award from Western Suffolk BOCES

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Ms. Schumacher and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

Mr. Izzet Mergen, Director of Music K-12, stated that members of the Tour Choir have been invited to perform with the New York Arabic Orchestra by Mr. Bassam Saba, Director, on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. at the Florence Gould Hall in New York City.

Mr. Daniel Drance, Chairperson of Mathematics K-12, stated that the Town of Huntington will be honoring the Senior High School Math Team on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall for their accomplishment in

winning the Suffolk County Mathematics Championship. Mr. Drance noted that this is the second time in four years that the high school math team has won the county championship.

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, stated that the Northport High School students on trips to Nicaragua and Italy returned safely.

Dr. McDermott announced that Mrs. Donna McGinn, Northport Middle School Math Teacher, has been named the Suffolk County Mathematics Teacher's Association Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Dr. McDermott announced that Ms. Chelsea Brown, Northport Middle School Assistant Principal, has received her doctorate degree.

The Superintendent stated that she wanted to clarify what was stated at the last Board meeting regarding State Aid. Dr. McDermott stated that State Aid was up \$757,000 from last year and that had been included in crafting the proposed budget for 2012-2013. The \$20,000 reduction mentioned at the last meeting was the difference from what Governor Cuomo had proposed in January and the actual amount in the Governor's budget, which was a decrease in costs in Special Education.

Dr. McDermott stated that in another conversation with Senator Flanagan, who was in touch with Senator Marcellino, that in addition to the \$100,000 grant mentioned at the last meeting, they are guaranteeing at least another \$50,000 more.

Dr. McDermott stated that the District is always looking for economies and efficiencies throughout the budget and for the last three years positions have been reduced through attrition. Dr. McDermott noted that three staff members have left the District since December 31<sup>st</sup> and those positions will be lost through attrition, resulting in a savings of \$142,786. Dr. McDermott noted that no services will be lost.

Dr. McDermott reviewed the projected expenditures and revenues, and intended use of reserves. The District intends to use \$100,000 from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve \$1.7 million from the Employee's Retirement System Reserve, \$400,000 from the Workers' Compensation Reserve, and \$845,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund, totaling \$3,045,000. Dr. McDermott noted that the Capital Reserve Fund will be a separate proposition at the May 15<sup>th</sup> vote.

5. COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING 2012-2013 PROPOSED BUDGET – BOARD MOTION TO CONVENE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO DISCUSS PROPOSED BUDGET

5.01 Communications received regarding the proposed 2012-2013 budget:

5.01.1 E-mail from Ms. Hilary B. Hoschel, received April 3, 2012

President Waldenburg stated that Ms Hoschel supported the 2% budget.

5.01.2 E-mail from Mr. David Cucchiara, received April 3, 2012

President Waldenburg stated that Mr. Cucchiara did not want to pay higher taxes.

5.01.3 Letter from Ms. Lori Giovina, received April 11, 2012

President Waldenburg stated that Ms. Giovina was in support of the proposed budget of slightly less than 2%.

5.01.4 E-mail from Mrs. Alex Meadows, received April 16, 2012

President Waldenburg stated that Mrs. Meadows was in support of the 2% budget.

5.01.5 E-mail from Mr. Paul Schatz, received April 16, 2012

President Waldenburg stated that Mr. Schatz was in support of the proposed budget.

5.02 At 8:01 p.m., motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee McCue, to convene into Committee-of-the-Whole to informally discuss the proposed 2012-2013 budget and resolutions.

Unanimously carried.

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

Vote on Trustee Topel's motion was as follows:

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

Motion passed.

6. MOTION TO RECONVENE INTO SPECIAL MEETING

At 12:15 p.m., motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to come out of Committee-of-the-Whole and reconvene into the Special Meeting.

Unanimously carried.

President Waldenburg stated that the Board was ready to vote on a budget amount of \$153,941,712 which included a \$75,000 reduction in expenditures and a \$225,000 increase in the use of reserves. The increased use of reserves included increasing the use of EBALR to \$125,000, increasing the use of ERS to \$1.8 million and increasing the use of Workers' Compensation to \$500,000.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the budget amount of \$153,941,712 resulted in a budget-to-budget increase of 1.83%, a tax levy increase of 1.68%, an approximate change in the tax rate of 1.72%, which equates and increase to the average home assessed at \$3,800.00 to \$106.04 per year. Ms. Molander stated that the tax levy amount is \$133,649,723.

The Board received additional public input regarding the proposed 2012-2013 budget:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
James Maloney Resident	Asked what was involved in the renovations of the bathrooms at Ocean Avenue Elementary School and if the installation of additional cameras will create a reduction in insurance.

Trustee Thompson stated that in the girls' bathroom there were two stalls and two sinks but was not familiar with the boys' bathroom.

Ms. Molander stated that with the previous camera installation there was no reduction in insurance but she would check again with the insurance company.

Jennifer Thompson Trustee	Asked Trustee Sabia if there was something that could be done that would garner his support of the budget.
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Trustee Sabia stated not at this particular time.

David Badanes Resident Stated that the intended use of reserves did not equal \$3 million that was noted in Dr. McDermott's presentation.

Dr. McDermott stated that it didn't include the Capital Reserve Fund which has to be a separate proposition.

Antoinette Blanck UTN President Thanked the Board for their dialogue tonight and stated that the community needed to hear it. Ms. Blanck stated that she appreciated the Board's effort and the variety of thought processes.

Debbie Sullivan Resident Asked if the Board would consider setting up a budget committee that would focus on certain areas of the budget. Ms. Sullivan stated that the Board would get information ahead of time and that it would be a year long process.

President Waldenburg stated that it might be something that the Board could consider after the budget vote is done.

James Maloney Resident Stated that students were shut out of clubs at Norwood Avenue Elementary School and suggested that volunteers could run clubs.

Dr. McDermott stated that sections can always be added to clubs but it depends on teacher participation. Dr. McDermott stated that they could possibly use teacher aides or teaching assistants but that it is part of the teachers' contract.

Robert Dimond Resident Stated that he is not in favor of using the reserves but he is in agreement with some of the Board members that would like to see spending cuts. Mr. Dimond stated that items that are routinely over budgeted should be identified and cut to lessen the tax burden on the taxpayer.

Dr. McDermott stated that there were reasons for under-spending including ARRA money in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, and a reduction of 12.4 teachers in 2010-2011 which resulted in a savings of over \$1 million. Dr. McDermott stated that the District is looking in earnest to reduce costs and in reducing costs the money is either given back to the taxpayers or used to fund reserves.

6.01 Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to approve the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvements at the District's facilities, including replacement of univents at East Northport Middle School; replacement of univents at Northport Middle School; replacement of two (2) boilers with gas conversion, and associated mechanical systems at Bellerose Avenue Elementary School; installation of gas generator with gas conversion at William J. Brosnan School; repair and painting of auditorium ceiling, replacement of auditorium seating and floor, and installation of air conditioning in the auditorium at Northport High School; and renovation of lavatories at Ocean Avenue Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2)); and

WHEREAS, routine activities such as renovations to, or expansions of existing public school facilities by less than 10,000 square feet are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(8)); and

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the capital improvement projects for replacement of univents at East Northport Middle School; replacement of univents at Northport Middle School; replacement of two (2) boilers with gas conversion, and associated mechanical systems at Bellerose Avenue Elementary School; installation of gas generator with gas conversion at William J. Brosnan School; repair and painting of auditorium ceiling, replacement of auditorium seating and floor, and installation of air conditioning in the auditorium at Northport High School; and renovation of lavatories at Ocean Avenue Elementary School are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1),(2) and (8) of the SEQR Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the capital improvements outlined above are Type II Actions, which require no further review under SEQR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.”

Unanimously carried.

#### 7. FINALIZATION OF PROPOSITIONS

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee McNaughton to approve the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Annual School District Budget for the 2012-2013 School year in the amount of \$153,941,712 and the necessary taxes therefor be approved”

Vote on Trustee Waldenburg’s motion was as follows:

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

NO: Mr. Sabia

Motion passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to approve the following resolution:

“SHALL the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free District be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$845,000.00 from its two Capital Reserve Funds as follows: \$202,573 from the Capital Reserve Fund established on May 20, 1997 and \$642,427 from the Capital Reserve Fund established on May 20, 2008 for the following purpose(s): replacement of the univents at East Northport Middle School; replacement of the univents at Northport Middle School; and replacement of two (2) boilers with gas conversion, and associated mechanical systems at Bellerose Avenue Elementary School, including all ancillary and incidental work required to be performed. Since the funds to be expended hereunder are from the Capital Reserve Funds, approval of this proposition will not require a tax levy upon the real property of the district.”

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee McCue, to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.01.2 (Schedule B #3-4)

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT, GENERAL

8.01 Personnel Schedules, each dated April 16, 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 #3-4)
- 8.01.3 Schedule D – Extra Pay

8.02 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the following textbooks:

- 8.02.1 On Core Mathematics 7 Math 7, Grade 7  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- 8.02.2 On Core Mathematics 8 Algebra 8, Grade 8  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- 8.02.3 On Core Mathematics, Algebra 1 Algebra (Special Education Self  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Contained) Grade 10-11

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT FINANCIAL

9.01 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

- 9.01.1 AWARD: Medical Supplies & Equipment
- 9.01.2 AWARD: Physical Education Supplies & Equipment
- 9.01.3 AWARD: Athletic Supplies & Equipment

9.02 Receiving the following donations to the District:

9.02.1 A TI-84 Plus Calculator from Ms. Carolyn Morganstern, value estimated by the donor to be approximately \$100.00

9.02.2 \$100.00 from Anna and Charles Hernandez and \$50.00 from Frances and Bertram Delmage to the Lt. Christopher Tragna Memorial Scholarship

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

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

9.04.1 Westbury Union Free School District, one (1) student attending Holy Child Academy @ \$799.31, totaling \$799.31

9.04.2 Huntington Union Free School District, six (6) students attending St. Patrick's School @ \$711.07, totaling \$4,266.42

9.04.3 South Huntington Union Free School District, twenty (20) students attending Long Island School for the Gifted @ \$807.94, ninety-eight (98) students attending St. Anthony's High School @ \$807.94, one (1) student attending St. Anthony's High School for twenty-two (22) weeks @ \$20.72, and one (1) student attending St. Anthony's High School for twenty-four (24) weeks @ \$20.72, totaling \$96,290.04

9.05 Approving a Special Education Services Contract between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the Board of Education of the Harborfields Central School District for the 2011-2012 school year

9.06 Approving a Special Education Services Contract between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District for the 2011-2012 school year

9.07 Approving a License and Operating Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and SCOPE Education Services for the After School Child Care and Extended Kindergarten Programs

Vote on Trustee McNaughton's motion to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.01.2 (Schedule B #3-4) was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.01 Schedule I – Home Instruction

10.02 Proposed 2012-2013 school hours for the District's nine schools as well as Trinity Regional School East Northport and Long Island Lutheran Elementary School

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming meetings of April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and May 15<sup>th</sup>

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

Unanimously carried.

At 12:50 a.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk