

Public Work Session

A Public Work Session of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, September 24, 2012, beginning at 6:10 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, 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  
Dr. Thomas Caramore, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons. These matters cannot be discussed in public session because it may compromise privacy rights.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:20 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were 40 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 Dr. Patricia Schmitt, English Chairperson K-12, introduced Kimberly Washburn, English Department Student of the Month.

Dr. Schmitt stated that Kimberly's schedule and high school transcript highlight her diverse academic interests. Kimberly has enrolled in Higher Level IB English classes and maintains an impressive grade point average in other challenging classes such as Calculus, French AP, AP Design, and Physics. Additionally, Kimberly participates in the marching band program and demonstrates her commitment to citizenship through her membership in the Key Club and Buddy Club. Dr. Schmitt stated that Kimberly has indicated her aspirations in the field of biology at the collegial level. Dr. Schmitt noted that Kimberly's English teachers recognize and appreciate her work ethic, work habits, and active participation in English class. Dr. Schmitt stated that the English Department proudly presents Kimberly Washburn as the English Department's Student of the Month.

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

4.02 Ms. Julia Lang-Shapiro, Visual Arts Chairperson K-12, introduced Luisa Jaramillo, Visual Arts Department Student of the Month.

Ms. Lang-Shapiro stated that Luisa is an Advanced Placement Artist and International Baccalaureate Artist who has challenged and excelled in the most rigorous courses in the department. Luisa received a 5 for her AP Drawing portfolio, as well as a Scholastic Gold Key for Painting and a Bronze Key for Drawing. She has been a member of the Art Honor Society for three years, rising to a top office position and has been chosen as Co-President of the Northport Chapter of the National Art Honor Society. Ms. Lang-Shapiro noted that Luisa's artwork has been exhibited at the Northport Village Hall Art Show, Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, and at the AP Art Exhibition at the Art League of Long Island. Ms. Lang-Shapiro stated that Luisa's exemplary work ethic, exquisite craftsmanship, enormous passion for art and her love for the Art Department made her the obvious choice for the 2012-2013 Art Department Student of the Month.

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

4.03 Ms. Robin Rann, Mathematics Chairperson K-12, introduced Justin Riggs, Mathematics Department Student of the Month

Ms. Rann stated that Justin is an IB Diploma candidate who not only challenges the most rigorous coursework available but also excels in his performance. Justin has a deep insight and superior problem-solving skills along with a yearning to know more and a commitment to pursue this desire. Ms. Rann stated that Justin wrote his first Math Fair paper in the eighth grade on the topic of Euclidean Geometry which garnered him a Bronze medal in the final round. Since then he has been awarded a Silver medal every year for his research on topics such as imaginary numbers and hyper-operations. Justin is currently investigating the topic of infinite titration and plans to write his IB extended essay on this subject. Justin's recognitions also include participation in the prestigious Institute of Creative Problem Solving and on winning teams at the Suffolk County Math Tournament. Ms. Rann noted that Justin has been one of Northport's top Mathletes and he also enjoys competing in Science Olympiads. Justin is also involved in his church's choir, the high school jazz band, and multiple fundraisers for the hungry and homeless. Beyond high school, Justin wishes to study mathematics and visualizes himself teaching at the university level. Ms. Rann stated that Justin is a source of pride for the school and the community.

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

Dr. McDermott made a statement about misleading information regarding the District's reserve funds that was in an editorial in a local paper. Dr. McDermott stated that the District works very hard to manage funds and how those funds are spent and that it is important that accurate information is available for the public. Dr. McDermott noted that it was stated in the editorial that 8.9 million dollars was allocated for the ERS reserve in the year ending June 30, 2010. Dr. McDermott stated that was not accurate. The ERS reserve was established in June of 2010 and the first allocation was 4.4 million dollars. In May of 2011, 1.7 million dollars was appropriated for ERS thereby lowering the tax levy for the 2011-2012 budget, leaving a balance of 2.7 million. In June of 2011, 3.6 million was allocated to the ERS reserve bringing the balance to 6.3 million dollars. In May of 2012, 1.8 million dollars was appropriated for ERS thereby lowering the tax levy for the 2012-2013 budget, leaving a balance of 4.5 million. Dr. McDermott stated that the ERS reserve is currently at approximately the same level as when it was established and the District's expected obligation for the 2013-2014 school budget is at least 3.1 million dollars. Dr. McDermott also noted that the editorial stated that the District should remove funds from the ERS Reserve and re-allocate those monies to the new Capital Reserve. Dr. McDermott stated that based on information from the Comptroller's Office, forecasting significant increases in employer contributions through 2016, it would not be prudent to re-allocate these funds at this time. In addition, the only way to re-allocate money from the ERS Reserve would be to dissolve the reserve by Board resolution after a public hearing.

Mr. Matt Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, reviewed the 2012-2013 District-wide Goals and Objectives. The first initiative is to align curricular, instructional and assessment

efforts across the District to support the New York State Common Core Standards, new State assessments, and the requirements of the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR), including creation of local assessments and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). The second initiative is to continue to move forward with the District's differentiated instruction efforts, expanding "tiered assignments" and "anchor activities" district-wide. The third initiative is to continue developing a "Culture of Respect" in all schools, including district-wide training on DASA legislation and the development of DASA teams in all schools.

Ms. Julia Lang-Shapiro, Visual Arts Chairperson K-12, presented the 2012-2013 Art Department Instructional Initiatives. Ms. Lang-Shapiro stated that the 2012-2013 Curriculum Development Goal is to develop Anchor Activities in Art that accommodate students' levels of readiness, interest and learning styles. Student growth will be measured through class critiques, peer evaluations, student-teacher conferencing and portfolio review. Ms. Lang-Shapiro stated that the 2012-2013 Art Department instructional initiative is to create professional development opportunities which focus on enhancing techniques and skills in the fine arts, media arts and technology including Moodle workshops, digital portfolios and mixed media processes. Ms. Lang-Shapiro noted that the Visual Arts program at Northport High School has been recognized at both the state and national levels as a program of excellence.

The Board Trustees thanked Ms. Lang-Shapiro for her informative report.

Dr. Patricia Schmitt, English Chairperson K-12, presented the 2012-2013 English Department Instructional Initiatives. Dr. Schmitt stated that the first departmental initiative is to design, develop and implement units of study that align with the rigorous standards of the Common Core emphasizing college and career readiness. The second initiative is to further develop and enhance differentiation through the implementation of anchor and tiered activities following the principles of backward design. The third initiative is to establish and implement essential learning goals and targets (Student Learning Objectives) and evaluate the validity, reliability, and comparability of pre and post assessments. The fourth initiative is to continue to design and create units of study that encourage tolerance and awareness of social injustice. Dr. Schmitt stated that the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade College Prep will build pathways to college and career readiness by increasing rigor of writing expectations, including lab sections for students that require additional support, implement new units of study developed over the summer that address the rigor of the Common Core Standards, and provide deeper and richer assessment that relies on analytic skills, multiple sources, research, and informational reading and writing.

There was a discussion regarding annual measurable objectives, benchmark pre-assessments, midterm scores, Regents scores, Student Learning Objectives, anchor activities, differentiated instruction, tiered level assignments, and strategies for challenging students.

The Board Trustees thanked Dr. Schmitt for her informative report.

Ms. Robin Rann, Mathematics Chairperson K-12, presented the 2012-2013 Mathematics Department Instructional Initiatives. Ms. Rann reviewed the following initiatives: Design, develop and begin to implement rigorous units of mathematical study and assessment tasks that align with the Common Core standards; use research to assess the current tracked program model and begin discussions about heterogeneous vs. homogeneous groupings within an accelerated model; further develop tiered assignments and anchor activities that give students opportunities to engage in the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice and that reinforce the Common Core Instructional Shifts; fully implement Common Core State Standards in Grades 3-6 using Go Math/Think Central resources and in Grades 7-8 using On Core resources; and engage students in collaborative classroom instruction and activities that facilitate constructivist learning, risk-taking and development of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, while also fostering a community of caring.

There was a discussion regarding Student Learning Objectives, state assessments, pre-assessments, Go Math, online resources, and Common Core Standards.

The Board Trustees thanked Ms. Rann for her informative report.

President Waldenburg asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of beloved Northport High School Social Studies Teacher David Trachtenburg.

5. DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING BOARD POLICIES

5.01 Policy #9511 – Pay Rates for: Continuing Education and Recreation Teachers and Temporary, Substitute and Student Non-Instructional Employees

The Board reviewed the revisions to the policy and recommended that the Department of Human Resources review the current salaries in the policy and recommend appropriate changes if necessary. The Board also recommended that this policy be reviewed by administration on an annual basis.

5.02 Policy #6240 – Investment Policy

The Board reviewed the revisions to the policy and recommended that it be placed on the next business agenda for a first reading.

5.03 Policy #6690 – Audit Committee

The Board reviewed the revisions to the policy and recommended that it be placed on the next business agenda for a first reading.

5.04 Policy #6700 – Purchasing Policy

The Board reviewed the revisions to the policy and recommended that it be placed on the next business agenda for a first reading.

5.05 Policy #2300 – Board of Education Meetings – Types, Agendas, Procedures and Minutes

Vice President Thompson stated that this policy was recommended to be reviewed with regards to the adjournment time. Mrs. Thompson requested that the policy review be withdrawn stating that the Board should be given time to assess the new format of the Board meetings and see how effective the changes are before any policy changes be made.

Trustee Badanes stated that it is great that the Board made changes to the format of the meetings but he is still recommending that the adjournment time be changed.

Trustee Topel recommended that the policy reflect the agenda for the Public Work Sessions and that Communications and Public Participation take place at the beginning of those meetings.

Trustee Binger requested a review of the procedures regarding the Minutes of the Board meetings.

Several Trustees stated that any changes in the policy should be held off until the Board has time to assess the effectiveness of the changes.

Vice President Thompson recommended that the policy be reviewed by the Policy Committee at its next meeting in November and then be brought to a future Work Session for the Board's review.

5.06 Policy #5405 – Wellness Policy

Trustee Maloney stated that he asked that this policy be reviewed by the Board because of concerns from parents regarding bringing food into the classrooms for celebrations.

Vice President Thompson suggested that the Board consider tabling the discussion of this policy and the Student Health Services Policy. Mrs. Thompson stated that the administration will be looking at these two policies to make sure that they don't conflict with each other and will bring recommended revisions to the Policy Committee for their meeting in November. Mrs. Thompson requested that Board trustees submit suggested changes to the policy as well.

#### 5.07 New Policy – Student Health Services

In response to questions regarding parental concerns about bringing food into the classrooms for celebrations, Dr. Marylou McDermott stated that it was a procedural change at the elementary levels due to increasing concerns about food allergies.

#### 6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Board

#### 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Julia Binger Board Trustee	Stated that Speak Up Long Island, an organization against drug abuse, will be holding an event in Huntington on Friday, September 28 <sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church. Ms. Binger stated that there has been a 52% increase in prescription drug and heroine related deaths. Ms. Binger stated that there will be personal stories of substance use and loss and a Candlelight Vigil March will take place from St. Patrick's Church to Huntington Town Hall to commemorate those who have lost their lives.
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Ranieri Parents	Requested the Board restore the previously assigned bus stop at 150 Waterview Street West. Mr. and Mr. Ranieri stated that the stop has been an assigned bust stop for their four children for many years, a field study was done by the former transportation supervisor who determined that the corner of Hewitt & Waterview St. West was unsafe due to the extreme sharp angle turn and many blind spots, and their two daughters are the only children who ride the bus and live on Waterview St. West.

There was a discussion regarding the procedure involved in evaluate routes and selecting where stops will be and the study performed by the former transportation supervisor.

Ms. Patricia McGrane, Transportation Supervisor, stated that the stop in question was looked at and it was determined by the safety committee that the stop was safe. Ms. McGrane noted that there are other students registered for that stop.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Topel, to reinstate the bus stop at their house until the previous safety study is found and direct Transportation Supervisor McGrane investigate the stop again.

There was additional discussion regarding the safety study, a safety investigation of the stop, and the safety committee.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Topel, to call the question.

Vote on Trustee Thompson's motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Maloney, Mrs. McCue, Mr. Sabia, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg  
NO: Mr. Badanes, Ms. Binger, Mr. Rapiejko

Motion passed.

Vote on Trustee Sabia's motion to reinstate the bus stop at their house until the previous safety study is found and direct Transportation Supervisor McGrane investigate the stop again was as follows:

YES: Mr. Maloney, Mr. Sabia, Mrs. Topel  
NO: Ms. Binger, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Waldenburg  
ABSTAIN: Mr. Badanes, Mrs. McCue

Motion failed.

Dr. McDermott stated that the transportation department will look for the report by the former transportation supervisor and provide it to the Board on Friday. In addition, Ms. McGrane will check the stop.

Rachel Friedman Parent Stated that she was not happy with the timing of the Connect-Ed call regarding the vote which was placed on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at approximately 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Friedman stated that this was the beginning of Rosh Hashanah and that many families were celebrating the holiday with family members. Mrs. Friedman stated that the call should have been placed during the day on Sunday or Tuesday evening.

Superintendent McDermott stated that, out of respect for the Jewish community, she consulted with Rabbi Silverman to make sure the timing of the phone call was appropriate. Dr. McDermott stated that Rabbi Silverman advised her that it would be better to place the call on Sunday before sundown. Dr. McDermott apologized for the timing of the call and said that it was not done without consultation with Rabbi Silverman.

At 10:39 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to extend the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

Nina Dorata Resident Stated that the Audit Committee policy has omissions that are indicated in the law. Dr. Dorata stated that the Audit Committee must review every corrective action plan developed by the District, must review the audits by the State Comptroller's Office, and with respect to the composition of the audit committee that it is advisable the committee have accounting and auditing expertise. Dr. Dorata stated that these are found in Education Law 2116c.

Rachel Friedman Parent Stated that she had concerns about the change in procedure of bringing food into the classrooms for birthday celebrations. Mrs. Friedman stated that she felt the District went from one extreme to another and that there should be a compromise.

Dr. McDermott stated that the procedures were changed to have every parent decide for his or her own child, letting each child bring in their own food and not have food provided by one parent. The idea of the birthday is to honor the child's day. Dr. McDermott stated that all six elementary principals met and agreed on this.

Antoinette Blanck UTN President Stated that the food procedure has been a hot topic even among teachers. Ms. Blanck stated that in fairness and equity the teachers need to be involved in these

discussion as well and recommended that the administration in each of the nine buildings have conversations with the teachers regarding this topic.

Dr. McDermott stated that in conversation with the principals, they had received input from the teachers. Dr. McDermott stated that there needs to be consistency throughout the District.

8. ADJOURNMENT

President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming meetings of October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Badanes, to adjourn the Public Work Session.

Unanimously carried.

At 11:00 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

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