

Public Work Session and Special Business Meeting

A Public Work Session of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, January 28, 2013, 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, 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 Sabia, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons and matters involving a possible criminal investigation.

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 approximately 35 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 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

4.01.1 Mr. Robert McGrath, Science and Technology Chairperson K-12, introduced Kevin Clare, Science Department Student of the Month.

Mr. McGrath stated that Kevin has taken all four core science courses, four years of science research, advanced placement courses and he is currently enrolled in the second year of IB Physics. Kevin has scored with distinction in every course and earned a remarkable nine credits in science over a four year period. Mr. Horan, Kevin's teacher of research, notes that Kevin ranks among the top 5 of the most outstanding research students in the District's history and there is no doubt he is one of the most self-motivated and dedicated students. Mr. McGrath stated that Kevin is currently a member of the A Midwinter Night's Dream committee and has worked at Columbia University's Movement Disorder Division of Neurology conducting research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Under the direction and mentorship of Columbia researchers, Kevin began to investigate the role of non-neuronal cells which may contribute to ALS-related neuro-degeneration. Kevin is also an integral member of the High School Science Olympiad and Protein Modeling Challenge teams. Mr. McGrath stated that the Northport High School Science Department is proud to award the Science Student of the Month to Kevin Clare and his remarkable accomplishments will serve as an inspiration to all Northport-East Northport students for many years to come.

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

4.01.2 Mr. Robert McGrath, Science and Technology Chairperson K-12, introduced Andrew Hearn, Technology Department Student of the Month.

Mr. McGrath stated that over the past four years Andrew has taken eight different technology courses scoring with distinction in each. His coursework in technology has motivated Andrew to study many facets of engineering, woodworking, and electrical engineering. Andrew is currently taking AP Calculus and took Honors Physics last year. Mr. McGrath stated that Andrew's hard work and persistence in both courses exemplify his strong work ethic and desire to succeed. One of Andrew's technology teachers stated that he has extraordinary work habits and ethics, noting that Andrew is a mature, conscientious, and hardworking student. Mr. McGrath noted that in addition to Andrew's interest in pursuing Technology and Engineering courses, he is an active member of the woodworking club. As President of the Technology Honor Society, Andrew played an integral role in creating and constructing a new sign for the Ocean Avenue Elementary School as part of his school community project in the advanced technology studies. Andrew is interested in a career in electrical or mechanical engineering and has applied to Widener University, University of New Haven, and Manhattan College. Mr. McGrath stated that the Technology Education Department is proud to congratulate Andrew Hearn as the Northport High School Technology Education Student of the Month.

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

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the District's Fund Balance and Reserves, updating her presentation of January 14, 2013. As of June 30, 2013, the assigned fund balance (to lower tax levy) is estimated to be \$3,775,784, the assigned fund balance (encumbrances) \$1,373,444, and the unassigned fund balance (no greater than 4% of the 2013-2013 budget) \$6,147,283, totaling \$11,296,511. The dollar change to the Restricted Reserves as of June 30, 2013 are as follows: EBALR -\$524,993, ERS -\$2,854,757, Unemployment +\$3,704, Workers' Compensation -\$919,851, Insurance +190, subtotaling -\$4,295,697, and Capital Reserve (requiring voter approval) +\$1,256,433. The dollar change to the Accounting Reserves (GASB) as of June 30, 2013 are as follows: Advances (School Lunch) -\$80,361, Pre-Paid Expenses (Health Insurance) +\$1,397,238, subtotaling +\$1,316,877. Dr. McDermott updated the Estimated Revenue for 2013-2014 noting a change in the Tax Levy of 5.48%, and a change in State Aid of -1.42%. The Appropriated Reserve Spending for 2013-2014 is estimated as follows: ERS \$1,800,000 (District 2013-2014 obligation \$3,159,347), Workers' Compensation \$500,000 (District 2013-2014 obligation approximately \$850,000), and EBALR \$125,000 (District 2013-2014 obligation depending upon the number of retirees), totaling \$2,425,000.

4.02 Board discussion and action to provide the Superintendent with direction for the development of the proposed budget for 2013-2014

At 7:40 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Binger, seconded by Trustee Badanes, to convene into committee-of-the-whole to informally discussion direction for the development of the proposed budget for 2013-2014

Unanimously carried.

At 9:00 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Maloney to come out of committee-of-the-whole and reconvene in public session.

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Topel, to direct the administration to craft a budget that falls within the guidelines of the tax cap.

Vote on Trustee Thompson's motion was as follows:

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

Motion failed.

Motion was made by Trustee Badanes, seconded by Trustee Topel, to direct the administration to craft a budget reflecting an increase to the tax levy in the range of 2 to 3%.

Vote on Trustee Badanes motion was as follows:

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

Motion failed.

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Badanes, to direct the Superintendent and the administration to create a budget not to exceed a budget to budget increase of 4%, reflecting a budget of \$160.1 million. In addition, the administration must also present a priority list of those items that might be reduced from the budget.

Vote on Trustee Waldenburg's motion was as follows:

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

Motion failed.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Topel to direct the administration to craft a budget that does not exceed a 3.5% increase in the tax levy.

Vote on Trustee Thompson's motion was as follows:

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

Motion was made by Trustee Badanes, seconded by Trustee Waldenburg, to direct the administration to craft a budget with a 3% budget to budget increase, including a priority list to reduce expenditures.

Vote on Trustee Badanes motion was as follows:

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

Motion failed.

At 9:30 p.m., a five minute recess was called by President Waldenburg.

At 9:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Topel, to direct the administration to craft a budget with an increase of \$3 million to the 2011-2012 budget, reflecting a 2% increase.

Vote on Trustee Sabia's motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Sabia, Mrs. Topel

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

Motion failed.

Motion was made by Trustee Binger, seconded by Trustee Badanes, to direct the Superintendent to craft a budget that reflects a 3.1% budget to budget increase from 2011-2012, including a priority list of reductions.

Vote on Trustee Binger's motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Badanes, Ms. Binger, Mr. Maloney, Mrs. McCue, Mr. Rapiejko, Mr. Waldenburg

NO: Mr. Sabia, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Topel

Motion passed.

4.03 Review of Instruction Initiatives in the following area:

4.03.1 Science

Mr. Robert McGrath, Science and Technology Chairperson K-12, presented the 2013-2014 Science Department Instructional Initiatives. Mr. McGrath reviewed the following 2011-2012 Instructional Initiatives: Utilizing Moodle to post Anchor Activities and revise current elementary science curricula to include opportunities that explore and discover the scientific method, continue to expand professional development opportunities through instructional technology that encourages the expansion of elementary science fairs in each building, formulate guidelines and procedures for implementing an all Regents level curriculum in eighth grade beginning in September 2012, and utilize professional development to design and implement new scientific investigation(s) courses that promote a culture of academic respect across the grade levels.

Mr. McGrath stated that the 2012-2014 Science Instructional Initiatives at commencement level science including continuing to utilize professional development to design and implement new scientific investigation(s) courses that promotes a culture of academic respect across the grade levels, develop Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and pre/post assessments that align with current curriculum and meet the requirements of the NYS APPR legislation, and continue to seek to improve the level of mastery in Chemistry. The 2013-2014 Science Instructional Initiatives at Intermediate Level Science are to implement Living Environment curriculum in eighth grade, including networking between middle school and high school teachers on an ongoing basis, and to continue high achievement in Intermediate Level Science. The 2013-2014 Science Instructional Initiatives at Elementary Level are to begin pilot implementation of a new K-5 Interactive Science curriculum, and utilizing Common Core Learning Standards in ELA and Mathematics more fully with science learning as a greater use of comprehension and writing assessments leads to better understanding for students within and across the disciplines.

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

Unanimously carried.

Mr. McGrath reviewed the Grade Four Science Assessment Data, the Grade Eight Intermediate Level Science Assessment Data, the Regents Exam Data, the Advanced Placement Science Exam Data, and the International Baccalaureate Science Exam Data.

There was a discussion regarding differentiated instruction and activities, science assessment data, participation in science fairs, Living Environment, Advanced Placement Environmental Science, and Science course options for middle school students.

The Board thanked Mr. McGrath for his informative presentation.

4.04 Update on the Community Drug and Alcohol Task Force was postponed.

4.05 For Information: Upcoming Meetings

The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming meetings of February 11th, March 4th, March 11th and March 18th.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Board

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Name

Comment

Robert Dimond
Parent Asked if the proposed budget could include line item allocations for previous years including actual amounts spent.

President Waldenburg asked if the administration could make additional information available in electronic format on the District's website and asked that the Administration let the Board know by February 11th what the impact is in requesting these reports.

Carrie Pearlman
Parent Inquired if the food distribution policy was district-wide or school specific, and stated that the policy is vital to the safety of the children and hoped that it would become a district-wide policy.

Dr. McDermott stated that the new food distribution is a procedure that is supposed to be consistent among the six elementary schools. Dr. McDermott noted that there has been some discussion with the elementary principals regarding food for specific celebrations in the schools, noting that the food would be provided through School Lunch. Dr. McDermott stated that there is no intention of reversing the procedure regarding birthday celebrations.

Donna Mullin
District Nurse Asked if the food distribution will become a Board policy.

Vice President Thompson stated that the Policy Committee has been discussing this at its meetings and is awaiting more direction from District Counsel. Mrs. Thompson stated that the policy has to be a K-12 policy and the Board cannot write a policy that is unenforceable. Mrs. Thompson noted that the bottom line is that food distribution is not a policy, it is a procedure.

7. ADJOURN PUBLIC WORK SESSION AND CONVENE INTO SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

At 11:00 p.m., the Board adjourned the Public Work Session and convened into a Special Business Meeting.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT, FINANCIAL

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

8.01 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2012-2013 budget

8.02 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby gratefully accepts a donation of \$1,500 from Northport-East Northport residents whose names are more fully set forth in the attached document, to be applied to the exam fees for the May 2013 IB Americas Exam and increase the 2012-2013 budget code A2110.4010.30.2803 by \$1,500 for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2012-2013 budget by \$1,500 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of donations from Northport-East Northport residents.”

8.03 Receiving the following donations to the District:

8.03.1 \$25.00 from Dana Soshnick-Cavanagh and James F. Cavanagh to the David A. Trachtenberg Memorial Scholarship

8.03.2 \$5,000.00 from Steven L. Ingerman to the Henrietta Ackerly Memorial Scholarship

8.03.3 \$10.00 from Janet McKenna to the David A. Trachtenberg Memorial Scholarship

8.03.4 \$100.00 from Marybeth Amante to the David A. Trachtenberg Memorial Scholarship

8.04 Approving a Supplementary Education Services Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Kim Barclay/Starlab Portable Planetarium

8.05 Approving a Supplementary Education Services Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and The Pet Den, Inc.

8.06 Approving an Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Achieve Beyond (formerly known as “Bilinguals, Inc.”)

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Topel, to adjourn the Special Business Meeting.

Unanimously carried.

At 11:15 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk