

Northport-East Northport Union Free School District Regular Meeting - via Zoom (Thursday, January 7, 2021)

Generated by Beth M Nystrom on Friday, January 8, 2021

Members present

David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Members absent

None

Also present

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Irene McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Dana Boshnack, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Mr. Robert Howard, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Louis Bonadonna, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

Public Attendance: Approximately 120 virtually

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Badanes called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. IF NECESSARY, THE CHAIR MAY ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION - Note: It is anticipated that the Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. to act upon a resolution, upon majority vote, to immediately convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons, and matters pertaining to current litigation.

Action: 2.01 Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons, and matters pertaining to current litigation.

Motion by David Badanes, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

At 7:15 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session.

3. Mr. Badanes led those present in the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**; and

4. Pointed out the **EMERGENCY EXITS**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: 5.01 Minutes

Recommendation to approve the following minutes:

5.01.1 November 19, 2020 - Regular Meeting

5.01.2 December 3, 2020 - Board Workshop

5.01.3 December 17, 2020 - Special Meeting

Motion by Victoria Buscareno, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

6. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent Banzer stated that it was a very difficult day yesterday and it reminded him of what we do in education to the integrity of democracy, to the republic and to us as a nation. There is a direct connection to what we do here and the impact it has on the future of this nation. Mr. Banzer stated that he appreciates all the work of the teachers, staff and administrators today, in the past and going forward.

Things are slowly moving forward with low risk sports starting today. Mr. Banzer thanked Mr. Dantuono for all the work done to make that happen.

Mr. Banzer stated that he attended a Rotary meeting yesterday where they honored two students for their good works.

Information: 6.01 Update Related to COVID and School Reopening

Mr. Banzer stated that they have been working on a plan to return students at the secondary level. There are two parts to it, first is the plan and logistics, and second is the current reality related to COVID. We are seeing numbers where they were back in March and April. The positivity rates are going up. There are quarantine protocols that district is mandated to follow. Thankfully the district didn't have to close any schools because we didn't have enough staff but we were pretty close to that.

A lot of the plan to return secondary students depends on what is going on with COVID and the numbers. They are not going in a good direction. Mr. Banzer stated that he wanted to explain what it would look like logistically if everyone was brought back.

Mr. Dan Danbusky, Northport High School Principal, stated that they approached the reopening plan using three categories that are completely linked, programmatic, facility and staffing implications. Mr. Danbusky reviewed how the classrooms are setup now for social distancing and the changes the Department of Health made with regards to contact tracing and close contact tracing, honed into six foot mark for ten minutes. Particular pinch points at the high school are lunch periods. Sixth period has close to 400 students. During lunch period for 6th period we would need 10-12 additional classroom spaces. It would cut into overflow requirement in terms of supervision if we took over a large space like the gymnasium. Physical Education periods have upwards of 173 students in a gym class. They need to be 12' spacing. Art and music classes don't have traditional rows and columns arrangements and would require overflow classrooms. We made a conscious effort to offer programs the way we offer them. We have a four minute passing time with reduced density. One way hallways would be required and would probably be looking to cut into instruction time 1 to 2 minutes per class utilizing one way hallway. Students have tackled this challenge with utmost grace. We do run the risk of increased numbers and it is a numbers game in terms of staffing and supervision in the building. From a facilities perspective, buildings and grounds have gotten desk barriers. We are prepared and certainly willing to increase student time in the building. It would require some significant effort, input and commitment to do so.

Mr. Tim Hoss, Northport Middle School Principal, stated that Northport Middle School has very similar challenges. There is an early morning zero period where students are coming in and right now they are staging them in different locations. Sixth graders take up 110 available seats in small and large cafeterias and have overflow. The auditorium is configured to have up to 48 students while orchestra is going on. Eighth grade goes into the gym when sharing with band. They are utilizing every space they can. The remedy for that would be to have overflow rooms for the morning. Mr. Hoss stated that there are answers but it would be about utilizing more space and more staff. Throughout the day there are similar concerns.

The biggest concern is the passing in the hallways. It would probably wind up eating into the instructional time a little more at the front and back end of each period. They would probably want to stagger dismissal a little more than five minutes.

Mr. Pat DeStefano, East Northport Middle School Principal, stated that East Northport Middle School has very similar concerns. Because of a lack of staff they are utilizing the stage for large overflow for 6th grade lunch. Four to ten overflow rooms would be impossible to staff. They may have to take other large spaces away such as band room and that would cut into program and lessons during those periods. Physical Education is utilizing the cafeterias particularly at this time of year. That utilization would be limited during 4th, 5th, and 6th lunch periods. On an instructional basis the rooms would be able to fit about a 4' radius around a desk. They would require a minimum of one instructional overflow room which would require staffing. Density is an issue especially in passing in the hallways. They continue to use one-way hallways. They would consider taking a minute or two from instructional time in order to slow down, space out and regulate the flow in the hallways. East Northport Middle School is a very traditional design in a very closed rectangular space. They would also have to stagger dismissal which would cut into 8th period. They use the hallways for arrival in B wing, C wing, D wing and A wing. It may be required to increase space for staging in the morning and also cut into first period to stagger students going into classes.

Mr. Robert Howard, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that there would be transportation challenges. During COVID, the buses were designed to have 22 students less on a large bus, one child per seat. The route design is to have 22 students on a bus. As we bring more students in we would not be able to achieve having less than 22 on a bus. From a facilities standpoint they are ready to go with barriers and getting additional PPE.

There was a discussion regarding lunch overflow rooms, desks and desk barriers, staffing issues, communication with parents, transportation, a parent survey, opting in and out, and a timeline for bring students back.

7. SPECIAL REPORTS

Information: 7.01 Future Study Update

Mr. Banzer presented the rezoning district map and stated that the number one question they are being asked by parents is what school will their child attend. They are working with Transfinder to develop a system on the website where the community members could input their address and that will tell them which school they would be attending.

The next step is the creation of a task. A resolution will be presented at the January 21st Board Meeting to create the task force. They will create a timeline and action steps with ongoing community updates. It is important to update the Board and the community on the proposed rezoning. The committee will prepare the educational impact statement. The target is to have the report done towards the end of March.

There was a discussion regarding pupil capacity, rezoning, COVID, transportation, communication, Special Education programs, and variances.

8. COMMUNICATIONS - Please Note: This is the opportunity for persons who had written letters to the Board.

There were no communications to the Board requiring Board action.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT/PARTICIPATION - Please Note: Community members are invited to share their questions, comments, or concerns with the School Board. To participate by Zoom please sign up

using the following link: <https://forms.gle/DMBaxEyRAfMUhKkW9> by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. When speaking, citizens should state their name and address for the record and limit their presentation to 5 minutes. Where possible, the Board will answer factual questions immediately. A written response may be provided when information is not available. If a response would involve discussion of Board Policy or decisions which might be of interest to citizens not present at the meeting, the Board may place the item on a future meeting agenda.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

Action: 10.01 Personnel Actions Report

Recommendation to approve the attached Personnel Actions Report.

President Badanes announced the retirements of Lenore Weibert, Teacher Aide, Susan Lalor, Bus Driver, and Janet Filippone, Principal Stenographer.

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 10.02 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

Recommendation to approve Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, FINANCIAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

Action: 11.01 Surplus Equipment

Recommendation to declare the attached list of equipment, owned by the School District that is no longer cost effective to repair, as surplus and dispose of according to Board policy.

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 11.02 Dottie Holland Memorial Scholarship

Recommendation to approve the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Dottie Holland Memorial Scholarship in honor of former staff member, Dottie Holland, to be awarded to a graduating student who has been active in school activities and community volunteer work. The criteria is based upon completion of an essay describing how school activities and volunteer work shaped his/her perspective during the high school years.

ALSO RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following donations toward the Dottie Holland Memorial Scholarship Fund: Mary and Kevin Barry \$125.00, Donald and Lauren McKay \$50.00, Eleanor Fauser \$100.00, William and Julie Brosnan \$200.00, Ann Marie Jenkins \$40.00"

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 11.03 Mazz Marketing, Inc.

Recommendation to approve a Supplementary Education Services Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Wayne Mazzoni, Mazz Marketing Inc., for online college athletic recruiting seminar for student athletes and parents, in the amount of \$500.00 (PE)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 11.04 Jericho School District

Recommendation to approve a 2019-2020 Special Education Services Contract between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Jericho School District (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 11.05 Commack Union Free School District

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the Commack Union Free School District for IEP related services (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 11.06 Donations

Recommendation to approve the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the donation of a Gianelli Upright Piano and Bench from Ms. Anita Mazur, value estimated by the donor to be approximately \$500."

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 11.07 Claims Auditor's Report

Recommendation to approve the Claims Auditor's Report for Warrants and Schedule of Claims for payments dated:

November 6, 2020 (Payroll Trust & Agency Warrant), November 16, 2020 (Accounts Payable Warrant), November 20, 2020 (Payroll Trust & Agency Warrant), November 30, 2020 (Accounts Payable Warrant), November 2020 (Claims Audit Report)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 11.08 Huntington YMCA

Recommendation to approve an Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the YMCA of Long Island, Inc. on behalf of its Huntington branch for use of the pool for Girls Swim Team practices from March 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021 (PE/Athletics)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 11.09 Huntington YMCA

Recommendation to approve an Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the YMCA of Long Island, Inc. on behalf of its Huntington branch for use of the pool for Boys Swim Team practices beginning January 7, 2021 through March 4, 2021, the agreement subject to review by Board Counsel, and authorizing the Board President to execute the contract on behalf of the Board (PE/Athletics)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Badanes.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Information: 12.01 Schedule H - Use of Facilities

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. NEW BUSINESS

15. ADJOURNMENT - Board policy requires adjournment by 10:30 pm, unless meeting is extended by vote.

Information: 15.01 Upcoming Meetings

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, January 21, 2021

7:00 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 11, 2021

7:00 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School

Action: 15.02 Adjournment

Recommendation to adjourn public session and convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons.

Motion by David Badanes, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

At 9:15 p.m., the Board convened into Executive Session.

At 10:20 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk