

Northport-East Northport Union Free School District Special Emergency Meeting - William J. Brosnan School Cafeteria (Monday, June 7, 2021)

Generated by Beth M Nystrom on Friday, Wednesday June 9, 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

Mr. Steven Goodstadt, Ingerman Smith, LLP, Board Counsel

Public Attendance: 10 people in person, 272 livestream

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Badanes called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 in public in the Board Conference Room at the William J. Brosnan School at 6:30 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 a particular person.

Action: 2.01 Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of a particular person.

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion passes

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

At 7:04 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

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

4. Pointed out the **EMERGENCY EXITS**

5. SPECIAL REPORTS

Discussion: 5.01 New York State Department of Health K-12 COVID Guidance

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools, stated that on Friday afternoon at about 3:30 the district received, via the press, a letter sent by Dr. Howard Zucker, New York State Commissioner of Health, to Dr. Walensky, Director of the CDC. Dr. Zucker was seeking clarification from the CDD on the plan that the NYS Department of Health was considering to move forward. In the letter he pointed out what language was in the guidance for camps, that asks indoors would be strongly encouraged by not required. Outside masks were not required. Both indoors and outside students and staff who are fully vaccination

did not need to wear a mask. Both schools and camps had the authority to make tighter restrictions. There was confusion in interpreting the last line of Dr. Zucker's letter, which stated that plan was to make guidance effective on Monday, June 7th. There were many inquiries over the weekend about getting clarification and to get to the bottom of this and what it meant to school districts. Mr. Banzer stated that he received a lot of information and some clarification from the New York State Education Department yesterday. The State Education Department statement was included in a letter sent to the community today which included further guidance from the New York State Department of Health.

Mr. Banzer stated that students and adults are no longer required to wear masks outdoors and based on the response from the CDC, there is no change to the indoor mask requirement. The district will continue to follow state and local guidance. Mr. Banzer stated they know it is hot and they are monitoring that in each building. They are reinforcing frequent mask breaks and water breaks.

Mr. Banzer wanted to make sure the community was aware of the last information regarding masks. The district will adopt the no masks outdoors and will continue to follow guidance for indoors.

There was a discussion by the Board regarding the CDC and NYSDOH guidelines with regards to wearing masks in schools. The Board received many emails regarding this but the Board takes an oath to follow to constitution of the State of New York and follow the laws. The Board thanked the Superintendent and administration for all the work through the past few days and all the work through the entire experience for the last year and a half. The Board discussed giving more consistent mask breaks to the students.

In response to a question about the consequences of not following the CDC and NYSDOH guidance, Mr. Banzer stated that the districts were told they could be subject to fines and the possibility that State Aid could be withheld, and it could go as far as closing buildings.

Mr. Steven Goodstadt, Board Counsel, stated that the three schools that made the decision to allow students to not wear masks inside reverted back their decisions. Mr. Goodstadt stated that Chapter 23 of the Laws gave the Governor the authority to issue executive orders. Executive Order 202.60 was extended and allowed for schools to reopen subject to Department of Health guidance.

The Board discussed their concerns with students' well being and requested that the Superintendent craft a letter to the Governor expressing their concerns and advocating for students not to have to wear masks inside the schools. Mr. Banzer stated that he will seek guidance from the Department of Health regarding wearing masks, barriers and social distancing in the classrooms.

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

Information: 6.01 Upcoming Meetings

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING TO ACCEPT VOTING RETURNS

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Approximately 9:30 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School Cafeteria

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 17, 2021

7:00 p.m.
Northport High School Auditorium

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING
FOLLOWED BY REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, July 1, 2021

7:00 p.m.
William J. Brosnan School Cafeteria

Action: 6.02 Adjournment

Recommendation to adjourn the meeting and convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of a particular person.

Motion by David Badanes, second by Allison C Noonan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

At 8:42 p.m. the Board convened into Executive Session.

At 10:15 p.m the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk