

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, November 17, 2008, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Library at Northport High School, 154 Laurel Hill Road, Northport, New York, with Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, President, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mr. Warren S. Arthur, Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Steven A. Meyerowitz, Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools

1. President Munson called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Arthur, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to convene in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:40 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Waldenburg, to reconvene in public session in the library at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 50 persons present.

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

Before the start of business, the Northport High School Tour Choir performed the National Anthem. The choir is directed by music teachers Ellen McCarthy and Nicholas Hart. Superintendent Dr. Marylou McDermott thanked the students for their beautiful performance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 4.:

- 4.1 There were no minutes for approval.
- 4.2 Treasurer's Report and Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements
 - 4.2.1 Treasurer's Report for the period August 1 - August 30, 2008
 - 4.2.2 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for August 2008

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marylou McDermott announced that District's administrators are working very closely together to determine areas in which the District could refine expenses if the governor's proposal comes to fruition. Dr. McDermott stated that as the budget process continues to unfold the community will be kept informed.

Mr. Larry Blake, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the District has been well prepared in the area of energy efficiency and has completed many capital projects including upgrading windows, changing boilers, ballast, etc., and will continue to do so. Mr. Blake announced that the District is now planning to use LIPA and NYPA for an audit of the District's energy usage. Mr. Blake and Mr. Resca have been meeting with the Town of Huntington and a representative from LIPA suggested that, as an initial start of any kind of energy savings, an audit be done to look at where improvements can be made. Mr. Blake stated that the solar energy aspect will be on the front burner as it will provide some cost saving and also saving for environment. Mr. Blake stated that LIPA offers an educational program to students that ties into the use of solar panels.

5.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.1.1 Mr. Izzet Mergen, Director of Music Education K-12, introduced the Music Department Student of the Month, Andrew Cowie. Mr. Mergen announced that Andrew discovered his love of music when he started playing the clarinet at Bellerose Avenue Elementary School and after a year was chosen to play the Alto Saxophone. Andrew has performed in SCMEA/NYSCAME festivals for both saxophone and voice. Mr. Mergen stated that Andrew has achieved all six levels of NYSSMA on classical saxophone, jazz saxophone and voice and five levels on NYSSMA piano. Andrew has been awarded the opportunity to perform at the All-State Winter Conference in Rochester as a part of the Symphonic Band and is also a member of the Nassau-Suffolk Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Mr. William Katz. In May of 2007, Andrew was inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society and is currently President of the Northport Band, as well as octet leader for the High School Choir. Andrew plans to audition as a Jazz Performance major and ultimately intends to become a teacher.

The President of the Board and the Superintendent congratulated Andrew on his outstanding achievements and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

5.2 Music Education Instructional Initiatives

Mr. Mergen presented his report to the Board on instructional initiatives at the Pre-K, elementary, middle school and high school levels. Mr. Mergen stated that the music department continues to support the district-wide literacy objective, combined with the district-wide use of data initiative. Mr. Mergen introduced music teacher Maureen Makowski who demonstrated the ear training portfolios program which measures the student's ability to listen to pitch and then notate that pitch through the audiation and listening comprehension connection. Mr. Mergen introduced music teachers Stephanie Gralow and Mike Susinno who demonstrated how the students use SmartMusic at the band and orchestra levels. Mr. Mergen thanked students Oliva Sasso and Jack Maline for their participation in the demonstration.

Mr. Mergen stated that the music department continues its collaborative effort between the middle school and high school to promote the continued study of music. Northport High School Senior vocal soloist Tara Donnino performed Mozart's "Laudate Dominum." Ms. Donnino performed this in the spring and it enabled her to become a member of the All State Choir.

Mr. Mergen thanked the community and Board of Education for their continued support.

5.3 Report on Class Rank

Dr. McDermott stated that the topic of class rank is very important as it affects every student, and the discussion tonight is how it best serves all students.

Ms. Carol Anderson-Hoffmann, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, stated that the class rank committee has been meeting since last school year, getting background information on class rank, and looking into all

options regarding class rank. Ms. Anderson-Hoffmann stated that the report that Ms. Lore will be presenting is for information only and that the ultimate objective is maximize class rank for all students so that they can be accepted into a college of their choice.

Ms. Cynthia Lore, Chairperson of Student Support Services, presented her report on class rank. Ms. Lore discussed what class rank is, how it is calculated, the weighting system at Northport High School, what courses are weighted, how surrounding districts use class rank, and the college application process. Ms. Lore stated that the goal is to put all students in their best light possible and create opportunities for them.

The Board President opened discussion up to the Board members. A Board member suggested that the committee should also include community members, teachers, parents and students to create a more well rounded committee. Several Board members stated that the class rank discussion was generated by parent concerns that the ranking system does not help all students get into the college of their choice, and that a new balanced model may be needed. A Board member stated that a concern was that students are not eligible for certain scholarships because of the ranking system and asked if there was an increase in scholarship money at schools that do not rank.

The Superintendent stated that information and data represented in this report is a stepping off point for discussion of class rank. Dr. McDermott stated that the District has an obligation to show off every student in the best light possible and that discussion will continue and include students and parents.

5.4 The President of the Board announced the upcoming Board of Education meetings: November 18th the Board will accept the Bond Proposition voting returns, December 1st, and December 15th, January 12th and January 26th, 2009.

5.5 The President of the Board appointed the following members to bring voting returns to the William J. Brosnan School (Election Headquarters) on November 18, 2008: Mrs. Wills, Fifth Avenue School, Mr. Meyerowitz, Dickinson Avenue School, and Mrs. Munson will report the returns from Election Headquarters.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Email from Ms. Amy Rizzuto, received November 10, 2008, to Members of the Board, received November 10, 2008, re: reading support staff at elementary level.

Ms. Rizzuto addressed the Board and expressed her concern over the reading support staff ratio of teacher to student at the elementary levels. Ms. Rizzuto stated that because there isn't a full time reading teacher at her child's elementary school, her child is pulled out of math three days a week for the Wilson program and that is now impacting the child's math grade.

Dr. McDermott stated that she held a cabinet meeting this morning to discuss the reading program and the need to re-analyze it from a K-12 perspective. Dr. McDermott stated she is looking at the reading program from a global perspective.

Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, stated that the District has two full time Wilson teachers. The District is currently training ten teachers through a special education grant and the goal is to have three Wilson teachers in each building.

There was a brief discussion by the members of the Board and the Superintendent stated that she would look into reallocating time and staffing to maximize benefits to the students.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Comment</u> |
|---------------------------|---|
| Kevin McGrath Resident | Questioned the appropriation of the \$40,000 salary for the coordinator for Students for 60,000 and stated that he felt it sets a very dangerous precedent as to where the salary cap is. |

President Munson stated that the position of coordinator for Students for 60,000 has significantly changed from the original position in which the club received a stipend for its coordinator. There was a brief discussion by the Board with several board members stated that the club has evolved into a club with several hundred members and the coordinator position is a very challenging and demanding position.

Dr. McDermott stated that the District worked very hard in finding the right advisor. The dedicated and passionate students were craving a leader who would help them do the right thing for humanity and who was also dedicated to the cause.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Waldenburg, to approve items 8.1.1 through 8.1.5 including Supplemental Schedule A (#18-25), Supplemental Schedule B (#10-13), and Supplemental Schedule D:

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated November 17, 2008, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff (including Supplemental #18-25)
- 8.1.2 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff (including Supplemental #10-13)
- 8.1.3 Schedule C - Salary Transfers
- 8.1.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay (including Supplemental D)
- 8.1.5 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Gannon to approve item 8.1.6, Schedule L, #1-12, tabling #13-53 until November 18, 2008.

- 8.1.6 Schedule L - PDC UTN

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve item 8.2 and all items under 9.:

8.2 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board Policy and State Regulation, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Nancy Lederman to serve as Impartial Hearing Officer for the purpose of conducting an impartial hearing in accord with Policy 4321, Program for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA.”

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

9.1 Approving the following district parents to become Parent Members for CPSE/CSE Meetings: Nancie Conzone, Lisa Farrell, Cynthia Fox, Rachel Friedman, Victoria Medaglia, Amanda Register.

9.2 Approving membership in the New York State School Boards Association in the amount of \$10,415 for 2009.

9.3 Receiving the following donations to the District:

9.3.1 Four printers to the High School from The Tiger's Den School Store, value estimated to be \$1,000.

9.3.2 Dark room equipment to the photography department from Mr. Ken Korsh, value estimated to be \$2,465.

9.3.3 A 96" projector screen to Northport Middle School from The Millkey Family, value estimated to be \$80.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion to approve 8.2 and all items under 9. was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Schedule I - Home Instruction

10.2 Investment Report for August, 2008

10.3 Monthly Revenue & Budget Status Report as of July, 2008

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business to discuss at this time, motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

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

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk