

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, January 12, 2009, beginning at 7:00 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 Wills, seconded by Trustee Arthur, to convene in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:45 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee Sato, to reconvene in public session in the library at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 40 persons present.

2. Mrs. Munson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 4.1:

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, December 1, 2008
 - 4.1.2 Special Meeting, December 15, 2008

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to approve all items under 4.2:

- 4.2 Treasurer's Report and Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements:
 - 4.2.1 Treasurer's Report for the period October 1 - October 31, 2008
 - 4.2.2 Monthly Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for October, 2008

Unanimously carried.

4.2.3 For Information: Claim's Auditors Report for Warrants and Schedule of Claims for periods ending October 3, October 15, October 17 and October 31, 2008.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.1.1 Mr. Drew Cronin, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, introduced the Physical Education Department Student of the Month, Erik Schmitt. Mr. Cronin stated that Erik is an impressive young man who has demonstrated consistent dedication and enthusiasm in every physical education unit he has participated in. Erik was selected as Northport's National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete award recipient and was a two way starter at offensive guard and defensive end. Erik is also a leader on the track team where Coach Strom relies on him to be one of his top sprinters. Mr. Cronin noted that Erik's commitment has carried forward into the classroom where Erik is a member of the National Honor Society and currently maintains a 101.5 weighted average. Erik is a member of Schools for Schools, helping to raise money in hopes of building schools in Uganda. Mr. Cronin stated that Erik has applied to a number of high level college institutions and he would like to attend the University of Virginia to study architecture.

The President of the Board and the Superintendent congratulated Erik on his accomplishments and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

5.2 Review of Instructional Initiatives

5.2.1 Physical Education and Athletics

Mr. Drew Cronin, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, presented his report to the Board. Mr. Cronin stated that the physical education department continues to provide wellness based education with the goal of creating an appreciation for a healthy, active lifestyle. The department, in collaboration with the physical education staff, provides consistent assessments for grades 6-12 and continues to monitor and evaluate the grading policy. Mr. Cronin noted that the department is working to find solutions with regard to attaining compliance with NYS physical education regulations. Mr. Cronin stated that at the elementary level there is a continued emphasis on literacy. Technology is being integrated into the curriculum through the use of Polar heart rate monitors and computer generated physical fitness assessment programs. Mr. Cronin also stated that an application for a grant with Heart Links to provide approximately 20 pedometers for all schools will be submitted.

The athletic department continues to monitor and evaluate over 100 interscholastic teams from grades 7-12, coordinating budgets, transportation, scheduling, selection classification, and supervision of over 75 coaches. Mr. Cronin stated that the athletic department continues to emphasize the importance of sportsmanship, citizenship and The Pillars of Character. The department will implement the Life of an Athlete program into the pre-season meetings and will communicate to each student athlete the importance of being a role model to both peers and younger athletes who look up to them.

There was a brief question and answer period and the President of the Board thanked Mr. Cronin for his informative report.

5.2.2 Social Studies

Mr. Andrew Manzo, Chairperson of Social Studies K-12, presented his report on the Social Studies Initiatives. Mr. Manzo stated that the historic times we are living in place an emphasis on why it is important to learn about history. Mr. Manzo discussed the IB election issues forum and the district-wide mock election. Mr. Manzo stated that the department continues to promote character education and the LEAD presentations have

played a significant role in the Drug & Alcohol Task Force. At the first grade level the department is introducing a pilot program aligned with the NYS 1st grade curriculum which is skills-based, hands-on and involves literacy and numeracy. The Study Island online program reviews major concepts in 7th and 8th grade and prepares students for state assessments. Mr. Manzo reviewed the 5th and 8th grade assessments and noted the improvement in the number of students scoring a 3 or higher. Mr. Manzo reviewed the results of the Global History Regents, U.S. History Regents, IB-History of the Americas, and Advanced Placement tests.

After a brief discussion the President of the Board thanked Mr. Manzo for his very thorough report.

The Superintendent announced that A Midwinter Night's Dream, under the direction of Mr. Don Strasser, raised over \$1 million for research for a cure of ALS over the past five years and that the 2009 event raised \$345,000.

5.3 Budget Discussion - 2009-2010

5.3.1 Superintendent's Financial Projections

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, presented the financial projections which provide the information necessary to initiate the 2009-2010 budget development process and reviewed the upcoming meetings for budget discussions. Dr. McDermott stated that her report outlines only projections and is not a proposed budget.

Dr. McDermott discussed the key factors impacting the projections: Educational program, enrollment(estimated to decrease by 64 students), staffing, facilities, personnel - benefits, textbooks and supplies, contractual - salaries, purchased equipment, BOCES technology lease/purchase agreement, contract services, utilities, contract transportation, insurance, tuition, BOCES services, long-term debt service, and short-term debt service. Dr. McDermott noted that the 2009-2010 budget includes a Capital Fund of \$500,000, transfer to Special Aid Fund, and transfer to School Lunch.

Dr. McDermott discussed the projected revenues and noted that the Governor has proposed a reduction of approximately \$900,000 in State Aid for the District. Dr. McDermott presented a range of possible percentage increases to maintain the current program: 2009-2010 projected budget of \$148,655,300, an increase of \$5,378,567 or 3.75%, tax rate change of 4.33% -5.05%; 2009-2010 projected budget of \$149,724,100, an increase of \$6,447,367 or 4.50%, tax rate change of 5.18% - 5.90%.

The Board members discussed the financial projections and the difference between the two ranges the Superintendent provided. The Superintendent stated that the \$148,655,300 represented a loss of five teachers and the \$149,724,100 included the five teachers. Dr. McDermott noted that the tax rate change is contingent upon State Aid, Fund Balance and other miscellaneous revenue.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to receive the Superintendent's Financial Projections for 2009-2010.

Unanimously carried.

5.4 The President of the Board announced the upcoming Board of Education meetings: On January 26, 2009 the Board will provide budget direction to the Superintendent for 2009-2010. The following meetings will be on February 9th and February 23rd, 2009.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no letters of communication.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Jean Baron United Taxpayers of Northport-East Northport	Stated that the information regarding the principal account clerk is public information and disclosure would not interfere with any criminal investigation, and asked why she was not bonded. Ms. Baron stated that she spoke to the NYS Comptroller's office and they stated that the money paid to the former superintendent was not authorized.

The President of the Board responded that they were advised by the District's attorneys not to discuss the matter involving the principal account clerk. Mrs. Munson also stated that personal issues cannot be discussed in public and if you need to discuss a personal situation to make an appointment with the Superintendent.

In response to a question, Mrs. Munson stated that the Board openly discussed the State Audit and the District is working to tighten controls.

Rob Ingraham Board Member	Stated that a recent article in Newsday regarding a wish list from Long Island officials did not include anything for Long Island public schools. Mr. Ingraham stated that upgrading computer technology, the installation of solar panels on school roofs, and renovations to buildings to improve energy conservation would bring jobs to Long Island workers and enable students to compete in the 21 st century. Mr. Ingraham urged the community to appeal to Long Island officials to put public schools in a priority spot on their list.
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8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve items 8.1.1 through 8.1.4, including Supplemental 8.1.1, Schedule A (#49-119):

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated January 12, 2009, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff (including supplemental A #49-119)
- 8.1.2 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff
- 8.1.3 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.1.4 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

Unanimously carried.

The Superintendent announced the following retirements: Mr. Peter Falotico, Director of Art, Media and Computer Science, after twenty-seven years of service; Ms. Janis L. Fidotta, Teacher of Elementary, after thirty-five years of service; Mr. Thomas Heinegg, Principal, after nine years of service, and Ms. Margaret Wolf, Teacher of Art, after forty years of service; Ms. Denise Renda, Registered Nurse, after thirteen years of service; and Ms. Carol Anderson-Hoffman, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, after twenty-one years of service.

The Board thanked the retirees for their many years of dedicated service to the District.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve item 8.1.5, excluding withdrawn item #5:

8.1.5 Schedule L - PDA UTN

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 8.2 through 9.8:

8.2 Budget Vote & Election of Trustees, 2009

8.2.1 Adopting the 2009-2010 Schedule of Voting Details

8.2.2 Appointing the following members to the Board of Registry to serve for thirty days following the Annual Vote and election on May 19, 2009:

Fifth Avenue	- Lillian Buergers, Clara Pryor
Dickinson Avenue	- Maritza Dornheim, Gloria Sarser
William J. Brosnan (Laurel Avenue)	- James Mahoney, Pearl Gostkowski

8.3 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the following policy:

8.3.1 Policy #9510.3, "*Conditions of Employment for Non-Instructional Confidential Clerical Employees*"

8.4 Receiving for a first reading the following textbook:

8.4.1 <u>Pre-Algebra</u>	Pre-Algebra 7
Ron Larson, etal.	Grade 7
McDougall-Littell, 2008	

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

9.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL

9.1.1 Award - Engineering & Biomedical Supplies and Equipment

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

9.1.2 Award - Hardware and Automotive Parts and Service

9.2 Approving the following change order:

9.2.1 Change Order No. 001, Laurel Avenue School, SED No. 58-04-04-03-0-006-018, decrease in the amount of \$7,033.00.

9.3 Approving the attached 2008-2009 Special Education Services Contract between Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Oyster Bay East Norwich Central School District.

- 9.4 Approving the attached 2008-2009 Special Education Services Contract between Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Brentwood Union Free School District.
- 9.5 Approving the attached Special Education Services Contract between Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Developmental Disabilities Institute.
- 9.6 Receiving the following donation to the District:
 - 9.6.1 A Compaq computer to the East Northport Middle School from the Donnelly Family, value estimated to be \$125.
- 9.7 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2008-2009 budget.
- 9.8 Authorizing the administration to apply for the following grants:
 - 9.8.1 \$250 Macy's grant to be used by Fifth Avenue Elementary School to purchase books for grade level book carts, therefore providing support to the District's initiative of Reading Workshop.
 - 9.8.2 \$2,500 NSTA Toyota Tapestry mini grant to be used to encourage students at East Northport Middle School to steward Crabmeadow Beach, a local saltwater estuary. Students will collect data and share their findings with other students at the annual Open Space Stewardship Program meeting in June 2009.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion to approve all items under 8.2 through 9.8, was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 10.1 Student Activity Account Reports for November, 2008 from:
 - 10.1.1 Northport High School
 - 10.1.2 East Northport Middle School
 - 10.1.3 Northport Middle School
- 10.2 Schedule H - Use of Facilities
- 10.3 Schedule I - Home Instruction
- 10.4 Investment Report for October, 2008
- 10.5 Monthly Revenue & Budget Status Report as of October, 2008

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Wills inquired if the District could get relief from the unfunded transportation mandate of having to allow seating for a certain number of potential students.

Mr. Larry Blake, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the transportation director, Mr. Phil Schlener, noted that the District's runs are being utilized and not running with only five students on a bus.

Mr. Blake stated he will discuss the issue with Mr. Schlener to see if there is anything else the District can do to get relief.

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 by those present.

At 9:55 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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