

Regular Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, March 30, 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Large Cafeteria 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, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Steven A. Meyerowitz, Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr.

Members absent: Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mrs. Karen Wills

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 Ingraham, to convene in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:55 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to reconvene in public session in the large cafeteria at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried by those present.

Public attendance: There were approximately 90 persons present.

2. Mrs. Munson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED 2009-2010 BUDGET

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, announced that the District received good news from the state that there will be a reinstatement of the District's state aid which will reduce the proposed tax levy to approximately 3.2% and the tax rate to approximately 3.62%.

Dr. McDermott also announced that Northport High School Senior Glen Meyerowitz placed first and best in category in physics at the Regional Long Island Science and Engineering Fair. Northport High School Senior Peter Kahng finished third in the category of biochemistry. Northport Middle School 8th grade student Devin Dwyer placed second place at the Regional Science for Society and the Public Middle School Programs which is the middle school equivalent to the Intel high school program.

- 4.1 The Board discussed the following programs:

3200 Student Support Services

It was noted that the salary increases include the normal increases based on the UTN contract for percent and step movement. If a teacher is at the top step he/she only receives the percent increase.

3201 Elementary Counseling

3202 Secondary Counseling

The Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources stated that there is an increased number of days before and after the school calendar which resulted in added compensation at the middle school level.

3203 Psychological Services

3204 Social Work Services

3205 Health Services

It was noted that the District is aware of four preschool age children with medical conditions that warrant assignment of a one to one nurse which resulted in the increase of four nurses.

3206 Medical Services

3207 Attendance/Census

It was noted that the attendance teacher must is required to work an additional ten days in the summer to facilitate state education required reports regarding student attendance and student aid.

3208 Home Instruction

It was noted that the travel reimbursement increase was largely due to the increase in the price of gasoline.

3209 Student Assistance Program

It was noted that many teachers apply for grants through Suffolk Edge, Toyota, Future Corp, Starbuck's, Macy's and the District is notified of these grants through the internet and listserv.

3210 Speech Therapy

3211 Safe Schools

3300 Pupil Services Management

It was noted that the District is required by regulation to conduct assessments and special education reviews and the increase will be to support the re-standardization of the tests and the purchase of assessments.

6000 Employee Benefits

7000 Legislative

Trustee Meyerowitz stated that he would like to look into cutting back on membership to school board associations.

7100 Central Administration

The Assistant Superintendent for Business stated that BOCES has been very good with trying to keep cost increases down. Increases were due to the EAP program and data processing for the increased modules used through Finance Manager.

7200 Human Resources

A Board member requested information regarding the aggregate salaries of the retiring teachers and the savings in replacing those teachers.

- 7300 Business Administration
- 7301 Accounting
- 7400 Management Information Center
- 7401 Data Processing
- 7402 Word Processing

- 7500 Central Duplicating

The Superintendent stated that the goal for the 2009-2010 school year is to become as paperless as possible and enhance the District's bandwidth through the reallocation of funds.

- 7600 Purchasing
- 7700 Insurance
- 7800 Operations & Maintenance
- 7801 Custodial Services

- 7802 Grounds Care
- 7803 Maintenance of Plant

It was noted that the District is now utilizing more inside staff in place of contract services.

- 7804 Utilities
- 7805 Security Services

It was noted that the security system was upgraded with additional cameras and new systems in the elementary schools and middle schools.

- 7806 Vandalism Repair
- 7807 Telephone Communications

It was noted that the increase was due to the use of ConnectEd.

- 7808 Mailroom
- 7809 Warehouse
- 7900 Transportation
- 8000 BOCES Administration
- 8001 Administrative Charge
- 8100 Debt Service

It was noted that the reduction from the expiring bond will show in the 2010-2011 budget.

- 8300 Interfund Transfers

A Board member proposed including the \$500,00 transfer to the capital fund with the option that it could be reversed for a possible budget reduction.

Total General Fund Appropriation

There was a brief discussion regarding the 4% fund balance limit.

4.2 Communications received regarding 2009-2010 proposed budget:

4.2.1 Email from Mr. Albert J. Prisco to Members of the Board, received March 10, 2009, re: consolidation of school board and teachers union contracts. Mr. Prisco was not present to address his letter. The President of the Board stated that all Board members receive copies of the communications.

4.2.2 Email from Ms. Mary Jo Bartlett to Members of the Board, received March 10, 2009, re: 0% budget increase. Ms. Bartlett was not present to address her letter.

4.2.3 Letter from Ms. Suzanne Strakhov of YMCA The Place to Members of the Board, received March 23, 2009, re: proposed budget cuts.

Ms. Strakhov addressed the Board with Marianne Siemer, Executive Direction of the YMCA Family Services Branch. Ms. Strakhov and Ms. Siemer spoke about the services the The Place offers to students and families of the community. Ms. Strakhov provides individual and family counseling for students at risk and their families and special needs students. Ms. Strakhov stated that a large number of her clients are referred through the court system. Ms. Strakhov and Ms. Siemer requested that the Board restore the funding for the program.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 5. and 6. including supplemental 5.1.2 (Schedule A), and 5.4.

5.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated March 30, 2009, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 5.1.1 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education
- 5.1.2 Schedule A - Certified Staff

5.2 Approving the following resolution:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby appoints the firm of Guercio & Guercio, LLP as special investigative counsel and report the results of same to the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes payment to the firm of Guercio & Guercio, LLP for said special investigative counsel services at an hourly rate not to exceed that paid to the District's current law firm of Ingerman Smith, namely \$180.00 per hour; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately and be retroactive to March 6, 2009.”

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

- 5.3.1 #8110.0, “*Hazardous Waste and Handling of Toxic Substances*”

5.4 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board Policy and State Regulation, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. James Monk 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.”

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

6.1 Authorizing the Board President to sign a contract with the following districts to provide Health Services for Northport-East Northport students attending school in that district during the 2008-2009 school year:

6.1.1 West Islip Public Schools, 6 students attending St. John the Baptist @ \$577.83, totaling \$3,466.98

6.1.2 Hauppauge Public Schools, 3 students attending Ivy League @ \$663.88, totaling \$1,991.64

6.2 Approving the attached agreement between Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and AssetWorks to provide reinventory service in preparation of future financial statements and GASB 34 compliance, for a total of \$15,900.

6.3 Receiving the following donations to the District:

6.3.1 A tree to be planted in the courtyard at Northport Middle School in honor of Angela Niosi, a former sixth grade teacher, from the family of Angela Niosi, value estimated to be \$150.

6.3.2 Photographic darkroom equipment to Northport High School for use in the photography classes from Mr. John Killelea, value estimated to be \$250.

6.3.3 \$620 raised from a concert performance by the Northport Music Teachers to be distributed to the following scholarship funds: Robert Krueger - \$100, Robert Padgett - \$100, Dora Clarke - \$120, Garland Butts - \$300.

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

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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