

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 11, 2010, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Board Conference Room at the William J. Brosnan School, 158 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, with Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Chairperson, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Tim Madden, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: Mrs. Arlene S. Munson

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment of particular persons.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:40 p.m., motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Sato, to reconvene in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Unanimously carried by those present.

Public attendance: There were approximately 30 persons present.

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

President Waldenburg asked for a moment of silence in memory of Fifth Avenue Elementary School Principal Joan Baltman who passed away in December. Mr. Waldenburg stated that Ms. Baltman will be deeply missed.

President Waldenburg stated that Arlene Munson has tendered to the Board her resignation as a Member of the Board of Education, effective immediately, due to personal and professional demands. Mr. Waldenburg thanked Ms. Munson for her many years of expertise, guidance and work on behalf of the District.

Mr. Waldenburg stated that the Board could do nothing and remain an eight member Board, or choose to seek a replacement through appointment or special election. Mr. Waldenburg stated the Board will consider options at a future meeting. Nominations will be taken for Vice President at the January 25th Board meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve all items under 4.1:

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, December 21, 2009

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, announced that A Midwinter Night's Dream had a hugely successful evening on January 7th, receiving donations totaling to date of \$421,000.

5.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.1.2 Ms. Patricia Schmitt, District Chairperson of English K-12, introduced Northport High School English Teacher, Suzanne Travis, who was awarded Dowling College/News 12's Educator of the Month. Ms. Schmitt stated that she nominated Ms. Travis because she exemplifies the characteristics of excellence. Ms. Schmitt noted that there were more than 60 nominees this year and Ms. Travis was one of twelve recipients.

5.1.1 Mr. Drew Cronin, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, introduced George Suddell, Physical Education Department Student of the Month. Mr. Cronin stated that George was selected by the Physical Education Department based upon his class participation, integrity and leadership abilities. George's teachers describe him as an energetic, enthusiastic student who motivates his classmates through consistent effort, an outstanding example for his peers, and a true pleasure to teach and coach. Mr. Cronin noted that George has been a member of SHARE since his sophomore year and a Boy Scout for eight years. George volunteers with the Special Olympics every Sunday and works with the Make-A-Wish Foundation raising money for children with life threatening illnesses. Mr. Cronin also noted that George has participated on varsity football and wrestling and has been a competitive swimmer for ten years, winning the Coaches Award three years in a row, the Peer Award, and the Most Spirited Award for seven consecutive years. Mr. Cronin stated that George has earned Honor Roll distinction for the past two years and plans on attending either SUNY Cortland or Iona College majoring in early childhood education.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated George on his fine achievements and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

5.2 Mr. Drew Cronin presented the 2009-2010 Instructional Initiatives in the area of Physical Education. Mr. Cronin discussed the elementary initiatives of continuing progress toward completion of the District-wide Physical Education Plan and continued use of the President's Physical Fitness test as a barometer of student's physical wellness. At the secondary level the initiatives are to continue to educate students through Health Infusion on topics such as drug awareness, alcohol and tobacco use; establishing common assessments for general Physical Education grades 9-12; and continuing to implement physical fitness assessments for grades 6-10. Mr. Cronin noted the District-wide initiatives of implementing a new Adapted Physical Education handbook; working jointly with the Wellness Committee to offer a physical fitness/wellness day on February 27, 2010 at the high school; offering professional development in the area of IEP/504 goal setting as it relates to Adapted Physical Education; and developing Adapted Physical Education "Best Practices" collaboration area using the *Moodle* on-line system. Mr. Cronin stated that the intramurals continue to provide a wide variety of intramural activities including weight training, basketball, soccer, Frisbee, volleyball, fitness activities, bowling, golf, and enhanced intramurals for the sixth grade students. Mr. Cronin stated that the fall season was very successful and noted the individual and team awards.

There was a brief discussion regarding the establishment of common assessments, participation in the intramural programs, the grading policy at the high school and students opting out, the implementation of the new Adapted Physical Education handbook, and physical education class makeup at the high school level.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott thanked Mr. Cronin for his informative report.

5.3 Mr. David Storch presented the 2009 update on the International Baccalaureate Program. Mr. Storch stated that the IB Program is a comprehensive two-year international curriculum focusing on the process of learning, not just the acquisition of knowledge, emphasizing critical-thinking and problem-solving, promoting global vision, and providing skills vital to college readiness and success. Mr. Storch stated that the program is inclusive rather than exclusive in that any student may enroll in the full diploma program or challenge one or more IB courses within the certificate program. Mr. Storch stated that more than 43% of the combined Junior and Senior classes are taking at least one IB course prior to graduation at Northport High School.

Mr. Storch discussed assessments, enrollment and participation, performance history and examination results, score distributions, open enrollment, and presented a five year summary of IB Diploma Candidate statistics. Mr. Storch stated that more students are choosing a course of study that means working harder, taking more tests, and challenging themselves more.

During discussion with the Board, Mr. Storch noted that there are currently 14 special education students enrolled in IB courses. Several Board members commended Mr. Storch on the tremendous growth and success of the program. Mr. Storch noted that a 300 page analysis report of Northport's IB program from the Board of Directors of IB Americas, stated that the program is well aligned with the mission, philosophy and principals of IB.

There was further discussion of the IB survey, other IB school districts, the process of becoming an IB school, and college acceptance of IB credit.

The Board thanked Mr. Storch for his very comprehensive report.

5.4 Dr. McDermott presented the financial projections and factors impacting the 2010-2011 budget formation. Dr. McDermott explained that the unknown factors impacting the budget formation are State Aid allocation, teacher retirements, contract negotiations for the teacher/teaching assistants, clerical and teacher aides bargaining units, transportation contracts, and health insurance increases for 2011. Dr. McDermott noted that teacher retirements are due on January 15th and the Governor is scheduled to present his proposed budget on January 19th.

Dr. McDermott discussed the following known factors that will impact the 2010-2011 budget formation: Enrollment is projected to decrease by 72 students, from 6,355 to 6,283. Teaching staff will decrease slightly in accordance with projected student enrollment. The District will continue to operate nine school buildings for K-12 education, and also maintain the William J. Brosnan School for central office, community service, and other District programs. Employee benefits are projected to increase by \$3,275,175 or 11.37%. Textbooks and supplies are projected to increase by \$22,923 or 1.68%. The allocation for equipment in the financial projections is \$379,808. The District will purchase SMART interactive whiteboards and replace all computer workstations at the middle schools with the first of the five year lease payment estimated to be \$243,230. The District will replace obsolete telecommunications equipment and services with the first of the five year lease payment estimated to be \$455,000. The District will purchase a five year music equipment lease with an estimated year one payment of \$7,000. Tuition is projected to increase \$118,500 for 10.3% over the current allocation. The rough estimate of the BOCES services increase is projected to be 6%. Long-term Debt Service is projected to decrease by \$1,195,000. Short-term Debt Service which includes interest on tax anticipation notes is projected at \$1,500,000.

Dr. McDermott discussed Interfund Transfers and Projected Revenue impacting the 2010-2011 projected budget. The projected 2010-2011 budget includes an appropriated transfer of \$1,000,000 to the Capital Fund, an appropriated transfer of \$375,000 to the Special Aid Fund, and a \$100,000 transfer to School Lunch. Dr. McDermott again noted that the Governor's Executive Proposal regarding State Aid to school districts will be made public later in the month. The Carry Forward Balance is projected at \$3,000,000

and the District is projecting a decrease in the assessed value for the 2010-2011 fiscal year of \$160,000 or approximately .20%.

Dr. McDermott stated that if the adopted 2009-2010 budget was rolled over to 2010-2011 the budget amount would be \$155,265,369 with a budget-to-budget dollar increase of \$8,996,508, a budget-to-budget percent increase of 6.15%, and a tax rate percent increase of 7.44%.

Dr. McDermott stated that this is not the proposed 2010-2011 budget and that information and guidance from the Board is needed in the formulation of the proposed 2010-2011 budget with regards to programs and budget lines.

There was a brief discussion by the Board regarding the unknown factors impacting the 2010-2011 budget and postponing budget direction to the Superintendent until after the teacher retirement deadline and the Governor's budget address to allow the Board to have better evaluation of those factors.

Motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to defer giving the superintendent budget direction until the February 8th meeting.

Unanimously carried.

There was further brief discussion regarding the upgrade to telecommunications, BOCES lease, Capital Fund Transfer, School Lunch Transfer, and mandated employee benefits increase.

5.5 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming Board of Education meetings scheduled for January 25th, February 8th and February 22nd. President Waldenburg stated that, as previously discussed, the Board will consider nominations for Vice President at the January 25th meeting, and will provide budget direction to the Superintendent at the February 8th meeting.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no letters of communication.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Jean Baron UTN-EN	Requested that the UTN-EN be allowed to send out emails through the PTA. Asked why there are two security monitors sitting at the high school front desk and what the criteria is in deciding how many crowd supervisors attend sporting events.

Dr. McDermott stated that the PTA operates independently from the school District and Ms. Baron would have to request permission from them regarding their email. Dr. McDermott requested that Ms. Baron call her office in the morning to further discuss her incident with the high school security monitors.

In regard to crowd supervisors, Dr. McDermott stated that the number of supervisors is based upon each event with input from Mr. Cronin and building principals. Several board members stated that the crowd supervisors are there to be proactive in protecting the students and the spectators in case something unexpected happens.

Andrew Rapejko Parent	Stated that he received the first new elementary report card and he was disappointed that students are not receiving the pluses and minuses which were on the previous report cards.
--------------------------	--

Dr. McDermott stated that she would discuss Mr. Rapijko's concerns with the principals and teachers.

In response to a question from a Board member, Mr. Rapijko stated that it was helpful to have online access to the report cards before the teacher conference.

Motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A - #14-37), Supplemental 8.1.2 (Schedule B - #3-4), Supplemental 8.1.3 (Schedule D - #1-22), Supplemental 9.3 (Transfer of Funds), Supplemental 9.4 (Grant Application), and excluding severed item 8.4.

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

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated January 11, 2010, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff (including Supplemental A)
- 8.1.2 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff (including Supplemental B)
- 8.1.3 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.1.4 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education
- 8.1.5 Schedule L - PDC UTN

8.2 Budget Vote & Election of Trustees, 2010

8.2.1 Adopting the 2010-2011 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 18, 2010:

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

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

8.3.1 Policy #6685 – *“False Claims, Fraud Prevention and Detection”*

8.4 SEVERED – second reading and adoption of the following textbook:

8.4.1 Basic Steps to Reading Rhythm
James Guarnieri JG Music 1 Instrumental Band Lessons

The Board requested the Superintendent to get an opinion from legal counsel regarding the appropriateness of adopting a book authored by one of the District's teachers.

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

9.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL

9.1.1 Award – Kindergarten – Fifth Grade Supplies

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

9.1.2 Award – Hardware and Automotive Parts and Service

- 9.2 Approving the following donations to the District:
- 9.2.1 \$125.00 from Ms. Barbara Noll to the Deborah A. Shavalier Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 9.2.2 \$1,355.00 from Mr. David James to the Deborah A. Shavalier Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 9.2.3 \$100.00 from Dr. John Fiore and Ms. Cecilie Bennett to the Deborah A. Shavalier Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 9.2.4 \$685.00 from various donors to the Michael C. Kauffman Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 9.3 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2009-2010 budget
- 9.4 Authorizing the administration to apply for a Suffolk's Edge Teacher Center Grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 to be used at Northport High School to support innovative uses of technology in the Law-Related Education Program (Project PATCH).

Vote on Trustee Wills' motion to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A - #14-37), Supplemental 8.1.2 (Schedule B - #3-4), Supplemental 8.1.3 (Schedule D #1-22), Supplemental 9.3 (Transfer of Funds), Supplemental 9.4 (Grant Application), and excluding severed item 8.4. was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 10.1 Schedule H – Use of Facilities
10.2 Schedule I – Home Instruction

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

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

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

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn