

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, March 7, 2011, beginning at 6:00 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: Ms. Julia Binger, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Mr. Andrew Rapiejko, Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: None
One board seat vacant

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Binger, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of individual employees and contract negotiations, the discussion of which in public would impact the negotiations.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:45 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 80 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg 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 Gannon, seconded by Trustee McCue, to approve all items under 4.01

- 4.01 Minutes

- 4.01.1 Regular Meeting, January 24, 2011

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- 5.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

- 5.01.1 Ms. Irene McLaughlin, Northport High School Principal, introduced Brent Bomkamp, Science Department Student of the Month. Principal McLaughlin stated that Brent has taken all four core science courses, three years of science research, two advanced placement sciences and is currently enrolled in medical anatomy and physiology. He has scored with distinction in every course and earned a remarkable nine credits in science over a four year period. Brent was a key member of this year's Science Olympiad team, medaling in one event and he is a four-time Gold Medalist at the Long

Island Math Fair. Ms. McLaughlin noted that Brent's true passion is the science of Ornithology – the study of birds. Brent is widely respected throughout the Long Island Ornithological community and his passion for studying birds ranks him among some of Long Island's finest and respected Ornithologists. Four years ago Brent was selected the youngest person ever to receive a scholarship from Huntington Audubon to study Atlantic Puffins in the Gulf of Maine. Brent has also conducted field research locally, monitoring in cooperation with US Fish and Wildlife Service, the nesting productivity of beach-nesting species such as the endangered Piping Plover and the American Oystercatcher at Hobart Beach.

Brent was accepted early decision to Williams College where he plans to major in biology. Ms. McLaughlin stated that Brent has received community service awards from the New York State Senate and Nassau County for his work with the Youth Outreach Committee at Huntington Audubon, and last year he was honored as the New York Audubon/Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary annual gala for his work in avian conservation.

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

5.02 Withdrawn

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee McNaughton to receive the Superintendent's proposed budget for 2011-2012

5.03 Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2011-2012

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, stated that the entire budget process has been focused on the education of children and what the District can do for students in the most fiscally responsible manner. Dr. McDermott stated that she is recommending to the Board that she take a salary freeze for the 2011-2012 school year.

Dr. McDermott stated that on February 7th the Board directed her to prepare a proposed 2011-2012 budget with a tax rate increase of no greater than 2%. The budget was prepared based upon the Governor's Executive Proposal with an estimated loss of State Aid of \$1,500,000. Dr. McDermott noted that if the District receives additional revenue the proposed 2011-2012 budget will be modified accordingly. The 2010-2011 Adopted Budget was \$147,487,339, the Proposed 2011-2012 budget is \$151,178,758 which represents a dollar change of \$3,691,419, resulting in a budget increase of 3.5% with an estimated tax rate increase of 1.98%. Dr. McDermott stated that the 2009-2010 expenditures were \$137,657,247, and revenue was \$143,289,858, resulting in revenues over expenditures of \$5,632,611. The anticipated 2011-2012 expenditures are \$151,178,758 with anticipated revenue of \$145,428,758, resulting in revenues under expenditures of \$5,750,000. Dr. McDermott reviewed the anticipated use of reserves for 2011-2012, \$1,750,000 from the ERS Reserve, \$400,000 from the Workers' Compensation Reserve, and \$100,000 from the Unemployment Insurance Reserve. The designated unreserved fund balance of \$3,500,000 will be given back to the taxpayers. Dr. McDermott stated that the District has the obligation to educate every child within the confines of the District. Dr. McDermott noted that the budget was prepared with the conservation and reduction of expenditures in mind while continuing to enhance the programs.

There was a discussion regarding use of reserves, savings in transportation costs, ARRA money and proposed initiatives in the 2011-2012 budget, and TAN rates.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the proposed budget includes prudent use of reserves to keep the tax rate increase at a level below 2%. Ms. Molander discussed the estimated increases in the ERS and TRS rates and noted that the District will no longer receive ARRA funding.

Dr. McDermott stated that the 2011-2012 budget includes the initiative of equalization of core class sizes at the high school and providing teachers with a netbook as a tool for grade book and curriculum documents and to enhance classroom learning. Dr. McDermott stated that she is recommending a class size cap of 23 for Regents level courses. Dr. McDermott noted that equalization of class size is all about student learning.

Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, stated that the initiative of providing a wireless computing device for every teacher and student is a national initiative. Mr. Nelson stated that the proposed budget includes approximately \$150,000 for repairs and \$500,000 for six technicians. Mr. Nelson noted that the District gets approximately 36% back in aid through BOCES.

Vote on Trustee Gannon's motion to receive the Superintendent's proposed budget for 2011-2012 was unanimously carried.

5.04 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming Board of Education meetings of March 21st, March 28th, April 6th, April 13th and April 28th. President Waldenburg noted that the March 21st and 28th meetings will be held at Northport High School in the large cafeteria.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.01 The following letters were received regarding the budget:

6.01.1 Email from Ms. Denise Summers Mumm to Dr. Marylou McDermott, received February 10, 2011

Ms. Summers Mumm addressed the Board and asked which bargaining units took a pay freeze last year and which bargaining units are taking a pay freeze this year.

Dr. McDermott stated that Clerical, NASA, Teacher Aides, Security, positions governed by Board Policy, Supervisors Cabinet and the Superintendent took a pay freeze this past year.

6.01.2 Email from Mr. Joe Stewart to Dr. Marylou McDermott, received February 11, 2011

Mr. Stewart addressed the Board and stated that the Governor is trying to impose a 2% state wide tax cap and the Board should look to make cuts in the budget and should look closely at the electives offered at the high school. Mr. Stewart stated the Board should look at the long term and consider many community members cannot afford tax increases.

6.01.3 Email from Ms. Denise Summers Mumm to Members of the Board, received February 15, 2011

President Waldenburg stated that the Board members received Ms. Mumm's letter and asked her to call the Superintendent's office to setup a meeting. President Waldenburg also noted that the Board is scheduled to review the policies on committees at the April 28th meeting.

6.01.4 Email from Mr. Patrick Mooney to Members of the Board, received February 16, 2011. Mr. Mooney did not attend the meeting.

6.01.5 Email from Ms. Regina Gorney to Members of the Board, received February 17, 2011. Ms. Gorney did not attend the meeting.

6.01.6 Email from Mr. Armand D'Accordo to Dr. McDermott, received February 17, 2011

Mr. D'Accordo addressed the Board and stated that reserves have nothing to do with the Tax Anticipation Notes. Mr. D'Accordo stated that the TAN funds are guaranteed by the local town and county and Moody's has nothing to do with the TAN rate.

There was a brief discussion regarding the amount of reserve funds and the budget process. Mr. D'Accordo stated that the Board owes the community an explanation of the difference between the \$137 million actual expenditures in 2009-2010 and the proposed 2011-2012 budget.

6.01.7 Email from Mr. Armand D'Accordo to Dr. McDermott, received February 17, 2011

Mr. D'Accordo addressed the Board and asked if the proposed change in core classes at the high school was due to low performance.

Dr. McDermott stated that it was more about equal distribution.

6.01.8 Email from Dr. Nina Dorata to Members of the Board, received February 17, 2011

Dr. Dorata stated that the District should not align an audit opinion with the budget process. Dr. Dorata noted that the actual spending in 2009-2010 was \$137 million with an 11% increase spent in fiscal 2010 and as of the January 31, 2011 budget status report the District is approximately \$15 million under budget for this year.

6.01.9 Letter from Mr. Arthur Hansen to Members of the Board, received February 24, 2011. Mr. Hansen did not attend the meeting.

6.01.10 Email from Ms. Paula Healy to Members of the Board, received February 28, 2011. Ms. Healy did not attend the meeting.

6.01.11 Email from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lekoski, received February 28, 2011. Mr. and Mrs. Lekoski did not attend the meeting.

President Waldenburg stated that the Board has received and read all the letters.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Jean Baron UTN-EN	Ms. Baron states she would like over-budgeted line items highlighted in the proposed budget for the community. Ms. Baron stated that a new law will be enacted in January 2012 and hoped the Board was aware of the New York State School Property Taxpayer Protection Act.
Jean Baron on behalf of Albert Prisco	Stated that at the February 28 th meeting the community asked about the consolidation of schools with Elwood and a member of the audience called Dr. Scordo's office and spoke to his secretary who said there was no response from Dr. McDermott. Ms. Baron asked why there was direction given by the Board and no phone call made.

Dr. McDermott stated that she spoke to Superintendent Scordo at his office at the direction of the Board President.

Karen Wills
Trustee

Respectfully requested that the Superintendent be spoken to with the utmost respect as the Office of Superintendent is the highest office in the school district.

Carina Ranieri
Resident

Stated that she hasn't been able to attend meetings recently but is a highly involved parent and noted that no one shows any respect at the meetings and that it is insulting the way people are being talked to in such a demeaning manner. Ms. Ranieri asked that the Board stick to the five minute rule and agreed with finding correct information without the back and forth banter stating that is it not fair to the rest of the audience.

Debbie Sullivan
Resident (patch.com)

Stated that she attended the meeting in the Elwood School District and spoke to Mr. Scordo who stated that he did receive a phone call from Dr. McDermott regarding the proposed merger. Ms. Sullivan stated that Mr. Scordo said the Elwood School Board did not receive a formal response in writing.

Sheila Whitlow
Resident

Asked how the community can get answers to several points that are being raised such as reserve funds and eight vs. nine period high school day. Ms. Whitlow asked why these issues can't be explored and the Board respond with solid explanations. Ms. Whitlow asked the Board to keep an open mind.

Dr. McDermott stated that the District offices are open to the public and appointments can be made, given a reasonable amount of time, to sit and discuss issues. Dr. McDermott stated that to explore an eight period day would take a tremendous amount of time. Dr. McDermott noted that the nine period day takes care of everyone's child.

Fred Trudwig, Jr.
Resident

Asked when the board will respond formally to Elwood.

Trustee McNaughton stated that if the districts were to merge the higher contracts would prevail and noted that Elwood teachers are paid more. Mrs. McNaughton stated that Elwood has a higher tax rate, no reserves and is proposing an 8% tax rate increase.

Trustee Wills stated that a study would need to be done to analyze a merger and reorganization of the districts would be required. Mrs. Wills stated that she is not ready to pursue this especially with the LIPA challenge.

Trustee Gannon stated that he would not support spending \$35,000 on a study to pursue a merger.

Trustee McCue stated that she has attended many PTA meetings and spoke to many parents who feel it is not a good idea to pursue a merger. Mrs. McCue stated that lack of action is in itself a response.

Motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to approve all items under 8.0 and 9.0, excluding withdrawn item #25 Schedule A, including Supplemental 8.01.1 (Schedule A #31-38), Supplemental 8.01.2 (Schedule B #3-6) and Supplemental 9.02 (UPK Contracts).

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

8.01 Personnel Schedules, each dated March 7, 2011, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.01.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff (excluding withdrawn item #25, including Supplemental A #31-38)
- 8.01.2 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff (including Supplemental B #3-6)
- 8.01.3 Schedule C - Salary Transfers
- 8.01.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.01.5 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

8.02 Receiving for a first reading revisions to the following policies:

- 8.02.1 Policy #6700 – Purchasing Policy
- 8.02.2 Policy #3260 – Disposal of Surplus Property

8.03 Receiving for a first reading the following policies:

- 8.03.1 Policy #6670 – Petty Cash/Petty Cash Accounts
- 8.03.2 Policy #5210 – Student Organizations
- 8.03.3 Policy #5252 – Student Activities Funds Management

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

9.01 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL:

- 9.01.1 Award – Medical Supplies & Equipment
- 9.01.2 Award – Athletic Supplies & Equipment
- 9.01.3 Award – Physical Education Supplies & Equipment

LONG ISLAND FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR’S ASSOCIATION COOPERATIVE

- 9.01.4 Award – Dairy
- 9.01.5 Award – Meat
- 9.01.6 Award – Cheese – Pizza
- 9.01.7 Award – Small Wares

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- 9.01.8 Award – Masonry Chimney Extension at Northport High School

9.02 Approving 2011-2012 Universal Pre-K Program Contracts between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Island Kids Early Childhood Center, Northport Nursery School and Pumpkin Patch Day Nursery

Vote on Trustee Wills’ motion to approve all items under 8.0 and 9.0, excluding withdrawn item #25 Schedule A, and including Supplemental 8.01.1 (Schedule A #31-38), Supplemental 8.01.2 (Schedule B #3-6), and Supplemental 9.02 (UPK Contracts) was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 10.01 Schedule H – Use of Facilities
- 10.02 Schedule I – Home Instruction

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to adjourn the public meeting and convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the sale or lease of real property.

Unanimously carried.

At 11:30 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn