

Public Work Session and Special Business Meeting

A Public Work Session of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, November 18, 2013, 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: Mr. David Badanes, Ms. Julia Binger, Mr. James Maloney, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mr. Andrew Rapiejko (arrived at 6:25 p.m.), Mr. Joseph Sabia, Mrs. Tammie Topel (arrived at 6:01 p.m.), Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr.

Members absent: Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration
Mr. Christopher Venator, Ingerman Smith, LLP, Board Counsel

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Binger, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:20 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

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.
4. SPECIAL REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools, announced that after meeting with the District's architects the renovations of the high school auditorium will begin on June 1st and the renovations of the East Northport Middle School auditorium will begin on July 1st with an anticipated completion date of September 2014.

Dr. McDermott stated that on Friday, November 15th the Social Studies department had a presentation by veterans who told stories and answered student questions. Dr. McDermott thanked social studies teacher Darryl St. George for arranging this experience for the students.

Dr. McDermott stated that President Waldenburg, Vice President Thompson, Trustee Topel, NASA President McLaughlin, UTN President Blanck, PTA Council President Basil, SEPTA President Noonan and she attend Commissioner King's community forum at Ward Melville High School and shared their concerns and recommendations regarding APPR and Common Core standards.

4.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

4.01.1 Ms. Denise Keenan, Northport High School Assistant Principal and Administrator in Charge of Business, introduced Vincent Williams, Business Education Department Student of the Month.

Ms. Keenan stated that Vincent has impressed all his Business Education teachers with his maturity and willingness to give of himself to help others. Vin is a member of the Business Honor Society and was elected to serve as President by his peers. To qualify for the Business Honor Society students must have taken three business courses, earn a 90% or better in each course and participate in community and school service activities. Ms. Keenan stated that Vin completed his Academy of Finance internship at Mushwear Custom Embroidery where he designed a perpetual billing system for the company and designed expense sheets to improve accuracy and efficiency. Vin was nominated to receive a *Kids with Character Award* due to his ongoing demonstration of the pillars of character, most notably of respect. Ms. Keenan noted that Vin is able to balance the demands of school, sports and his work internship all while maintaining his positive outlook and warm, good-natured demeanor. Vin is a role model for his peers and an ambassador for all young adults.

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

4.01.2 Mr. Dan McKeon, Northport High School Assistant Principal and Administrator in Charge of Family and Consumer Sciences, introduced Grace Rowan, Family and Consumer Science Department Student of the Month.

Mr. McKeon stated that Grace is an intelligent, compassionate and creative young woman. She has completed work in Early Childhood Education, Family Dynamics, Literacy Lab and the college level course, Child Psychology and Development. She is currently enrolled in Early Childhood Education Planning and Administration where she plays an essential role in the management of the preschool classroom. Grace serves as co-president of Northport High School's Future Educators Association. Mr. McKeon stated that Grace's conscientiousness and disciplined work habits infuse into all she does as she often becomes the leader of many group activities in the classroom and at Future Education Association meetings. She is a hard working dedicated individual and her high level of commitment is rare in a young woman her age. Mr. McKeon noted that Grace has become a talented, creative, self assured assistant in the preschool classroom and is a wonderful role model and mentor to the high school students in the classroom and during FEA activities.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Grace on her fine accomplishments and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

4.01.3 Ms. Robin Rann, District Chairperson of Mathematics, introduced Nicholas DelGaudio, Mathematics Department Student of the Month.

Ms. Rann stated that Nick is an avid reader, an accomplished classical pianist and jazz sax player, a chess whiz, and problem-solver extraordinaire. Nick's fascination with numbers developed into an appreciation of mathematics as a creative sandbox in 8th grade when he was accepted into the elite Institute of Creative Problem Solving. He was one of eight students invited to compete on the original Brookhaven National Lab Math Team which opened his eyes to the world of competitive math. The Brookhaven team placed 2nd of over 100 international teams in the Harvard-MIT Math Competition. Last year, Nick's team places 1st overall in their division in the Princeton University Math Competition. Nick has most recently assembled his own team of four for participation in the Online Math Open, which was entirely developed and managed by students. Ms. Rann stated that Nick spends weekend hours preparing for outside math competitions, has taken online college courses in game theory, group theory, and logic, and spent Saturdays last year participating in a high level math circle led by an NYU professor. Nick is currently researching and writing his extended essay on Geometric Inversion and wishes to pursue his passion at MIT or the University of Chicago.

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

4.01.4 Ms. Robin Rann, District Chairperson of Mathematics, presented the 2013-2014 Mathematics Department Instructional Initiatives.

Ms. Rann reviewed the progress toward the 2012-2013 Mathematics Initiatives regarding Common Core Standards, curriculum and pacing calendars, department meetings and professional periods, AIS/lab support structure, Algebra 2/Trig Inclusion, common assessments, tiered lessons and anchor activities, and professional development opportunities.

Ms. Rann presented the following 2013-2014 Mathematics Department Instructional Initiatives: (1) Embed the Common Core Math Practice Standards in every unit through the development and incorporation of tasks that required critical thinking and collaboration, oblige students to become patient problem solvers, and engage students in meaningful student-centered lessons. (2) Distribute practice (spiral) on a regular basis to support mastery learning, to increase long-term memory, to deepen conceptual understandings, to promote interdisciplinary connections, and encourage real-world transfer of knowledge. (3) Continue to differentiate instruction using tiered activities. Introduce anchor activities that serve to solidify understandings while maximizing instructional time. (4) Structure classrooms to support students' engagement in and articulation of complex thinking, rich language usage through reasoning and argument, and collaboration with peers.

Ms. Rann reviewed the Grade 3 through 8 Math assessment data, the Integrated Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2/Trig Regents assessment data, Advanced Placement assessment data, and the International Baccalaureate assessment data

There was a discussion regarding the District-wide implementation of the Common Core State Standards, gap closing performance, and the Go Math! textbook series.

President Waldenburg, Superintendent McDermott and the Board thanked Ms. Rann for her very informative report.

5. WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

5.01 Discussion of draft letter to Commissioner King regarding Common Core and APPR.

The Board briefly discussed the letter to Commissioner King stating that it was collaborative, professional and expressed the District's concerns regarding the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the APPR.

Motion was made by Trustee Badanes, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to direct Dr. McDermott to send the letter to Commissioner King.

6. ADJOURN PUBLIC WORK SESSION AND CONVENE INTO SPECIAL MEETING

At 9:05 p.m. the Board adjourned the Public Work Session and convened into a Special Meeting.

6.01 For Information: Upcoming Meetings

The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming meetings of December 9th, January 13th and January 27th.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Board

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Name Comment

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Maloney, to approve all items under 9. and 10.

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT, GENERAL – FOR BOARD ACTION

9.01 Personnel Action Report dated November 18, 2013, attached and made part of the official minutes.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT, FINANCIAL – FOR BOARD ACTION

10.01 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2013-2014 budget

Vote on Trustee Sabia’s motion to approve all items under 9. and 10. was unanimously carried by those present.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Trustee Maloney, seconded by Trustee Binger, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, as a result of Superstorm Sandy, Chapter 424 of the Laws of 2013, titled Superstorm Sandy Assessment Relief Act, was enacted on October 22, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education seeks to provide for the assessment relief set forth in said legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby elects to adopt the provisions set forth in Chapter 424 of the Laws of 2013 so as to provide said assessment relief, including the provisions of Section 4(a)(i) through (iv) of said legislation, subject to and contingent upon the Town of Huntington’s adoption of a similar resolution electing to provide said relief in accordance with said legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby encourages the Town of Huntington to take timely action concerning the provisions of Chapter 424.”

Unanimously carried by those present.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Topel, to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 9:11 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk