

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, November 7, 2011, beginning at 6:40 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, Mrs. Kristen Gavin, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Mr. Andrew Rapiejko, Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mrs. Tammie Topel, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr.

Members absent: Mr. Joseph Sabia

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. Neil Block, Board Counsel

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of a particular person and to seek advice and counsel from the District's attorney. The Board convened into Executive Session because discussion of such matters in public may compromise privacy rights.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the cafeteria at William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 35 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 McCue, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to approve all items under 4.01

- 4.01 Minutes

- 4.01.1 Regular Meeting, October 17, 2011
- 4.01.2 Special Meeting, November 1, 2011

Unanimously carried by those present.

5. SPECIAL REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Topel, to reorder the agenda and move up item #12 New Business after item 5.01.2 and before item 5.01.3.

Unanimously carried by those present

5.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.01.1 Ms. Denise Keenan, Assistant Principal and Administrator in Charge of Business Education, introduced Connor Murphy, Business Department Student of the Month. Ms. Keenan stated that Connor has enrolled in numerous Business courses including IB Business and Management Higher Level, College Accounting, Sports Marketing, AOF Introduction to Business, Financial Planning, and Entrepreneurship. Connor's IB Business and Management teacher reported that Connor is one of the most conscientious learners and his enthusiasm to learn and eagerness to achieve success is truly inspirational. Ms. Keenan stated that Connor enrolled in two of the most challenging business courses offered at Northport High School. His determination to learn and succeed along with his positive attitude helped him earn an extremely high grade on the very challenging IB examination. Connor also enrolled in College Accounting, a rigorous course that covers complex topics such as analyzing financial transactions, preparing financial statements, completing the accounting cycle, valuing inventory and calculating depreciation. Ms. Keenan noted that Connor is an active member of the National Honor Society and Business Honor Society. Ms. Keenan stated that Connor will have a successful future due to his keen insight of the business content he has learned and his determination to grow and succeed.

President Waldenburg and Dr. McDermott congratulated Connor on his achievements and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

5.01.2 Mr. Dan McKeon, Assistant Principal and Administrator in Charge of Family and Consumer Science Education, introduced Emma Gozelski, Family and Consumer Science Department Student of the Month. Mr. McKeon stated that Emma is an intelligent, compassionate and creative young woman. Emma 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 part in the management of the preschool classroom. Mr. McKeon noted that Emma serves as co-president of Northport High School's Future Educators Association and has planned and participated in many successful activities. Emma's conscientiousness and disciplined work habits infuse into all she does. She is a hard working dedicated individual who exhibits compassion, empathy and patience while working with young children. Mr. McKeon stated that Emma spends the majority of her time after school at the dance studio, dancing 5-7 days a week. Emma hopes to dance in college and possibly double major in dance and either pediatric physical therapy or occupational therapy. Mr. McKeon stated that Emma is a wonderful role model and mentor to the high school students in the classroom and during FEA activities.

President Waldenburg and Dr. McDermott congratulated Emma on her achievements and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

12. NEW BUSINESS

President Waldenburg stated that an opportunity was brought to the attention of the District to join several school districts that border the Long Island Sound to legally extend the District's boundaries into the Sound to draw in the land and properties involved with the Iroquois Pipeline for additional revenue.

Board Counsel Neil Block stated that the Iroquois Pipeline is a natural gas line which runs from Canada through the waters of Nassau and Suffolk Counties and is a taxable entity. The District cannot presently realize the tax benefit boundary as it only extends to the shoreline. Counsel Block stated that there is a procedure in Education Law that enables school districts to alter boundaries. The process entails the generation of a legal document by special counsel which is submitted to the district superintendent for signature and then sent to the State Education Department and to the taxable jurisdiction. Through the process the school district can alter its boundaries into the Long Island Sound towards the Connecticut state line to capture taxable benefits of the Iroquois Pipeline. Counsel Block noted that the Kings Park and Smithtown school districts are currently realizing these benefits and there are five districts in Nassau

County who are currently engaged in the initiative. Mr. Block stated that the costs associated with the District joining the consortium in the initiative would be nominal compared to the benefit the taxpayers would receive.

There was a brief discussion regarding the other districts involved in the initiative, an inter-municipal agreement, and the timeline for receiving the revenue.

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to approve the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District hereby authorizes and directs District administration to undertake any and all steps as may be necessary to extend the geographical boundaries of the District to adjacent underwater areas of the Long Island Sound so as to render those underwater areas taxable real property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District specifically authorizes District administration to execute the appropriate inter-municipal cooperation agreement for the necessary land surveying services to be performed by DeBruin Geomatics and for legal services rendered by the law firm of Berkman, Henock, Peterson, Peddy & Fenchel, PC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education consents to the drafting and entry of the appropriate Order by the Interim District Superintendent of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Western Suffolk County to effectuate the said extension of District boundaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the expenditure of no more than \$10,000.00 for its proportionate share of the land surveying and legal costs related to this resolution.”

Vote on Trustee Waldenburg’s motion was unanimously carried by those present.

5.01.3 Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, introduced Ms. Julia Lang-Shapiro, Chairperson of Art Education, recipient of the following three awards from The Council for Art Education: Youth Art Month Award of Merit, Youth Art Month Special Recognition, and Special Recognition for Outstanding New Promotion of Youth Art Month.

President Waldenburg and Dr. McDermott congratulated Ms. Lang-Shapiro for her accomplishments and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, announced that Superintendent’s Conference Day will be held on Tuesday, November 8th and that netbooks would be distributed to professional staff with professional development workshops on their use.

Mr. Matt Nelson, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Administration, stated that 70 teachers had volunteered to train the professional staff on the netbook tablets using SmartExchange, Moodle Content Management System related to a virtual on-line plan book, E-School data gradebook, Discovery streaming and other subscriptions such as Reading A-Z and Brainpop. Mr. Nelson noted that teacher aides and teaching assistants would be receiving training at the high school no working with students with special needs and multi-sensory reading instruction.

5.02 Review of Instructional Initiatives in the following area:

5.02.1 Mathematics

Mr. Daniel Drance, District Chairperson of Mathematics K-12, presented the 2011-2012 Department of Mathematics Initiatives. Mr. Drance reviewed the 2010-2011 mathematics initiatives and departmental highlights. The 2011-2012 initiatives include continued development of differentiated instructional methods by further development of tiered learning activities and by introduction of anchor activities, focusing on algebra and geometry district-wide; providing and seeking out relevant professional development opportunities so that all staff will grow in the use of instructional technology, including Moodle, SmartBoard and NWEA; use of in-class, State and NWEA testing data to target instruction and foster continued student growth; implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards; and support of District efforts to strengthen a “culture of respect” through Departmental professional development and collegial practices that will deter and eliminate “physical, verbal and virtual bullying behaviors”.

Mr. Drance stated that the Common Core Learning Standards is a nationalized curriculum being implemented by 44 states. The curriculum provides instruction at a deeper level, with an emphasis more on process and applicability than rote or the final product. It blends facts and fluency with rigor and critical thinking with a focus on college and career readiness.

Mr. Drance reviewed the data for the Grades 3-8 State Math Tests, Cohort Regents Proficiency and Mastery Levels, Regents Performance Regional Comparison, Advanced Placement (AP) Courses and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses.

There was a discussion regarding the Common Core Learning Standards, GoMath!, computer science course, anchor activities, differentiated instruction and the testing data.

President Waldenburg thanked Mr. Drance for his informative report.

5.03 Motion was made by Trustee Rapiejko, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to receive the Annual Report of the Independent Auditor, prepared by Cullen & Danowski, LLP for the year ending June 30, 2011.

5.03.1 Financial Statements and Supplemental Information

Trustee Rapiejko stated that the Audit Committee met before this evening’s Board meeting and voted to recommend that the Board accept the Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 2011.

President Waldenburg stated that Mr. Peter Rodriguez from Cullen & Danowski, LLP would be present at the next Board meeting scheduled for November 21st to discuss the Annual Report.

Vote on Trustee Rapiejko’s motion to receive the Annual Report of the Independent Auditor, prepared by Cullen & Danowski, LLP for the year ending June 30, 2011 was unanimously carried by those present.

5.04 President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming meetings of November 21st and December 12th.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.01 E-mail from Mr. Stan Lipton to Members of the Board, received October 17, 2011, re: changing some of the food choices to the kids.

Mr. Lipton addressed the Board and asked how someone would go about implementing healthier dietary changes for the students.

Mr. Andrew Bromm, School Lunch Manager, stated that the past few years the District has embarked on a number of initiatives including eliminating empty calorie snacks, removing foods containing artificial dyes, replacing sugared drinks with vitamin water and an organic beverage and eliminating strawberry milk. Mr. Bromm stated that the USDA has embarked on a complete overhaul of the school lunch program and the District is in complete compliance. Mr. Bromm stated that there is a School Lunch Advisory Committee and that Mr. Lipton is welcome to attend the next meeting.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Name

Comment

Albert Prisco
Resident

Stated that he sent two letters to the Board regarding the TANS resolution and the discussion of mergers with Dr. Cantor. Mr. Prisco stated that he does not think the Board has the right to turn down any letter from a taxpayer in the District.

President Waldenburg stated that as Board President it is his job to set the agenda for the meeting and the Board has already discussed the topic of mergers and will not be reviewing it any further at this time. Mr. Waldenburg stated that the meeting of the Board of Education is for the board to conduct business in public and that technically there is no provision or requirement to allow the public to make any comments. Mr. Waldenburg stated that the Board has always encouraged community input.

Nina Dorata
Resident

Inquired why the ERS reserve fund at \$6.3 million is 2.5 times what the anticipated 2011-2012 expenditures are.

Dr. McDermott stated that she did not want to give inaccurate information and that Ms. Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, would be available to answer her question at the November 21st Board meeting. Dr. McDermott stated that the District is doing everything it can to keep the tax levy as low as possible by deliberately spending as little as possible and that any money leftover is returned to the taxpayers and used to fund reserves so the District is not faced with large bills. Dr. McDermott stated that ERS costs continue to grow.

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Binger, to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.01.1 (Schedule A #65-73), and excluding severed item 8.01.5 (Schedule L)

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL

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

- 8.01.1 Schedule A – Certified Staff (including Supplemental #65-73)
- 8.01.2 Schedule B – Non-Instructional Staff
- 8.01.3 Schedule C – Salary Transfers
- 8.01.4 Schedule D – Extra Pay
- 8.01.5 SEVERED
- 8.01.6 Schedule M - Tenure

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT FINANCIAL

9.01 Authorizing the Board President to execute a lease with Island Kids Early Childhood Center, Inc. for the leasing of space at the William J. Brosnan School commencing on September 1, 2011 and to terminate on August 31, 2014

9.02 Approving the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, on or about November 19, 2010, the Board of Education entered into an agreement with Answer Vending, Inc. for the installation, stocking, operation, service and maintenance of beverage and snack vending machines; and

WHEREAS, the initial term of such agreement expired on June 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the School District is desirous of renewing the Agreement for an additional one year term upon the same terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Answer Vending is ready and willing to perform the vending services for the term July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes renewal of the agreement for the term commencing July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012”

9.03 Approving a 2011-2012 Service Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and S.A.I.L. at Ferncliff Manor

9.04 Approving a 2011-2012 Service Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the NSSA/The Martin C. Barell School

Vote on Trustee McNaughton’s motion to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.01.1 (Schedule A #65-73), and excluding severed item 8.01.5 (Schedule L) was unanimously carried by those present.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Binger, to approve severed item 8.01.5 (Schedule L)

8.01.5 Schedule L – PDC UTN

Vote on Trustee McCue’s motion was as follows:

YES: Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Topel,
Mr. Waldenburg

ABSTAIN: Mrs. McNaughton

ABSENT: Mr. Sabia

Motion passed.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.01 Schedule H – Use of Facilities

10.02 Schedule I – Home Instruction

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee McCue stated that she and Vice President McNaughton attended the New York State School Boards Association Annual Meeting in Buffalo, NY on October 29, 2011. At the business meeting 21 resolutions were voted on of which 19 passed and two failed. Trustee McCue stated that the resolution from the Northport-East Northport Board of Education regarding TANs passed overwhelmingly and it now has the weight of the New York State School Boards Association lobbying efforts behind it. Trustee

McCue also stated that they went to several seminars including one by New York State Executive Deputy Controller SanFilippo on the 2% tax cap where he stated that the public does not understand the 2% tax cap and that the tax cap is on the tax levy only. Trustee McCue stated that it is critical that the public understands this and for school boards to make sure that expectations are in line with reality.

Vice President McNaughton stated that there are more problems than solutions and that New York State legislators put a bond before the taxpayers to borrow money for the teachers' pension fund. Mrs. McNaughton stated that she also attended a seminar presented by an attorney regarding the tax levy and noted that it is going to be a very difficult budget season and it will be a daunting task to establish a budget that will also provide the best education to the kids.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 10:30 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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