

Special Meeting to Vote on BOCES Budget and Trustees

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Thursday evening, April 24, 2014, beginning at 5:35 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, Mr. Joseph Sabia (arrived at 5:45 p.m.), Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mrs. Tammie Topel, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr.

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration
Ms. Rosemarie Coletti, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Mary Anne Sadowski, Ingerman Smith, LLP, Board Counsel

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee McCue, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the appointment of particular persons.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:03 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 45 persons present.

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

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to approve all items under 4.

4. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

4.01 Ms. Patricia Essensfeld, Dickinson Avenue Elementary School Principal, introduced Ms. Mika's 4th Grade Class who made a presentation on Earth Day. Ms. Mika's students are Giana Barr, Justin Besosa, Ryan Borina, Jackson Campbell, Andrew Canales, Olivia DeFeo, Ashley DeRop, Skyla Fabbicante, Max Glick, Christopher Jordan, Erin Kehoe, Genevieve Kestler-DeWan, Diana Kevorkian, Ethan Koenig, Samantha Levins, Max Pagoaga, Michael Quinn, Chad Tomczyk, Clare Vogt

Dr. McDermott asked Ms. Coletti to update the Board and community regarding the staff reductions for the 2014-2015 school year. Ms. Coletti stated that the District is continuing to look at the main staffing drivers which are declining enrollment and high school course selections. Ms. Coletti stated that the District is committed to the staff and community and the process was designed to notify staff in a professional way about staffing positions being eliminated. Ms. Coletti stated that 13 notices were sent at the elementary level; 9 notices in the tenured areas of health, art, music, reading, physical education and technology; 5 notices in special education; 2 notices in English, 1 notice in science, 1 notice in foreign language, and 1 notice in teaching assistant. Ms. Coletti stated that going forward the District will continue to track and review student enrollment data and the Board will receive updates through the spring and summer right until school opens.

5. PROPOSED WESTERN SUFFOLK BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR 2014-2015

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Maloney, to approve the Proposed Western Suffolk BOCES Administrative Budget for 2014-2015.

Unanimously carried.

6. CANDIDATES FOR THREE YEAR TERMS ON THE WESTERN SUFFOLK BOCES BOARD OF EDUCATION

Motion was made by Trustee Rapiejko, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to approving Mrs. Jeannette Santos and Mr. Peter Wunsch to the BOCES Board of Education

6.01 Vote for two candidates for three year terms on the Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Education

6.01.1 Mrs. Jeannette Santos (Amityville UFSD)

6.01.2 Mr. Peter Wunsch (Commack UFSD)

Unanimously carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.01 There were no minutes for approval.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Topel, to approve all items under 8.

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

8.01 Personnel Actions Report, dated April 24, 2014, attached and made part of the official minutes.

President Waldenburg announced the retirement of Ms. Patricia Trani after twenty-seven years of service to the District, and Ms. Lori Kohan after thirty-four years and five months of service to the District.

8.02 Appointing Joseph Wooley as Hearing Officer to conduct hearings pursuant to Section 3214 of the Education Law of the State of New York for the 2013-2014 school year

Vote on Trustee Sabia's motion to approve all items under 8. was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Maloney, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to approve all items under 9., including item 9.09 (Property Tax Report Card resolution)

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

9.01 Receiving the following donations to the District:

9.01.1 \$240.00 from the Faculty Scholarship Concert to the Robert Padgett Scholarship

9.01.3 \$150.00 from the Faculty Scholarship Concert to the James J. Cassara Scholarship

9.01.4 \$325.00 from the Faculty Scholarship Concert to the Dora Clarke Scholarship

9.01.5 \$50.00 from Patricia and Frank Petrone to the Michael C. Kauffman Memorial Scholarship

9.01.6 \$1,500.00 from the Northport Community Jazz Orchestra to the Michael C. Kauffman Memorial Scholarship

9.01.7 \$100.00 from Camilo B. Sierra to the Robert and Marjorie Krueger Scholarship

9.01.8 \$6,000.00 from Steven L. Ingerman to the Henrietta Ackerly Memorial Scholarship

9.02 Approving the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby gratefully accepts a donation of \$693 from Northport-East Northport residents whose names are more fully set forth in the attached document, for the purposes of covering the cost of alternative Washington D.C. field trips for Northport Middle School students, and increase the 2013-2014 budget code A2110.4161.23.2902 by \$693 for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2013-2014 budget by \$693 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of donations from Northport-East Northport residents."

9.03 Approving the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby gratefully accepts a donation of \$1,000 from Michael and Christen Brunone toward the cost of Chris Herren, speaker for RAP Week at Northport High School and to increase the 2013-2014 budget code A2110.4010.00.1502 by \$1,000 for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2013-2014 budget by \$1,000 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of donations from Michael and Christen Brunone."

9.04 Approving the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby gratefully accepts a donation of \$1,758.04 from the Northport High School Student Activity Fund towards the cost of the Northport High School Chorus/Orchestra Music in the Parks field trip and to increase the 2013-2014 budget code A2110.4010.00.2100 by \$1,758.04 for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2013-2014 budget by \$1,758.04 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of donations from the Northport High School Student Activity Fund."

9.05 Approving the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby gratefully accepts a donation of \$5,647 from Northport-East Northport residents whose names are more fully set forth in the attached document, for the purpose of the Northport High School Chorus/Orchestra Music in the Parks field trip and to increase the 2013-2014 budget code A2110.4010.00.2100 by \$5,647 for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2013-2014 budget by \$5,647 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of donations from the Northport-East Northport residents."

9.06 Approving the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby gratefully accepts a donation of \$12,000 from Northport-East Northport residents whose names are more fully set forth in the attached document, for the purpose of the Northport Middle School Sixth Grade trip to Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, New Jersey Tuesday, May 13, 2014 and increase the 2013-2014 budget code A2110.4161.23.2902 by \$12,000 for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2013-2014 budget by \$12,000 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of donations from Northport-East Northport residents."

9.07 Authorizing the Board President to sign contracts with the following school district to provide health services for Northport-East Northport students attending schools in that district during the 2013-2014 school year:

9.07.1 Hicksville Union Free School District, one (1) student attending Holy Trinity High School @ \$600.02, totaling \$600.02.

9.08 Approving an Agreement with Sound Actuarial Consulting, LLC for the purpose of conducting an actuarial analysis of the District's workers' compensation self-insurance program

9.09 Approving the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the requirements set forth in Section 1716 of the Education Law of the State of New York, the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District hereby authorizes the submission of the attached Property Tax Report Card to the State Education Department"

Vote on Trustee Maloney's motion to approve all items under 9., including item 9.09 (Property Tax Report Card resolution) was unanimously carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.01 Presentation on Proposed Changes to Class Rank

Ms. Cynthia Fitzgerald, Director of Student Support Services, and Ms. Irene McLaughlin, High School Principal, presented the proposed changes to class rank and weighting for the incoming 9th grade students. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that the college admissions process had changed drastically in the last decade. As a result of these changes, high schools have to take a closer look at current practices to ensure that every student can be presented for post secondary opportunities in the most favorable light. Class rank is a number assigned to each student indicating his or her academic standing in the graduating class. Northport High School currently compares students with one another using the class rank. Class rank is calculated using a student's "weighted" grade point average. The level of difficulty or rigor of the class is the criteria used to determine whether a course will be weighted. Currently, weighted courses yield an additional ten points which are calculated into the final weighted grade point average. A student's weighted average in all courses taken will determine that student's rank in class. Ms. Fitzgerald reviewed some of the weighted courses offered at Northport High School.

The recommendation for the class rank is that Northport High School will no longer report rank to post secondary institutions beginning with the incoming 9th grade, graduating class of 2018. The high school will compute an internal class rank for the purpose of honoring students with academic achievement upon commencement. The course weight recommendations are for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses to earn an additional 10%, and dual enrollment and honor courses to earn an additional 5%. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that these recommendations are being made because colleges do not recognize or consider the current weighting system, courses will be recognized for their rigor and level of difficulty more accurately, and the new recommendation will reward students based on academic achievement in the course, rather than all students earning ten points simply for enrolling in the course.

The Honors/Pass/Fail recommendation is to eliminate this option. Currently Northport High School students can opt out of earning a numerical grade in one elective course per year and opt to be graded with an H, P or F. Attendance and performance in every course at Northport High School is equally valued and should be a part of a student's academic profile. The Physical Education recommendation is to eliminate

the option of students opting out of having their numerical grade in physical education calculate into their overall GPA. Physical Education is a New York State graduation requirement and therefore should be included in each student's overall GPA.

There was a long discussion amongst the Board and community members regarding the proposed changes. Several community members had concerns about eliminating Honors/Pass/Fail and the option for students to opt-out of having their numerical grade in physical education calculated into the overall GPA. There was also concern regarding the weighting recommendations for AP, IB, dual enrollment and honors courses. Several students spoke about the rigor of the dual enrollment and honor courses and did not agree with the proposed 5% weighting.

The Board requested that the discussion regarding the proposed changes to class rank and weighting be continued at the May 12th Board meeting so additional public comment can be heard.

At 9:15 p.m. the Board convened into a Public Work Session.

11. PUBLIC WORK SESSION – BOARD POLICIES

11.01 Board discussion of the following policies:

Policy #0100 (New) Equal Opportunity (current policies 4135.4, 4223.4)
Policy #0110 (New) Sexual Harassment (current policies 5020.1, 4116.13)
Policy #0115 (New) Dignity for All Students Act (current policy 5020.4)
Policy #1120 School District Records
Policy #1500 Public Use of Facilities
Policy #1530 (New) Smoking on School Grounds (current policies 1205, 4005, 5005)
Policy #1915 (New) Display of the Flag (current policy 6115.1)
Policy #1925 (New) Interpreters for the Hearing Impaired

The Board reviewed the policies, made minor revisions in consultation with Board Counsel, and recommended that they be sent to the board for a first reading at the next meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming meetings of May 12th, May 20th, June 2nd and June 16th

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

Unanimously carried.

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

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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