

Regular Meeting

A Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, June 2, 2014, beginning at 6:10 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, 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

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

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

Unanimously carried.

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 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

4.01 There were no minutes for approval.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.01.1 Mr. Scott Pellegrino, Elementary Science Coordinator, introduced the following Brookhaven Laboratories Elementary School Science Fair Award Recipients: Lucy Mulholland, Jacob Raimo, Lia Edlin-Miller

5.01.2 Northport High School's First Robotics Team 5099 presented on their robotics competition experience. Student Presenters: James Garvey, Julia Stone, Gareth Schaefer, Ryan McCauley. Team 5099 Coaches: William Claps, Daniel Moy, Greg Robinson. Team 5099 Mentors: Xavier Avallone, Bob Tallman, Bruce Baron, Bruce Howe, Eric Nelson, Andrew Hearn. Team 5099 Sponsors: BAE Systems, Applied Visions, LuHi Summer Programs, Northrop Grumman

5.02 Upcoming Meetings

President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming Board Meetings of June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. McDermott stated that she visited the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Norwood Avenue School who participated in an outstanding language arts program culminating in a wax museum. The School Store at Northport Middle School had its ribbon cutting ceremony and the students did a spectacular job. A Mid Winter Night's Dream held its final event on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and raised over \$316,000, making a grand total of over \$3 million raised in the last ten years. The Relay for Life was held at Northport High School on Saturday night and raised \$175,000. Over 1,076 people registered with 123 teams. On Sunday the annual Art and Music Festival was held in Northport Park with students participating from elementary through high school. The art club ran a charitable event "Empty Bowls" which raised over \$5,000 with an additional donation from Cablevision which was donated to the Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.01 There were no communications to the Board requiring Board action.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Eva Koch Resident	Asked what the credentials are needed to teach and what the policy is regarding rehiring teachers once they have retired or when cuts are made.
Ms. Rosemarie Coletti discussed the certification requirements and told Mrs. Koch to call her office if she had an additional questions.	
Michelle Dawson Parent	Stated her concerns about the section reductions in Pulaski Road School's 5 <sup>th</sup> grade class.
Maureen Weiss Parent	Stated her concerns about the 2014-2015 4 <sup>th</sup> grade class size at Ocean Avenue School and that it is educationally unsound to have 26 students in 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade class.
Rachel Friedman Parent	Asked what plans are in place to differentiate instruction with larger class size. Ms. Friedman discussed the benefits of smaller class size and the Star Project.
Shawne Albero Parent	Stated her concerns about how the District is going to support the excellent teachers and administrators with larger class sizes and what resources are available for that support
Tina Holihan Parent	Stated her concerns about the elimination of sections at Bellerose Avenue School
Christine Arthur Parent	Stated her concerns about the class size in grade 5 at Bellerose Avenue School and the ratio of boys to girls and accounting for weighting of students.
Dawn Welch	Stated her concerns about the 4 <sup>th</sup> grade at Ocean Avenue School and asked how AIS students are weighted.
Rachel Friedman Parent	Stated her concerns about the Health Education for primary students and that the District is not approaching the health education standards. Ms. Friedman also asked about the playground camp through the Town of Huntington and why the District is hosting a section this summer.
Kristin Zarb	Asked why Dickinson Avenue School sections are not even on the watch list and

- Parent stated it will have a negative impact on the students next year.
- Danielle McQuade Parent Stated that the District caught many people off guard about the class sizes and sections and many parents are upset about it. Ms. McQuade stated that the District is losing valuable teachers.
- Carrie Pearlman Parent Stated that she supports keeping the current sections in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Dickinson Avenue Schools and asked the Board to consider keeping the two art teachers stating that art is a very valuable piece of education.
- Allison Noonan Parent Stated that the misstatement regarding the cutting of 33 full time teachers was an egregious breach of public trust and someone in the administration should be held accountable for this misinformation. It would be a prudent management decision to take from the area which least affects students. Asked the Board to reconsider the full time teachers.
- Fred Trudwig, Jr Parent Asked for the comparison of the number of sections for this year vs. projections for next year to be put on the website by the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Debbie Ronan Parent Asked if there is an interest from the Board to consider full day kindergarten.
- Eric Urevich Parent What will be done differently if class size increases to help children with behavioral issues be successful and what will be done differently to protect the other children.
- Ellen Hatch Parent Asked to Board to explain how the award winning music program can continue to provide the same excellent level of instruction with three less teachers. The number does not seem to relate to the estimated decrease in enrollment.

There was a long discussion regarding the class section sizes, weighting of special education students and how the individual needs of students are taken into account when determining class size, the McDermott caps and the contractual class size caps, differentiation of instruction, the process with the principals for determining class sections and sizes, providing extra support for students, full day kindergarten study and the music program.

Dr. McDermott apologized to the Board and the community for the inaccurate statement made during the budget process and stated that it was never meant to deceive or mislead the community. Dr. McDermott, Ms. Molander and Ms. Coletti reviewed the budget process and noted that the misstatement had no impact on the final budget. Ms. Coletti reviewed the staffing process modifications that will be implemented going forward.

There was a discussion of providing the staffing information in the budget book which had been provided previously but not the last few years. Vice President Thompson stated that the Board has directed the administration to return to the previous documentation provided in the budget books.

Motion was made by Trustee Badanes, seconded by Trustee Maloney, to approve all items under 8. and 9.

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

- 8.01 Personnel Actions Report, dated June 2, 2014, attached and made part of the official minutes.
- 8.02 Approving Schedule J ó Committee on Special Education

8.03 Approving request for foreign travel for students to countries outside of the United States during the 2014-2015 school year:

- London, Paris, Geneva, Lucerne ó February 13-22, 2015

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

9.01 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL:

- 9.01.1 AWARD: Hollow Metal Doors
- 9.01.2 AWARD: District Wide Printing

9.02 Approving the following resolution authorizing piggybacking on the Genessee Valley Educational Partnership Contract for office supplies/toner:

"WHEREAS, the Genessee Valley Educational Partnership (Genessee - Livingston - Steuben - Wyoming BOCES) has made available to other municipalities a contract for office supplies/toner; and

WHEREAS, said contract for office supplies/toner was let for bid consistent with the requirements of General Municipal Law, section 103; and

WHEREAS, the Northport-East Northport U.F.S.D. is permitted to utilize said contract in accordance with the terms and conditions of the bid and requirements of General Municipal Law, section 103; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the purchase of office supplies/toner from Genessee Valley Educational Partnership in accordance with the requirements of General Municipal Law, section 103"

9.03 Approving a request to the State for an exemption from the requirement for a breakfast program (Attached is the result of a survey authorized by the Board on March 3, 2014.

9.04 Authorizing the Board President to sign a contract 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:

9.04.1 Commack Union Free School District, four (4) students attending Jewish Academy and twenty-one (21) students attending Holy Family Regional Schools @ \$994.10, totaling \$24,854.00.

9.05 Approving a Multi-Year Lease between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Western Suffolk BOCES under Co-SER 501 through Western Suffolk BOCES

9.06 Approving the following donations to the District:

- 9.06.1 \$890.00 from Susan P. Warren-Bachmore to the Jesse Warren (JTG) Scholarship
- 9.06.2 \$200.00 from Barbara and Charles Beck to the Robert Rothar Memorial Scholarship

9.06.3 Cardboard, boxes, and a variety of paper products including tissue paper, drawing paper, etc. to the Visual Arts Department from American Container Corp., value estimated by the donor to be approximately \$15,000.00

9.07 Approving a Revocable License for Non-Federal Use of Real Property between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Northport Medical Center's pool in Building 88

9.08 Approving Transfer of General Fund Appropriations in the 2013-2014 budget

9.09 Approving an Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Developmental Disabilities Institute (Spec. Ed.)

Vote on Trustee Badanes motion to approve all items under 8. and 9. was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ó FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.01 Schedule H ó Use of Facilities

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.01 Class Rank/Weighting Discussion

At 10:20 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Badanes, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to move into Committee-of-the-Whole to informally discuss class rank and weighting.

Unanimously carried.

At 10:30 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee McCue, to extend the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

At 11:30 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Topel, to come out of Committee-of-the-Whole.

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Maloney, to direct the administration to rewrite the current grading policy to remove class ranking and establish a tiered weighting system with IB and AP courses receiving a 10% weighting and Honor and Dual Enrollment courses receiving a 5% weighting.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Badanes to sever the tiered weighting system.

Unanimously carried.

Vote on Trustee Sabia's motion to direct the administration to rewrite the current grading policy to remove class ranking and severing the tiered weighting system was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Badanes to amend the motion to establish a band of distinctions for the top 2%, 5% and 10% of the class.

There was no second.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee McCue, to rewrite the current grading policy to establish a tiered weighting systems with IB and AP courses receiving a 10% weighting and Honors and Dual Enrollment courses receiving a 5% weighting.

Vote on Trustee Sabia's motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Badanes Ms. Binger, Mr. Maloney, Mrs. McCue, Mr. Rapiejko, Mr. Sabia, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg

NO: Mrs. Thompson

Motion passed.

The Board requested the administration to monitor enrollment of these classes.

Motion was made by Trustee Maloney, seconded by Trustee Topel, to direct the administration to get a demographic utilization study to evaluate for full day kindergarten.

Unanimously carried.

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Topel, to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

At 12:10 a.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk