

Emergency Meeting

An Emergency Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday, November 5, 2012, beginning at 7:07 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

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Public attendance: There were three persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. Discussion of school reopening on Wednesday, November 7th

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, stated that on Saturday President Waldenburg, Vice President Thompson, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Resca, and Supervisor of Security Briggs toured all nine building to assess the schools in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Dr. McDermott stated that there were several downed trees at all the buildings and the maintenance crew had put caution tape around those areas. Dr. McDermott noted that the buildings are in good shape and that all schools are up and running with Dickinson Avenue School receiving power yesterday and Norwood Avenue School receiving power today. There was some damage on the playgrounds and the custodians are working on those repairs.

There was a discussion regarding cleanup, recovering costs of cleanup from FEMA, procuring a generator for backup, and the ability to provide lunch for students.

Dr. McDermott stated that the concern with bus transportation is that there are many dangerous areas caused by downed trees and power lines along the normal bus routes. The Superintendent noted that districts are not permitted by state law to open unless they provide transportation to the students. Dr. McDermott stated that she met with the transportation team on Sunday and asked the drivers, Mr. Resca and Mr. Briggs to survey the routes to see if there had been any improvements. After reviewing all bus routes, unsafe bus stops were moved to safe bus stops. The principals will be at the schools tomorrow along with some clerical support to contact parents regarding the changes in the bus routes. A ConnectEd phone call will be made along with posting the new routes on the District's website.

There was discussion regarding the ability to inform parents of the changes with a large population still without power, safety issues at bus stops, security at schools to control flow of traffic, student absentee rates, and testing and homework.

President Waldenburg asked that signs be posted at each school tomorrow to notify parents of the changes in the bus routes. Mr. Waldenburg stated that every means of communication should be used to get the information out.

Vice President Thompson stated that she had the opportunity this weekend to see Dr. McDermott's drive and desire to look forward and appreciated her efforts. Mrs. Thompson thanked Mr. Resca and Mr. Briggs for being very proactive and thanked all the staff who have bent over backwards to help.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that Cullen & Danowski, LLP, the District's external auditors, were scheduled to present the District's 2011-2012 financial statements this evening. Ms. Molander stated that they have been tentatively penciled in for November 19th and December 10th, depending upon their schedule. Ms. Molander stated that the financial statements can go to the State Education Department and the Comptroller's office without the report being publicly presented. Ms. Molander noted that Mr. Peter Rodriguez from Cullen & Danowski stated that generally once the report is presented to the Audit Committee and the Audit Committee has accepted the report he is very comfortable sending the report to the state. Ms. Molander stated that the draft report was presented to the Audit Committee at its October meeting and the committee suggested some revisions which were made and the final draft was provided to the Audit Committee and the Board of Education. Ms. Molander stated that as long as the Audit Committee has accepted the report it can be submitted to the State now and received by the Board at the next meeting. Ms. Molander noted that the report will become public when it is formally accepted by the Board of Education.

With no further business to discuss, motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Maloney, to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

At 8:47 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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