

Northport-East Northport Union Free School District Regular Meeting - William J. Brosnan School (Zoom) (Thursday, October 15, 2020)

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Members present

David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli (arrived at 7:15 p.m./left at 10:30 p.m.), Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Members absent

None

Also present

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Irene McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Dana Boshnack, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Mr. Robert Howard, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Louis Bonadonna, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

Ms. Robin Rann, District-wide Chairperson of Mathematics

Mr. John Grillo, Mr. Brandon Weisberg, Mr. Gary Gonzalez, JAG Architects

Public Attendance: 193 virtually

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Badanes called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. IF NECESSARY, THE CHAIR MAY ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION - Note: It is anticipated that the Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the band room at Northport High School, to act upon a resolution, upon majority vote, to immediately convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons, and matters pertaining to current litigation.

Action: 2.01 Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons, and matters pertaining to current litigation.

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli, Donna McNaughton

At 7:15 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session via Zoom.

3. Mr. Badanes led those present in the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**; and

4. Pointed out the **EMERGENCY EXITS**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: 5.01 Minutes

Recommendation to approve the following minutes:

5.01.1 September 23, 2020 - Regular Meeting

5.01.2 October 1, 2020 - Regular Meeting

Motion by Allison C Noonan, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

6. STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Presentations: 6.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

6.01.1 Ms. Robin Rann, District-wide Chairperson of Mathematics, presented a video commending Camden Burk, Mathematics Department Student of the Month.

President Badanes and Superintendent Banzer congratulated Camden on his fine accomplishments.

Presentations: 6.02 School Board Recognition Week

Governor Cuomo has declared the week of October 19 - October 23, 2020 as School Board Recognition Week to recognize school board members for their commitment to the children of the State of New York, and to increase awareness of and appreciation for the hard work and commitment school board members have in their efforts to ensure all students succeed. The seven members of the Board received commendations from Western Suffolk BOCES and the Northport-East Northport School District and PTA Council.

7. SPECIAL REPORTS

Presentations: 7.01 District-wide Construction Update

Mr. John Grillo, Mr. Brandon Weisberg and Mr. Gary Gonzalez presented a district-wide construction update.

Projects that were completed over the summer included the following items:

- Stage floor replacement at Northport High School
- Parking lot reconstruction at Northport High School
- Concrete sidewalks and fencing along Laurel Hill Road
- Parking lot reconstruction at East Northport Middle School
- Multi-stall toilet renovations at Fifth Avenue Elementary School.

The next round of bidding will take place on November 13th and the projects included in that are:

- Northport High School south athletics vestibule
- New generators at Northport High School
- 2nd floor toilets at East Northport Middle School
- Multi-stall toilet reconstruction at Norwood Avenue Elementary School
- Sitework reconstruction at Norwood Avenue Elementary School
- Remaining sitework at Fifth Avenue, Pulaski Road and Ocean Avenue Elementary Schools
- Masonry work at William J. Brosnan Administration Building

Mr. Grillo stated that the work at the William J. Brosnan School is work that really should be done to protect the overall shell of the building. The steel lintils need to be replaced and coping, and mortar joints have disintegrated.

Discussion: 7.02 District Goals

Mr. Banzer stated that using the strategic plan's mission, vision and core beliefs to guide the work and move forward the framework he wanted to present some district goals for the Board's consideration. They align with work that has been done relative to the strategic plan. Mr. Banzer reviewed the following goals:

- Academic - Innovative, engaging and inclusive teaching and learning so that all students can pursue their aspirations and contribute as responsible members of society.
- Safe & Supportive School Environment – A safe and supportive environment where students possess the social emotional competencies to navigate a complex world.
- Fiscal Planning – A financial plan that sustains the district's mission, vision and core beliefs, quality facilities and responsive operations services while being fiscally responsible.
- Communication/Community Engagement – Communication in a clear, honest, inclusive and supportive manner with our school community that contributes to the district's mission.

The District received an update from Moody's and they will be upgrading the District's bond rating from AA1 to AA2.

Mr. Banzer stated throughout the community there are people that are doing fantastic things for the school community and the larger community and they would like to come up with a way to acknowledge them and thank them.

Discussion: 7.03 Future Study Report

Mr. Banzer stated that a number of meetings have been held regarding the Future Study Report and on September 23rd the Community Advisory Committee participated in the Board Workshop. There were approximately 80 people in that meeting. As the District continues to consider the scenarios and future potential configurations it is important that the community understands the report, understands the process and engages the Board, the administration and the committee to get questions answered and for the Board to receive input. There will be meetings on November 5th and November 19th where the Board will decide on a plan that exists or a modification of a plan. The committee will then prepare an educational impact statement related to the scenario chosen and present it to the Board on December 3rd.

Mr. Banzer stated that this report has been in the making for over a year. The presentation and the community advisory committee meetings are on the website along with a Q&A page. The community meeting last evening had over 200 people in attendance and this evening there are over 170 people in attendance.

Mr. Banzer pointed out the key and fundamental aspects to the process. The consultant came in July of 2019 and started to collect data to prepare a demographic study and a pupil capacity study. The pupil capacity study is a valuable report that takes into account and asks the question on how do we use our space. A potential increase in capacity is addressed in how the numbers are structured. Mr. Banzer stated that they are very aware of the number of questions received regarding whether the study factored in the current COVID pandemic and social distancing requirements. The District has expanded the use of space below class size at the elementary level and by doing that they were able to accommodate bringing back all students K-5. The COVID situation is a temporary situation. If the District closes two buildings, we would still have those assets for a time to use if we find ourselves in a situation like we have now. Comments from committee members can be found in the report. Whatever outcome is decided upon the transition for students will be made as smooth as possible.

Mr. Banzer stated that we do have a financial reality. They have been working on LIPA for over a decade and it is no longer a conceptual idea that might happen some day. The settlement is here. There is a plan for the tax shift that will start to occur and it will impact the community and impact the school district. The district is thinking about how we can mitigate the shift that is going to happen over the next 7-12

years. There has also been declining enrollment over the past several years. The district has an obligation to the community to consider that as well. The question is how do we support families and students and how do we be fiscally responsible.

Mr. Banzer encouraged everyone to take the time and go through the report. From an efficiency perspective and maintaining class guidelines, we can actually close two buildings and look for efficiencies without changing programs.

President Badanes stated that the future study report is on the website, as well as the video from Tuesday's meeting and any updates. Tonight's meeting is for the Board to listen to the community and listen to concerns and questions. No one on the Board has made a decision. They may not be answering questions tonight but that doesn't mean they're being ignored. The questions will be put into categories to get them answered.

8. COMMUNICATIONS - Please Note: This is the opportunity for persons who had written letters to the Board.

There were no communications to the Board requiring Board action.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT/PARTICIPATION - Please Note: Community members are invited to share their questions, comments, or concerns with the School Board. Please email your questions to boe@northport.k12.ny.us by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. When speaking, citizens should state their name and address for the record and limit their presentation to 5 minutes. Where possible, the Board will answer factual questions immediately. A written response may be provided when information is not available. If a response would involve discussion of Board Policy or decisions which might be of interest to citizens not present at the meeting, the Board may place the item on a future meeting agenda.

President Badanes stated that all questions may not be answered but they do go into the thought process going forward.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Gina Norwood	What is going to happen to property values if restructuring takes place and does the study take into account how this will affect children's mental health and well being?
Allison Trevaskis	Was rezoning of the whole elementary population assessed to undertake prior to closing schools and if it is more reasonable to close another school over Bellerose and to look into the closing of other buildings? Were all elementary school efficiencies/expenses evaluated?
Laura O'Donohoe	Children awarded variances from Northport Middle School to East Northport Middle School, what will happen now that all children would have to go through Northport Middle School?
Ilene Smerler Lenna	Continue to ask for evaluation of our students in school. Children are suffering in mental health, motivation and interest in future. Children need and deserve a more engaged education.
Laura Cooke	Two days a week for middle and high school kids is not enough. Their future is at stake. We need a clear plan to get our students back five days. Please use local models of other school districts that are making this happen.

- Justin Scott How much are we actually saving when all of the students at the two schools that were walkers would not need to be bused? Administrative school would have same draw on utilities and the mothballed school will still have to draw on utilities but hopefully reduced.
- Nancy Walsh Asked have decisions already been made behind closed doors since you referenced sister schools.
- Mr. Banzer stated that the reference to sister schools is that Pulaski and Fifth Avenue have the same footprint in the way they were constructed as well as Norwood.
- Christina Karman Why wouldn't you show maintenance information on Bellerose and Dickinson just to show the work that needs to be done if they stay open?
- Irene Taub Why are Bellerose and Dickinson left off, and are there steps being taken behind the scenes to close these particular schools?
- Bill Vause When do you expect secondary students to physical attend their respective schools five days per week?
- Adeline & James Budd Has the Brosnan building been appraised? Would it be an option to sell that building instead of moving all the children around and closing schools?
- Michelle C. How can you justify displacing so many students? Studies have shown that closing down schools negatively affects not only the students in the closed down schools but also the students in the schools receiving an influx of new students. It is simply a means to save money without taking into account how it will affect our children's social and mental health and their education.
- Julie Hendricks-Atkins Asked what was the reason behind Moody's decision to upgrade the district's bond rating.
- Dan Murphy Asked how much the future study cost.
- Lara Murphy Stated that she keeps hearing about a mailing that went out and not one person she has spoken to has heard about this until the last week or so.
- Nicole Raganella Stated that other districts have moved passed the six foot distancing and APA supports three feet. When will the district move past six feet and return our high school students to full time five days?
- Jennifer McNaughton The format to ask questions does not ask for a name and address and asks if you want to send anonymously. Maybe the Board of Ed can edit this feature to correspond with the format the Board of Ed requires.
- Denise Schwartz When can we expect the middle school and high school students back in school five days and when will Wednesdays become a full day of school with alternating cohorts in the building?
- Vicky Colacicco Stated that we should be able to close one to two elementary schools and move those children to the other four elementary schools and not change the entire system.

Janice Conte Has it been considered to move administration to Northport Middle School, use Bellerose for 5-6 and East Northport Middle School for 7-8? Bellerose and East Northport Middle School are centrally located and less controversial. When will a decision be made regarding the closing of schools?

Mr. Banzer stated that another Board meeting will be November 5th and the target right now it to reach a scenario on November 19th and reengage the committee and come up with an educational impact statement and bring that back to the Board in a meeting in December.

Steve D How can we consider closing schools during this time? Class size will go up making it even more difficult for teachers. Closing schools negatively affects the village on top of LIPA, the middle school and school closures makes the area less attractive and is that being weighed as that is a long term financial impact.

Michelle Costales Without taking COVID into account how can you justify displacing so many students? Studies have shown that closing schools negatively impacts students.

Janine Corbett If this goes into effect in September, when will children find out where they are going to school and how will decisions be made on where they are going, what will rezoning look like?

Halle Perles (email) Sent an email to the Board opposed to increased time of students in the high school due the increase in COVID infections.

Evelyn Nauss Sent an email stating that she supports option 1 with less transition at elementary level and does not support 8th grade at high school.

Steven Dernback Sent an email stating that he does not see how closing elementary schools and combining with another makes sense. Current state of affairs and social distancing do not see how you can add students to a school classroom. Children have been through a lot already and it is a lot for them to keep having drastic changes. This will deter future home sales in the area.

Kathy Burkhardt The scenarios show pushing students through Northport Middle School at some point. Any parents who are currently assigned to East Northport Middle School take issue with this. Issues surrounding Northport Middle School with toxic chemicals, noxious odors and ongoing litigation. The parents that are not currently assigned to that school are not comfortable with sending their children there. If a building must be closed or sold, why isn't Northport Middle School the obvious choice?

Mr. Banzer stated that there was tremendous work done over the last year to resolve any of the issues that were brought to us regarding Northport Middle School. A committee was formed and we employed PWGC who produced an extremely thorough report and the conclusion reached was that the building was safe for occupancy. Students and staff are in there now and things are going very, very well.

Katherine As a parent in Dickinson community sad to see possible closure. See that enrollment is down from what it once was and if the district needs to close two schools it is what it is. However, COVID is not going anywhere. In order to keep up with socially distancing students more classrooms need to be open and to do so schools should remain open. Closure of schools should come more gradually. Northport Middle School is more of a liability to the district.

- Christine Consley Will you grant variances for children of families that do not want to expose them to Northport Middle School?
- Karen Chapman Why can't we keep East Northport Middle School for 7th and 8th graders, move administrators to Northport Middle, put 5th & 6th graders at Bellerose Avenue? Community would like different option than being forced through Northport Middle School.
- Jennifer Viegas Has it been discussed to keep Bellerose open for 5th and 6th grades, have the administration use Northport Middle and use East Northport Middle for 7th and 8th? Many parents in community would feel better if their children do not have to attend Northport Middle.
- Annamarie Ferrara Reviewed all options and would like it to be pushed out for one year after the COVID-19 pandemic and all the challenges our students and staff faced last year and continue to face this year. Asked not to go forward with any option that puts 8th graders in high school. Implore the Board to keep Northport Middle School as an option.
- Gina DeMarco Why are we not prioritizing the seniors who already lost out on education, sports, senior experiences and memories? Seniors should be attending school five days a week with juniors to follow. Future study needs to include every parent who has applied for the committee. Repercussions from combining 7th and 8th graders in one building. How can students compete on an academic as well as athletic level against students who attend private schools and are receiving a proper education? What is plan of action for training and competition of indoor sports in January?
- Lauren Handler Hopes the Board will consider holding the next meeting in person for people to share their thoughts and also on Zoom for the community. Poor taste you told LIPA to put off negotiations and here you are forcing us to redistrict schools during a global pandemic with little to no community involvement or a second opinion from a qualified source. Asked when was the last time the Board members walked through each property in the school district. Hire a building inspector to actively protect our children, staff and teachers from these aging buildings. Put Northport Middle School on chopping block or tear down and rebuild.

Trustee Stein stated that he toured every building except East Northport Middle School and was joined by a number of other trustees and have toured every one of the district's buildings every year. There are no hanging wires, no floods, no uneven floors or broken floor tiles. Northport Middle School represents one of the best buildings this district has. The families and staff who work in that building have for years been demoralized by a group of people dead set on spreading misinformation and fear throughout this community for issues that have been time and time again disproven. This district and this Board has unanimously put an extraordinary amount of effort in trying to embrace the concerns that some members of the community had, millions of dollars to do work that alleviates those concerns and disproves them repeatedly. Yet we still have this information flying around this community, it is outrageous. Several respected companies studied and tested that building for years. The most recent one by PW Grosser took almost a year, tested everything in that building, air, water, soil, building materials and history. It was overseen and reviewed by government agencies. Every company that ever looked at it has never said anything other than that building is safe.

Trustee Licopoli stated that having chaired the subcommittee he has absolutely no doubt the comprehensive nature of the study addressed many, many of the issues that were surrounding the middle

school. The work that was done was comprehensive and followed the facts. They were not prevented from studying any other part of the building that needed to be studied. The information that was shared and the recommendations that were made were as comprehensive as any environmental study of a school have been. He fully believes the science that is in the study that indicates that that building is safe for occupancy. He has no problem with his grandchildren going through that school.

Trustee McNaughton stated that it is time for us to be able to turn the page. People are entitled to their own opinion but they are not entitled to their own set of facts. It is the most tested building that we have and have been told by the experts that there is nothing wrong with the school. Spent a fortune to make sure that building is safe and to have someone capitalize on something that is not backed up by facts is very disappointing. Students are in that building because we know that building is safe.

Kendra Monahan How can we afford to close two schools with COVID numbers slowly increasing and our high school students aren't going back to school five days a week? How are kids supposed to build relationships and feel a sense of community if they are shuffled from building to building? Can we cut costs at the administrative level? Why are all cost saving options at the kids expense? Why closing two of three schools that receive the most free and reduced lunches? Why not Ocean? Why wasn't an analysis of closing one elementary building in the report? Did the consultant take into account the unique outdoor learning spaces at Bellerose and adjacent to Bellerose. How will we accommodate more kindergarten rooms in each building? How much space will be left in each building for an influx of students when affordable housing is built on Pulaski? How will rezoning be done? Will variances be allowed at the elementary level? Can this be put on back burner until life goes back to normal post COVID? Will schools still have art rooms, makers space, rooms for small learning? Will there be new caps for class size? What about shy, easily overwhelmed students, are they expected to adjust and walk into new school?

Jennifer Falasco With COVID restrictions why not one school right now? What will happen to class size if two elementary schools close? How would the children be moved within the district? Why the immediate rush to implement this now in times of such uncertainty and change? Have we readdressed the building usage report to see how it is different now than last fall when the study was done? Understand the economical reasons why this needs to be done but have we addressed the human side and how this will affect our children?

Denise Schwartz Stated that this meeting should have allowed to be in person as was the October 1st meeting. Is it advisable to close Northport Middle School rather than use these scenarios where every child in the district would have to pass through Northport Middle. What will happen to families asking for variances to not have their children attend Northport Middle School? The best solution would be to move the administrative offices to the Northport Middle School campus to show in good faith how safe and sound the district believes the facility to be.

Adeline Budd Last night's zoom meeting was unfair way to let community be heard. Asked over fifteen questions and none were addressed. All of the options should be taken off the table. Kids are zoned to attend East Northport Middle School and the thought of them being required to attend Northport Middle School makes zero sense. This will severely impact their emotional health. Focus on selling the Brosnan Building and leaving the kids as is.

Christina Karman Voiced opposition to future study report, school closures. All scenarios show Northport Middle School being open to house students that are not currently zones for that school. Community asks that we have transparent options that excludes Northport Middle School. Provide new zoning for each option. How is community supposed to come to conclusion without valid information. How can we obtain a variance in the future if all models give students attending Northport Middle School. Students would have to change schools four or five times and will negatively affect their education by creating an unstable school environment. There is not enough evidence to close Bellerose. Do not close schools during a pandemic.

President Badanes stated that no matter what the issue is there is probably going to be close to 50% of the people saying great idea and 50% saying that's the worst idea I heard of. I try to listen to both sides of those opinions and arguments of whatever the issues are. Listen to all the viewpoints of whatever issue comes across the Board. Hope at end of day together with the Board we can come to a decision that we can support and go forth with it.

Jamie & Rick Herman What is the estimated cost savings per year of closing two schools?

Mr. Banzer stated that the cost savings are in each scenario. The class size numbers, enrollment projections, are very generous in that they allow for greater numbers in the building than we currently have. Because it has built in that flexibility the scenarios of more families moving into the district and Matinecock happening are taken into consideration. Mr. Banzer encouraged everyone to go through the report as there is a great amount of information in it.

John McCloskey What's the status of returning to in school on Wednesday afternoons as well as the five day in school plan?

Lisa Cellura Concerned about shortened instruction on Wednesday and the Board was considering changing this. Has a decision been made and has the Board considered phasing in classes. Will all teachers provide live streaming for all classes.

Mr. Banzer stated they are continuing to work on these things but doesn't have a specific date in mind but all options are being seriously considered. Health and safety is at the forefront of the entire decision making process.

Janine Corbett If plan goes into effect in September when will decisions be made about rezoning.

Laura Moritz Does the upper administrators plan to take salary freezes while the district works through this financial crunch?

Lee Boodoo Will there be a way for the community to check that all of the Northport Middle School remediations recommended by PWGC were completed?

Mr. Banzer stated that they have been completed.

Claire Nico Is the Board listening to the community when they continuously say that they are not comfortable sending our children through this school? Please consider closing this school.

Peter Tarnowski Explain how alternating cohorts on Wednesdays is a health and safety issue when the number of students remains the same as the other four days.

Gianna Stanivitch How can we determine that COVID will be in the rear view mirror for the 2021-2022 school year.

Catherine Epanchin-Butuc Was unable to log into the zoom meeting and finally got in this evening. Feels that the number of attendees does not accurately represent the reality of the district.

Mr. Banzer stated that we have the capacity for people to be a part of the meeting. The meetings are recorded and put on the website.

Julie Is East Northport Middle School being one of the schools considered for closure.

Mr. Banzer stated no, not in any of the scenarios.

Diane Popa How can you make a decision in 30 days saying we will no longer need the extra space for social distancing come September, seems premature.

Steve D Nearby Smithtown school district has tried this to no avail, closing a middle school and elementary and found out the savings weren't there.

Nicole Mulholland Full remote learning program at the elementary level has been going great. The teachers have been amazing. Wish specials would have once a month face-to-face with kids. High school has also been going well but the standards for the kids participating are not consistent. The district should develop a stricter standard for live instruction. The teachers have been amazing.

Mike Drew Why do we not have a plan to have grades 6-12 back in school every other Wednesday?

Tammie Topel How can a plan that includes Northport Middle School for all students at some point in time can be put forth to a community that is so unsettled and divided by the events of the past year: What will happen with students who have variances? Consider moving administration to Northport Middle School. Future meetings should be in-person.

Lauren DeBellis Has there been any assessment on the potential emotional impact on the elementary level children facing all of these changes?

Moriah Heuer With potential changes to busing will you look at changing the hours for the high school to later times to reflect teens' sleep patterns.

Debbie Ronan Parking lots at Bellerose supposed to complete last summer which was part of the bond and already approved. Was that cost included in the future study?

Scott Lewis How are you going to handle sports when all of the 7th and 8th graders playing sports were in two schools but are now all in one school in almost every scenario?

Michelle Ward-Triolo Has there been any discussion about having the seniors back in school five days? Why aren't all the kids on a rotating schedule like other districts where they go to school three days, two days remove, and then the next week they flip the schedule?

- Ryan DeMarco Is it possible to delay such significant changes to our district and the lives of our children until we get through this pandemic? Decision feels very rushed.
- Karen Why can't we make Bellerose 5th & 6th grade and East Northport 7th & 8th, make Northport Middle administration's new home? Feels like being forced to Northport Middle School where a ton of community members don't want that.
- Deborah Sepessy Why can't we bring the seniors back in full time, they are the students being most impacted right now? They don't have a chance to catch up next year. Many are taking AP and IB classes and teaching themselves. It is impacting their future college careers.
- Nicole Moy Why don't we have a scenario that eliminates students going to Northport Middle School? Why can't it be used as an administrative building?
- Allison Bruno Will there be a need to change the start or end times of schools to accommodate the need for increased transportation with eliminating neighborhood elementary schools.
- Brynn Maxwell How much is the annual upkeep and projected upkeep for Northport Middle School? Seems like it would be first on the chopping block.
- Laura Moritz Does the upper administration plan to take salary freezes while the district works through this financial crunch?
- Alana Schalik Why does it make sense to close two centrally located schools? Why are there no scenarios where you close either Dickinson and Norwood or Bellerose and Ocean?
- Erica Shantzek How is having kids going through four to five different schools bring the best stability and continuity for our kids?
- Kathleen Henehan Sent several emails and has not had any response. Kids are not doing well at home. The class of 2021 is missing out on everything. Please advise updated plan.
- Maryanne Morawski Why is it so hard to come up with a timeline when we can at least get our kids back on Wednesdays?
- Rose Regan Knowing controversy surrounding Northport Middle School, why are we putting all kids in that school in every single option given to us?
- Maria Martello Did the future study group take into consideration our kids mental state?
- Mr. Banzer stated as a data point not necessarily but there was a tremendous amount of input and consideration from the community advisory committee about every aspect of these circumstances. We understand the importance of the social emotional aspect of transitions.
- Christopher Beihoff With Norwood 44% unused and Bellerose 34% unused, would there be room to add students from a single closed elementary building, keeping those buildings used as elementary locations?

- Courtney Mezzafonte If the District knew they were going to be closing buildings why wasn't Northport Middle School just closed instead of spending significant money to remediate it. It would have prevented the need to close other schools that don't have environmental or structural issues.
- Jennifer Chambers Are there schools that are more secure than others? Is security a concern in any of the schools?
- Jennifer Kennedy You keep side stepping the question about adding more in person school days. Other districts are giving it a try, why can't we?
- Grace Dallin What plans are you coming up with for children to go back full time in high school? If kids are going to continue hybrid for now why can't they have live streamed classes while they are home? Why can't they go to school all together?
- Jennifer Angelo There are many families happy with their children attending Northport Middle School and many families unhappy having their children ripped out and moved to East Northport Middle School last year. Opinions expressed by some of our community members are not the opinions of all community members. What type of extensive testing was done at East Northport Middle School?
- Tara Burke Each scenario says that the draft building condition survey identifies about \$2.7 million worth of reconstruction work is needed at Bellerose. What is the work and how much is needed at each of the other schools?
- Mr. Banzer stated that there is a capital project report on the website under the future study.
- Karen C Why are we not keeping East Northport Middle School as a middle school, why does it have to be Northport Middle? I don't want to be forced into a school I am uncomfortable with.
- Mary Gilmore If parents do not want to close buildings where do they think the money will come from to mitigate the loss of LIPA funds? I ask the committee, the Board of Ed and Mr. Banzer to stay the course and do what is necessary to preserve the quality and quantity of educational programs in this district.
- Lisa Bilger How many letters of support for any of these plans the Board has received?
- Mr. Badanes stated that in many decisions you get close to 50% of people saying I like x and 50% of people saying they don't like x. No count has been made about anything on the school closing because no decision has been made to vote on it. The future study made five recommendations, the Board may or may not take those suggestions the way they are or they may change them.
- Patty & Drew Schoonmaker When can students attend school in person on Wednesdays? Why are lessons abbreviated on Wednesdays? Why are lessons not required to be synchronous in person with remote daily? How is five minutes three times a week considered education while students are on remote?
- Tara Herr What percentage of the committee was from each school? Heard that almost half of the committee was from Ocean Avenue. If that is the case I am wondering if that played a part in why it was not recommended to be closed.

Mr. Badanes stated that when the committee was selected we made very sure that there was a close to equal representation from all over the district, from each of the elementary schools and each of the middle schools, and also with the generations, people with no children, people whose children aged out. We made sure that every demographic was checked off.

Jessica Moore Will the projected cost savings offset the LIPA loss? If we stay status quo what will the result be to the district financially and is there a backup plan?

Mr. Banzer stated that it would go a long way to offsetting what could be the impact to our community.

Mr. Badanes stated that he believed before the LIPA settlement they provided about \$55 million to the district. The settlement is approximately 50% less we would get from LIPA at the end of the process from the ramp down. About \$28 million less. There may be about \$6 million in savings from a scenario.

Deanna Frey Please don't allow the few in the community dictating the closing Northport Middle School. The social emotion well being of students wasn't considered last year when an entire school building of children had to abruptly leave their school.

Jessica Why isn't there a scenario presented that keeps Dickinson Avenue Elementary open, it needs less work than other schools and is not the oldest elementary.

Deborah Raguzen In terms of social emotional well being of kids, you mentioned a survey of kids in grades 3-12 but what about k-2 grades. How will you measure how it will affect them.

Mr. Banzer stated that the survey is designed for grades 3-12. Ms. Dantuono has talked about focusing in on the K-2 as well. The survey was not developmentally appropriate to be administered to grades K-2 but that doesn't mean we are not giving serious consideration to those students in those grade levels.

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

Motion by David Badanes, second by Allison C Noonan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Diane Hayden If the plan goes into effect in September it will mean that the District has sent my son to his fourth elementary school in six years. With so much change and uncertainty why is the District pushing this to have this in place so quickly? Give the parents and district participants time to understand the impact.

Bridget D Why are so many valid questions read and not answered? With the repeated questions can Mr. Banzer let us know that he already answered.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that at the beginning of the meeting Mr. Badanes stated that all questions may not be answered. The themed questions will be added to the Q&A that has been posted on the website.

Mr. Stein stated that as we hear through all the questions they make an impact and give us a theme and understanding on how people are feeling just by reading all the questions. Don't think that you are not actually getting an actual hard answer to each and every questions that the presence of those questions doesn't drive what we are hearing and what our understanding is of what people want.

- Corrine Giardano Multiple community members are uncomfortable with this decision being made during a pandemic and to please postpone and not rely on the assumption that the pandemic will subside before increasing contact in schools.
- Laura O'Donohoe I would rather see East Northport Middle School stay open. Northport Middle School will always cost the most money because of the inefficiency given its design for a California school.
- Gina Norwood You are about to make a major decision that will impact our families and you are talking about renovations.
- Adeline & James Budd Is a study going to be done that will tell us what social emotional impact that closing schools and moving schools will have on our children during an already scary and stressful time in their lives.
- Christine Karman The mission and vision would not be accomplished should you close Bellerose Avenue. Your vision does not provide a safe educational environment for our children.
- Laura Cooke A great way to boost our children's self esteem and performance is getting them back time. Most are confused that we don't have enough space for our kids to get them back yet we are complaining about low enrollment and closing schools.
- Alison Trevaskis According to the future study Norwood and Ocean are the most under utilized buildings and bringing the two communities together would see an overflow which Bellerose could accommodate. Do both of those buildings have better efficiency, future of less expense of necessary work and updating compared to Bellerose?
- Dan Murphy Who recommended the Princeton model? Was this recommended by the state and who recommended the business that provided the data?
- Mr. Badanes stated that the Board selected with Superintendent Banzer's recommendation to select Mr. Seversky to lead the future study committee.
- Diane Popa Has the fate of Dickinson and Bellerose already been decided given the lack of bond work scheduled for both schools?
- Erica Shantzek How is having kids going through four to five different schools offering the best stability and continuity for our kids?
- Christopher Beihoff What is the necessary cost savings needed to be achieved by the District? Is there any way to achieve that figure without major building closures?
- Mr. Banzer stated there is really no way to the scale of \$5 to \$6.5 million dollars and keep programs intact.
- Lara Murphy On a personal note this is beyond disappointing. I went to Bellerose along with all four of my siblings. My husband and I just bought a house specifically so my children could walk to Bellerose.

Nicole Raganella Why have you not been forthcoming with reasons why our District will not livestream? I have spoken to several administrators of other districts and they were honest with me. These superintendents told me we are not livestreaming because of our teachers' contract.

Mr. Banzer stated we have an agreement where every teacher is expected to check in at every class and at this current time there is discretion among the teacher as to which modality to use. All these situations are evolving.

Steve How much does a school closure really save? In research of a similar situation in another town there is not much savings. Teachers tend to be relocated, custodial and maintenance doesn't change much. With the exception of the sale of a property I don't see the savings.

Mr. Badanes stated that the savings are listed starting on page 97 of the future study report.

Dan Murphy Administration should be working from home or spread out through the District. Leave the buildings for the kids.

Mr. Banzer stated that Brosnan building was changed from a school to an administration building with the idea if there was an increase in enrollment we have the capacity and space in which to do that. This decision was made over a decade ago and we know over that time enrollment has continued to decline.

Adeline & James Budd Does the declining enrollment affect the funding the District receives? Why does declining keep being brought up into this other than to bring up inefficiencies.

Vicky Colacicco Why is the District so against increasing class size? We are well below the average on Long Island.

Mr. Banzer stated that it is a value. We value low class sizes and it is something that we hear from our community. It is something that the Board and administration values.

Kendra Monahan Have you spoken with custodians at each school? Have you asked what is involved with the day-to-day operations of each school and cost?

Dan Murphy How many of the community volunteers have children in Bellerose or Dickinson?

Jennifer McNaughton With the first quarter being halfway over, what is the District doing to evaluate how our children are doing academically? What adjustments are we making to make sure they are learning the curriculum? Many students are doing poorly.

Jamie & Rick Herman Are you prepared to be held responsible for repercussions in physical and mental health of the students displaced?

Angelo's Family Did the future study group take into consideration our kids mental state with the study. Did the consultant take that into consideration?

Erica Shantzek Why not close the Brosnan building and administrators can work from home or they can use the excess space found in the elementary schools?

Michelle Costales If you are determined to close down schools for fiscal purposes why are you not considering closing down Northport Middle School?

Irene Taub Extremely concerned with the number of schools my kids have to transition through with these plans. How does this uphold the core values, children are our first priority?

All remaining questions will be printed and sent to the Board, translated to common themes, and added to the FAQ on the District's website.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

Action: 10.01 Personnel Actions Report
Recommendation to approve the attached Personnel Actions Report.

Motion by David Badanes, second by David Stein.
Final Resolution: Motion Passes
Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Allison C Noonan, David Stein
Abstain: Donna McNaughton
Not Present at Vote: Thomas Loughran

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, FINANCIAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

Action: 11.01 BIDS
Recommendation to take specified action on the following BIDS:

SCHOOL LUNCH
11.01.1 AWARD: Bid #21-101 Uniforms - School Lunch

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.
Final Resolution: Motion Passes
Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein
Not Present at Vote: Thomas Loughran

Action: 11.02 Town of Islip Contract for Playground/Play Equipment & Site Amenities Catalogs

Recommendation to approve the following resolution authorizing piggybacking on the Town of Islip Contract for Playground/Play Equipment & Site Amenities Catalogs (Playworld Systems; Little Tikes; Mid-Atlantic Products; Burke Premier Play Environments or equal), Contract #419-52 (For B&G to use American Recreation Products for the wood fiber needs on playground equipment)

"WHEREAS, the Town of Islip has made available to other municipalities a contract for playground equipment/play equipment & site amenities catalogs - Playworld Systems; Little Tikes; Mid-Atlantic Products, Burke Premier Play Environments (or equal), Contract #419-52 and

WHEREAS, said contract for playground equipment/play equipment & site amenities catalogs - Playworld Systems; Little Tikes, Mid-Atlantic Products; Burke Premier Play Environments (or equal), Contract #419-52 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 playground equipment/play equipment & site amenities catalogs - Playworld Systems; Little Tikes; Mid-Atlantic Products, Burke Premier Play Environments (or equal), Contract #419-52 from Town of Islip in accordance with the requirements of General Municipal Law, section 103."

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.03 Smithtown Central School District

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Smithtown Central School District to provide special education and related services to students with disabilities (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.04 West Islip Union Free School District

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Special Education Services Contract between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and West Islip Union Free School District to provide special education and related services to students with disabilities (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.05 South Huntington Union Free School District

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and South Huntington Union Free School District to provide special education and related services to students with disabilities (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.06 Twin County Driving School

Recommendation to approve an In-Car Driving Instruction Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Twin County Driving School (Community Services)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.07 School Aid Specialists, LLC

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and School Aid Specialists, LLC to provide consultant services for Medicaid reimbursement (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.08 Da Vinci Education & Research, LLC

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Amendment to Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Da Vinci Education & Research, LLC for related services (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Larry Licopoli.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.09 Cleary School for the Deaf

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Cleary School for the Deaf to provide for the education of certain or all disabled children (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.10 The Center for Discovery

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and The Center for Discovery to provide for the education of handicapped children in special classes (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.11 SCO Family of Services/Madonna Heights

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement for the Receipt of IDEA Flow-Through Funding Allocations between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and SCO Family of Services/Madonna Heights (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.12 All About Kids SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychology, PLCC

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement for Receipt of IDEA Flow-Through Funding Allocations between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and All About Kids SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychology, PLLC (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.13 Westbrook Preparatory School

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement for Receipt of IDEA Flow-Through Funding Allocations between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Westbrook Preparatory School (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.14 Anderson Center for Autism

Recommendation to approve a 2020-2021 Agreement for Receipt of IDEA Flow-Through Funding Allocations between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Anderson Center for Autism (Spec. Ed.)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.15 County of Suffolk School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program

Recommendation to approve the following resolutions:

1)

"WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk (the "County") has established the School Bus Stop Arm Demonstration Program ("Stop Arm Program");

WHEREAS, the County has invited the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District to participation in the Stop Arm Program;

WHEREAS, participation in the Stop Arm Program is free of charge to the participating school districts,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District approves the annexed Opt-In Agreement to Participate in the County of Suffolk School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program as it relates to the District-owned buses.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute the annexed Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education."

2)

"WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk (the "County") has established the School Bus Stop Arm Demonstration Program ("Stop Arm Program");

WHEREAS, the County has invited the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District to participate in the Stop Arm Program;

WHEREAS, participation in the Stop Arm Program is free of charge to the participating school districts,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District approves the annexed Opt-In Agreement to Participate in the County of Suffolk School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute the annexed Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education."

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.16 SAM Grant Resolution

Recommendation to approve the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, THE Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District applied for a State and Municipal Facilities Program ("SAM") Grant through DASNY for the purchase and installation of STEM Lab Equipment in the School District;

WHEREAS, DASNY notified the School District that DASNY awarded the District a SAM grant for the STEM Lab Equipment project; and

WHEREAS, as part of the grant administration process, DASNY requires execution of a Grantee Certification and a Project Certificate by an authorized representative of the School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District authorizes the Board President to execute the Grantee Certification and Project Certificate as authorized representative on behalf of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District."

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.17 Transfer of General Fund Appropriations

Recommendation to approve Transfer of General Fund Appropriations in the 2020-2021 fiscal year (\$20,000.00)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Donna McNaughton.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.18 Transfer of Capital Fund Appropriations

Recommendation to approve Transfer of Capital Fund Appropriations in the 2020-2021 fiscal year (\$121,675.00)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

Action: 11.19 Western Suffolk BOCES Multi-Year Service Agreement

Recommendation to approve a Multi-Year Service Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Western Suffolk BOCES in the amount of \$305,766 (Technology)

Motion by David Badanes, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Information: 12.01 Schedule H - Use of Facilities

Information: 12.02 Budget Transfers for the period September 21, 2020 through October 8, 2020 - As per Board Policy #6150 all transfers between salary codes up to \$25,000 and transfers between all other codes up to \$10,000 are to be reported to the Board of Education as an information item

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion: 14.01 Board discussion of the Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions for the 2020 NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting

Motion was made by Trustee Stein to withdraw item 14.01.

Motion by David Stein, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

15. ADJOURNMENT - Board policy requires adjournment by 10:30 pm, unless meeting is extended by vote.

Information: 15.01 Upcoming Meetings

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, November 5, 2020

7:00 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, November 19, 2020

7:00 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, December 3, 2020

7:00 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School

Action: 15.02 Adjournment

Recommendation to adjourn the meeting

Motion by David Badanes, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

At 11:06 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk