

Northport-East Northport Union Free School District Regular Meeting - Northport High School Auditorium and via Zoom (Thursday, November 19, 2020)

Generated by Beth M Nystrom on Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Members present

David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli (virtually – arrived at 6:20), Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, 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

Public Attendance: Approximately 20 people in person and 280 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 Room A119 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 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 7:16 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the Auditorium at Northport High School.

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 October 15, 2020 - Regular Meeting

5.01.2 October 29, 2020 - Special Meeting

5.01.3 November 5, 2020 - Regular Meeting

Motion by David Stein, 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 Recognition of Staff and Students

6.01.1 Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, District Chairperson of World Languages and English as a New Language, introduced Griffin Crafa, World Language Department Student of the Month.

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

6.01.2 Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, District Chairperson of World Languages and English as a New Language, introduced Kerley Sully, English Language Learner Student of the Month.

President Badanes and Superintendent Banzer congratulated Kerley on her fine accomplishments.

Information: 6.02 Update Related to COVID and School Reopening

Superintendent Banzer stated that since Ms. Dantuono relayed the COVID contact tracing process two weeks ago and since then it has changed. The rates are going up and the number of cases is overwhelming the county. A byproduct from the county's perspective is that in further review of the data the transmission rate is not occurring in the schools, it is a result of what is happening in the community. Many people have raised questions about the students having more time in school. There is a balance between keeping people safe and moving things forward. The teachers and staff are working harder than they ever worked. This situation has made even the most experienced teachers and superintendents feel like they are doing this for the first time. We know this I having an impact on families and students and we want them here all the time but we also want them to be safe. The administration has been planning and talking about different models to bring the kids back. The plan is to bring the sixth graders back on December 7th and we are looking at the middle of January, after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, to bring back the rest of the secondary students to the extent possible. A micro-cluster strategy has been put in place by the New York State Department of Health. If we become a micro-cluster in the yellow zone, we will have to get consent and test 20% of the people that come to school. If we do not get 20% tested then we cannot be in school. There are questions regarding who is going to oversee the testing and the licensing and a call as put into the Suffolk County Department of Health to discuss this and how this can be done on a massive scale. We are hoping we can reverse the trend and then try to open. It is up to everyone in the community.

7. SPECIAL REPORTS

Information: 7.01 Future Study

Mr. Banzer stated that throughout the entire process of the Future Study, the mission, vision and core beliefs of the district have been the principles they have been working from. Mr. Banzer appreciated the level of input he and the Board has received. Since 2014 the district has lost 943 students but has still maintained the same number of buildings, the impact of the LIPA settlement to the individual taxpayer, and the potential reduction in state aid are the reasons why the district is pursuing this. These things are real and considerable, and deserve the attention of the Board of Education in order to maintain the mission, vision and core beliefs. The district offers an extensive academic program for all students K-12 with an emphasis on low class sizes and professional development for teachers to provide an environment for students that is social-emotionally safe. There is a rich middle school program with a number of

opportunities and electives. The high school course offerings include AP, IB, PWLT, two academies, over 50 college level courses, and extensive co-curricular and extracurricular programs for students. We are not looking to change them. We need to take a fundamental look at the direction in which we are going and how we can preserve and possibly enhance the programs. Mr. Banzer stated that declining enrollment is not going away. There was a shift of 200 students from last year to this year. After speaking to several real estate brokers, the data does not back up an increase in enrollment. It is important to the administration and to the Board that we get the community's feedback through PTA meetings, Board workshops, and Thought Exchange. Through the Thought Exchange there were over 1,900 thoughts, over 114,000 ratings, 767 participants shared their thoughts, 904 rated thoughts, and 969 participants explored thoughts. It is important information that will be broken down further. Themes emerged such as concerns about the pandemic, social emotional well-being, class size, transitions, educational program, rezoning, building preferences and the fiscal aspect.

Within the current budget approximately 75% is salaries and benefits, 19% contract services (busing, programs for students), debt service and interfund transfer 4% (funds related to capital projects), and 2% equipment and supplies. The theme of what if we wait, what does that mean emerged from the Thought Exchange. This year's budget did not have a levy increase. Projections for next year would have a levy increase of 1.5%, projecting an increase of about \$3.9 million. Revenue would be about \$172 million and the difference is \$4.3 million. The budget includes about \$2 million in staff savings, reductions due to retirement, and there may be some attrition as well as a result of declining enrollment. We are anticipating an increase of 8% in benefits and approximately 6% each year going out. Showing the numbers does not mean there is any less concern for the students. There is a lot of speculation that there could be a decrease in state aid.

The mission, vision and core beliefs are tied into what we are doing. We realize that we have not seen a time like this since 1919. There are challenges ahead including the ability to continue to provide the programs for the kids. The whole process has been to mitigate that challenge to the extent possible.

The Board discussed having a work session where each Board Trustee could have an opportunity to share their thoughts after receiving more input and analyzing the data from Thought Exchange. The Board is answerable to about 36,000 residents including parents of school age children and residents who do not have kids in school. The Board workshop would enable the Board to talk about the input from the community and information from the Future Study Report and then make a decision. President Badanes stated that no decision has been made by the Board behind closed doors in any fashion. A decision will be made on December 3rd after the Board work session.

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. To participate by Zoom please sign up on the link 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.

Name

Joe Sabia

Comment

Stated that we've been talking about the LIPA lawsuit for ten years and it is imperative that we close one or two schools. We can't keep going the way we have been. We have to be proactive and keep the curriculum going. It's time to

tighten the belt buckle.

- Irene Lenna Stated that students need to be in school full time. It is the safest place for the kids. She is happy to hear that the 6th graders are returning and is hoping that the seniors would return so they have an opportunity to transition and have their final year in school. Asked to consider bringing back the seniors.
- Julie Henricks-Atkins Stated that she had an opportunity to walk through Northport Middle School yesterday and the spaces are bright and clean with newly renovated instructional spaces. A great deal of care and attention is being made. She thanked the Board and the administration for investing in the substantive improvements at Northport Middle School and stated that the building is clearly a valuable asset to the district.
- Moriah Heuer Stated that the commons bathroom look amazing and thanked the administration for saving money by doing the job in house. Asked the Board to please make a decision on the future study. The community advisory committee did a lot of hard work, meeting together and reviewing a lot of information about the district. Not everyone is going to be happy but a decision needs to be made.
- Dianne Popa Asked what the benefit would be to community members who do not have kids in the district of keeping schools open. The only reason the decision should be postponed is because of COVID. Asked the Board not to delay the decision.
- Jen Herman Sent an email to the Board asking why the district isn't moving forward and having students attend school on Wednesdays in person.
- Jennifer Chambers Sent an email to the Board stating that there is a growing group of concerned families that are demanding that all plans to close any school in the district be put on pause until the 2022-2023 school year.
- Kendra Monahan Stated that the district needs to come up with a better idea and plan for saving money and keeping programs in the schools. We can't accept changes without knowing any details.
- Jen Falasco Stated that she appreciated the Board and administration taking two weeks to look at plans that are out there. The community understands that something is going to happen and that taxes are going to go up but questions need to be answered before we have to tell the children what is happening. There are many questions that are unanswered. Asked the Board to press pause for this year and look at options for implementing a plan the following year.

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

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

President Badanes announced the retirement of Sharon Van Nostrand, Teaching Assistant.

Motion by Donna McNaughton, second by Thomas Loughran.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Abstain: Donna McNaughton

Action: 10.02 Policies - Second Read and Adopt

Recommendation to receive for a second read and adopt revisions to the following policies:

10.02.1 Policy #1120 "School District Records"

10.02.2 Policy #5710 "Violent and Disruptive Reporting"

10.02.3 Policy #5500 "Student Records"

10.02.4 Policy #8625 "Student, Teacher, and Principal Data Security and Privacy"

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

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

Action: 11.01 Change Order

Recommendation to approve the following Change Order:

Change Order No. 1, SED #58-04-04-03-0-004-022, Fifth Avenue Elementary School, addition in the amount of \$8,010.00

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.02 South Huntington Union Free School District

Recommendation to approve an Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the South Huntington Union Free School District for maintenance and repair and emergency roadside assistance of school buses and district vehicles.

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.03 Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report - Special Aid Fund

Recommendation to approve the Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report - Special Aid Fund for the month ending September 30, 2020

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.04 Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report - General Fund

Recommendation to approve the following Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report - General Fund for the month ending September 30, 2020

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.05 Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report - Capital Fund

Recommendation to approve the Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report - Capital Fund for the month ending September 30, 2020

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.06 Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report - School Lunch Fund

Recommendation to approve the Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report - School Lunch Fund for the month ending September 30, 2020

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.07 School Lunch Profit and Loss

Recommendation to approve the School Lunch Profit and Loss Statement for the period July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.08 Quarterly Trial Balance Report - All Funds

Recommendation to approve the Quarterly Trial Balance Report for All District Funds for the period July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.09 Student Activity Account Reports

Recommendation to approve the Quarterly Student Activity Account Reports for the period July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020:

11.09.1 Northport High School

11.09.2 East Northport Middle School

11.09.3 Northport Middle School

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.10 Transfer of General Fund Appropriations

Recommendation to approve Transfer of General Fund Appropriations in the 2020-2021 fiscal year (\$116,531.00)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 11.11 Transfer of Capital Fund Appropriations

Recommendation to approve Transfer of Capital Funds in the fiscal year 2020-2021 (\$9,629.00)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Information: 12.01 Schedule H - Use of Facilities

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. NEW BUSINESS

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

Information: 15.01 Upcoming Meetings

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, December 3, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, January 7, 2021

7:00 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, January 21, 2021

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, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

At 9:49 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk