

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Town/Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
January 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Vice-president Antoinette Labbate at 7:30 P.M. in High School Library. Present were Trustees Commander, Gonzalez, Jones, Labbate, and Russo. President Berliner arrived at 8:00 P.M, Trustee Nightingale arrived at 8:35 P.M. Also present Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick, and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi and Robert Chlebicki. There were approximately 100 people in the audience.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice-president Labbate led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2016-2017 Budget Presentation**

Dr. Melnick presented the preliminary 2016-2017 budget. The budget stands at \$99,494,105.15 a 1.96% increase over last year's budget with a tax levy of \$89,962,097.68, a 0.4% increase which is at the tax levy limit. Dr. Melnick explained the components that went into formulating the budget.

**Student Recognition**

Vice-president Labbate, Dr. Melnick, and Dalia Rodriguez, Director of Fine and Performing Arts, recognized the following music and art students on behalf of the Board of Education: All County Music Festival Participants, All State Music Festival Participants, Long Island String Festival Participants, and Long Island Arts Alliance Award recipient, Alaina Van Pak. Along with Don Lang, Director of Athletics, and Coaches Neal Levy and Sara LaMar, Vice-president Labbate and Dr. Melnick also recognized the Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams for becoming the 2015 Nassau County Class III Champions.

**Town Meeting**

President Berliner welcomed the public to the town meeting and opened the floor to questions or comments.

Tim Madden, Sea Cliff, asked if the district expects to get additional revenue now that the senate passed legislation which gets rid of the gap elimination. Dr. Melnick responded our revenue will increase approximately \$400,000 although the numbers are not yet firm; the revenue figures used for tonight's presentation are estimated using last year's figures. In regard to the gap elimination, the district expect to receive approximately \$135,000 in addition from the governor's budget.

Mr. Madden asked what percentage increase is being figured into the teachers' salary line in the budget. Dr. Melnick responded he is not able to discuss that publicly as it is part of collective bargaining. Mr. Madden asked for an explanation of the nature of the lawsuit with Nassau County which appears on the agenda. Dr. Melnick explained he is not permitted to discuss pending litigation, but did say it has nothing to do with the decommissioning of the Glenwood Landing Power Plant. He went on to say the County is unilaterally removing formerly owned property by LILCO from the tax rolls and will convert them to PILOT payments. Mr. Madden asked if receiving PILOTS would be worse than receiving tax payments and whether other districts are filing suit. Dr. Melnick explained the board is protecting the taxpayers in our district. He is unsure who might be filing suit but this action will affect almost every district in Nassau County.

With no further questions from the public, the town meeting portion of the meeting was completed and the regular meeting commenced.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Prior to approval of the minutes Trustee Russo made a motion to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to permit the addition of her statement from December 10, 2015 to the minutes. There was no second to the motion and no vote was taken. Trustee Russo then made a motion to table the approval of the minutes in order to take under advisement a change to board policy which would permit the inclusion of statements made by board member to the minutes. There was no second to the motion and no vote was taken.

On motion of Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Commander with Trustees Berliner, Commander, Gonzalez, Jones and Labbate for and Trustee Russo against, the minutes of December 10, 2015 were approved as amended and the minutes of December 17, 2015 were approved.

### **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Labbate and all in favor, the Treasurer's Report of September 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 was approved.

### **Regular Business**

#### **Update: International Baccalaureate Program**

Mr. Cousins gave an update on the implementation of IB. He described it as a seamless transition with approximately 38 students in the program; only 6% of students were in the highest program prior to IB. IB Coordinator, Candace Brodie, reviewed how she introduces students to the IB program starting with a general overview with students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade to a more in depth review of the program to students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. She explained that she has gotten a lot of feedback from teachers, parents, and students and those who have found the most success were exercising time management. She noted that most students did not come into the program with good time management skills but found this skillset within the program. Diploma Program students Nicholas Cristofari, Charlotte DeMartini, Vasilios Livanos, and Jackie Thoet each spoke about their own personal experience being a diploma candidate. The recurring theme was time management and all students expressed that this program enabled them to learn differently.

President Berliner thanked the students for sharing their experiences with the IB program. He agreed that learning time management is invaluable and will enhance their chance of success. He asked the students to share what makes the IB program a different learning experience for each of them. Some of the student responses included less memorization, reading books that are more of a worldly focus, more writing, more of a holistic approach, understanding the concepts more.

Trustee Labbate thanked the students for coming. She asked what the experience is like when setting up the schedule, before knowing what they want to achieve. Mr. Cousins responded, it is different for the diploma and certificate candidates.

Trustee Gonzalez asked if the students could elaborate on the inter-disciplinary connections made. One student noted the same discussion in social sciences will take place in different subjects.

It was suggested that at the next IB update certificate students are brought to the meeting to share their experiences as well.

Trustee Russo congratulated Mr. Cousins on making the school more academic. She spoke about the difficulty in the transition for the current 11<sup>th</sup> grade class especially due to the fact that they did not have the common core curriculum. She shared some of the concerns she has heard from parents that there is student anxiety, tardiness due to late nights from the work load, and lack of sleep.

Trustee Russo requested that AP English, AP US History, and AP pre-calculus courses be put back into the curriculum. Trustee Russo noted as time goes on there may not be the need for as many AP classes but for this class, who got caught in so many transitions, it is a real struggle.

Mr. Cousins responded there has never been AP math in 11th grade – instead students took Pre-calculus Honors. When the decision was made to offer 2 IB math courses in 11th grade it was because the teacher who has for years taught the AP calculus classes in 12th grade and also the Pre-calculus Honors classes, and knows curriculum of both courses extremely well, felt these courses would prepare the students for those 12th grade courses. He went on to say he really trusts the expertise of the teachers because they have proven excellent results on both the AB and BC exams. Trustee Russo stated that she meant to ask for the reinstatement of Honors Pre-Calculus, not AP Pre-Calculus and added parents are looking for other avenues for students who don't fit the IB model. She feels there are plenty of students who would do better with an AP program.

### **Comments from the Public**

Alison Seipp, GH, said she feels the IB presentation was a misrepresentation of the program. She said her daughter and her friends have a tremendous amount of work, are up all night, and teachers are telling students they are limited by how much they can help.

Jim Notaris, Glen Head, said he is involved with a group in the community and has had many meetings on the subject of IB. He said he knows of no other district that only offers IB and he feels the Board needs to address the issues.

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, said the IB program was talked about for several years, a commitment was made and how it is here. She said everyone knew the first year would be the most difficult but instead of introducing other new courses lets focus on strengthening what we have and figure out how to make it better and the most successful program on the island.

Larry Ruisi, Glen Head, said he doesn't believe our commitment should be to a program, it should be to kids. He went on to say he realizes Mr. Cousins and Ms. Brodie have put a lot of hard work into the program but what are we doing to close the gap when putting something new in. He said it is important that the community see their concerns are being heard and addressed.

Christina Kim, Old Brookville, asked how the success of the IB program is being measured, how North Shore is doing compared to other districts and how the curriculum has changed in the middle school.

Dr. Melnick responded, the writing program has changed dramatically over the years at the middle school; the Teachers' College Reading and Writing Program, K-8 is more rigorous. The percentage of students taking the IB program is higher than other schools and college acceptance is higher than most schools in our area. Mr. Cousins added we will have studies that compare us with the region, nationally and internally on our IB program once the year is complete.

Mr. Chlebicki added, as with any changes that occur (with new programs), people make statements about those changes based on what they hear others saying, conjecture, and/or assumptions. He said that it is important to listen to those statements and to check out the accuracy of them based on data or by going to the source of where correct/accurate information can be found so as to separate real issues from those being said out of emotion or based on misunderstanding. He went on to give an example stating that people believe those students who were held to the Common Core Standards are poised to perform better in AP and IB courses. He stated, however, that, at this point, there is no data, such as a crosswalk between these new standards and the expectations of AP and IB courses, to substantiate that claim.

Rob Mazzella, Glen Head, asked if there are any plans for our guidance counselors to help the current 11th graders prepare their college applications. He also noted that the students who spoke all spoke about time management as a problem. Mr. Cousins responded the most important part of the

college application process is the school profile which is already being crafted. In addition, on the common application students indicate if they are a diploma candidate and their unique essay is similar to that of a Masters' thesis. In regard to the question of time management Mr. Cousins responded all students seem to be facing a heavy work load and he will work with faculty in this area. Trustee Labbate added students start learning time management in the middle school, with extended advisory, and it grows with each grade.

Anne Sheerin, Glen Head, asked that the format for the lab period currently offered every day for ½ the year with the other ½ the year being a free period for those students not in the diploma program, be changed. She also would like an opportunity for parents of certificate students to meet with the principal as a group.

Amanda Notaris, Glen Head, parent of elementary children, said her children learn differently and she is concerned that taking away AP courses may ruin her children's opportunities for college. She asked that all core AP math courses remain. Mr. Cousins responded, no AP math courses have been eliminated.

Lisa Albanese, Glen Head, asked what the middle school is doing to prepare students for the rigor in the high school. She would be interested in seeing a report on how they are being prepared.

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, said time management seems to be an issue with students. She suggested bringing in outside sources to help students. Mr. Cousins responded, every junior class says the junior year is the hardest year. He clarified that teachers are not allowed to help students in certain aspects of their program because it is perceived as mentoring which is not permitted through IB; it is not that teachers don't want to help their students.

Larry Ruisi, Glen Head, commended the math research program and said it is the best tool the district has. He noted that Mr. Cousins said the school profile is being changed which means we are changing how the school is perceived by colleges; as an IB school.

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, it was:

Personnel

Granting of Tenure - Certified

Resolved: To grant tenure to Colleen Freehill, ESL, effective January 25, 2016

Resignation – Administration

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Ryan O'Hara, Middle School Humanities Teacher Leader, effective January 15, 2016

Resignation - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Andrea Doxey, Teaching Assistant, effective December 22, 2015

Change of Status - Certified

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Lauren Sandback, Family and Consumer Science, from a part-time (.6) appointment to a part-time (.633) appointment, effective November 17, 2016

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Dahlia Rosen, Spanish (FLES), from a part-time (.4) appointment to a part-time (.7) appointment effective January 4, 2016 through February 5, 2016

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Rachel Cabrera (Art) on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule effective January 7, 2016 through February 5, 2016

Approval of Overage

Resolved: To approve a .2 overage for Steven Burgos, World Languages, effective January 4, 2016 through June 24, 2016

Resignation – Non-Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Maggie Fetta, Student Intern (Hofstra), effective January 4, 2016

Appointment – Non-Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Mary Sasso, part-time School Monitor at the Middle School, effective January 4, 2016

Resolved: To approve the probationary appointment of Demetrio Morales, Cleaner @High School, effective January 14, 2016

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

Resolved: To approve the addition of the following names to the per diem substitute list:

Emily Whelan	Secondary	Colleen Cho	Secondary
Nicholas Schidlovsky	Elementary		

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Coaches

Resolved: To approve the following extra-curricular activity coaches:

Middle School

Boys Volleyball	Nicole Trenker	Step 1
Wrestling	John Jackson	Step 2

Intramurals

Nicole Larkin	Step I
Craig Roslund	Step I
Philip Como	Step I

On motion of Trustee Nightingale and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Piano Accompanist

Resolved: To approve Kyung D’Imperio as a piano accompanist on an as needed basis for district-wide music department concerts at a fee of \$35 per rehearsal and \$50 per concert performance

The board decided to act simultaneously on action items D & E

On motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Nightingale and all in favor, it was:

Acceptance of Donation from the North Shore Arts Angels to the North Shore Music Department

Resolved: To accept a donation of \$4,118.63 from the North Shore Arts Angels to the North Shore High School Music Department to be used toward the student performance tour of Cuba

Acceptance of Donation from the Scott & Gabriella Green Charitable Trust to the North Shore High School Robotics Club

Resolved: To accept a donation of \$250 from the Scott & Gabriella Green Charitable Trust to the North Shore High School Robotics Club

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Agreement with Homecare Therapies LLC/dba Horizon Healthcare Staffing

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Homecare Therapies LLC/dba Horizon Healthcare Staffing to provide substitute nurses on an as-needed basis, effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

On motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Agreement with the Armory Foundation for the Use of the New Balance Track & Field Center

Resolved: To approve an agreement with The Armory Foundation for the use of the New Balance Track & Field Center in order to hold the North Shore Pre-National on February 12, 2016 for a fee of \$5,625 (total cost of field use will be covered through registration fees)

On motion of Trustee Nightingale and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Agreement with Reem Hussein

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Reem Hussein to provide a presentation on Islamic Art and workshop on the art of calligraphy to 4 ninth grade AP World History classes on January 15, 2016 at a cost of \$150 per class

On motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Special Education Consultant Agreements

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Randi Itzkowitz, Teacher of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, to provide services to deaf and hearing impaired students during the 2015-2016 school year

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Lidia Swinkin, School Psychologist, to provide a bilingual psychological evaluation and written report during the 2015-2016 school year

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Linda LaMarca, Ph.D., to provide a Neuropsychological Evaluation for 1 resident student with disabilities

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Special Education Services Contracts

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Mineola School District for Special Education Services for 1 parentally-placed student with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Mineola School District and residing within the North Shore School District during the 2015-2016 school year

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Nightingale and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Special Education Tuition Agreement

Resolved: To approve a tuition agreement with Eastport South Manor Central School District to provide instruction for 1 resident student with disabilities at a rate set by New York State for the 2015-2016 school year

On motion of Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

Resolved: To approve special education services (IEP) as per the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education (CSE)

**Old Business**

In regard to the statement read by Trustee Russo at the last meeting, President Berliner recommended a board retreat to discuss board communications. The board agreed and a retreat will be scheduled.

Trustee Russo asked if Mr. Chlebicki was looking into how other districts handle FLES programs. Mr. Chlebicki is in the process of gathering the information.

**New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

**Executive Session**

At 10:00 P.M. on motion of Trustee Labbate and seconded by Trustee Nightingale and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session in the High School Family & Consumer Science Room to consider discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation.

At 10:35 P.M. on motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the library.

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, it was:

**Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Commencement of an Action Against Nassau County and the Long Island Power Authority**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes its attorneys, Ingerman Smith, L.L.P., to commence legal action against the County of Nassau, the Nassau County Treasurer, the Nassau County Legislature, the Nassau County Executive and the Long Island Power Authority ("LIPA"), and other proper parties as deemed necessary by counsel in connection with Nassau County's implementation of the LIPA Reform Act and LIPA's payments-in-lieu-of-taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the payment of a maximum of \$250 per hour as compensation to its attorneys, subject to a separate letter of engagement with the Firm.

**Adjournment**

At 10:40 P.M. on motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Nightingale and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk