

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
December 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Herman Berliner at 7:00 P.M. in the Sea Cliff School Auditorium. Present were Trustees Commander, Gonzalez, Jones, Labbate, and Russo. Trustee Nightingale was absent. Also present Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick, and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi and Robert Chlebicki.

Audit Committee

At 7:00 pm on motion of Trustee Russo seconded by Trustee Labbate and all in favor, the Board convened a meeting of the Audit Committee in the auditorium.

At 7:30 pm on motion of Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the audit committee meeting was adjourned and the regular meeting was resumed in the auditorium. There were approximately 75 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Berliner led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Labbate seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, the minutes of November 19, 2015 were approve as amended.

Approval of Treasurer's Reports

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Labbate and all in favor, the Treasurer's Reports of June 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015, July 1, 2015 through July 31, 2015, and August 1, 2015 through August 31, 2015 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick read an email from high school principal Mr. Cousins clarifying an issue brought up at the last meeting in regard to attendance at the high school. Mr. Cousins reported there is not an attendance problem at the high school but as with all schools that want to go from a great to an outstanding school they must always look closely at attendance and keep it on the radar. Trustee Russo responded she had heard there was an attendance problem and kids were in trouble of not graduating. She said the goal of the high school PTO was to help keep kids on campus and she was glad to hear whatever is being done is working. Dr. Melnick also reported that there are no plans to cancel field trips for students going abroad. He reported that Moody's has affirmed our Aa1 rating and congratulated Ms. Buatsi on her strong financial leadership. Finally he reported the winter concert season has started. Trustee Russo added the Madrigals will be performing at the Lutheran Church on December 18th @7:30 pm, and raffle tickets will be sold during the high school concert as a fundraiser for the trip to Cuba.

Report of the SGO Representative

Jessica Hannon, SGO president, reported on events and activities at the high school including: the first student forum was held, the topic was "Donald Trump and his place in American Politics". Many students voiced interest to hold more student forums and the next topic will be gun control. She also reported that the library has extended its hours from 7 am to 5 pm which is great for students who need

a place to study and for tutoring. Finally she reported students will be inducted to the National Science Honor Society.

Regular Business

Update: Elementary World Languages Program

Mandarin FLES Teachers, Xianxian Cassella & Wei Huang along with 5th grade students demonstrated a lesson in Mandarin. Marissa Coulehan & Dahlia Rosen, Spanish FLES teachers spoke about the immersion approach to language instruction in Spanish. They demonstrated a Spanish lesson with 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students. Many students shared their opinion of why they think it is important to learn another language.

Trustee Russo asked if there is any evidence of increased numeracy in students since the implementation of the Mandarin program. Mr. Chlebicki responded, studies have not been done in this area, but there is a direct correlation to the elementary math program *Math In Focus*. Trustee Russo also inquired as to why parents of kindergarten children are not given a choice of either Spanish or Mandarin. Dr. Melnick responded Mandarin was chosen for kindergarten because of the use of pictographs as kindergarten children are such visual learners. He went on to explain that having a choice of Spanish or Mandarin K-5 would require additional staffing and it would be impossible to increase instructional time in the elementary day. Trustee Russo responded she does not feel it would be an increase in staffing but a reallocation of staffing. Mr. Chlebicki will do a study to determine if reallocation of staffing is possible or what additional staff may be needed. Finally Trustee Russo asked about the change that gives sixth graders the option of choosing from all five languages instead of only Spanish or Mandarin as was the original plan. Dr. Melnick explained this change came from recommendations by the language teachers. Trustee Russo asked for a study of what surrounding districts are doing in regard to FLES programs. Trustee Gonzalez commented she remembers hearing at a budget coffee about 7 years ago the idea of adding Mandarin at the elementary level and she is glad to see it come to fruition. She said you can't quantify children being empathic to others, and creating a world view. She said it is important to bear that in mind as well.

Capital Reserve

Dr. Melnick explained that the construction steering committee identified projects to be included in a capital reserve. The original draft proposal was \$35 million; the committee went through the original proposal and took out the major construction items, such as new wings which may possibly fit in a future bond once our debt service declines in 3 years. This proposal now totals \$8,361,600 and is spread equally between all schools. The proposal will be put up for a vote in May, along with the budget, and the community will be asked to establish a capital reserve which will be funded by revenue and fund balance for a period of 10 years.

Comments from the Public

Noah Blumenthal, Sea Cliff, asked for clarification about changes to the sixth grade language choices. Dr. Melnick explained in the original plan 6th grade students remained with the language they were studying in 5th grade. They now have a choice of any of the five languages when entering 6th grade; this will remain the same next year as it is this year.

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

Personnel

Leave of Absence/Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for Steven Menchel, Science, and to approve the appointment of Steven Menchel, Teacher Leader, Science 9-12, effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Maria Anteri, school psychologist, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective December 8, 2015 through December 18, 2015

Resignation for Retirement Purposes – Non-Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes for Arturo Menjivar, Cleaner-Attendant, effective January 30, 2016

Appointment – Non-Certified

Resolved: To approve the probationary appointment of Lynne Johnson, Account Clerk, on Step 10 of the Account Clerk salary schedule with a 26 week probationary period, effective December 14, 2015

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Michelle Hart, Teacher Aide, Sea Cliff, effective December 7, 2015

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Nathalie Woods, Teacher Aide, Sea Cliff, effective December 7, 2015

Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Nancy Lin Secondary
Rosa Romeo-Misiti Food Service

Approval of Extra-Curricular Activity Advisors

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

High School

Business Advisor Jean McNamara Step 1

Elementary

Intramurals Carol Speranza Step 1
Intramurals Michael Gonzalez Step 1

The board decided to act simultaneously on Action items D and E

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

Acceptance of Donation from Tom Braun to the North Shore High School Robotics Team

Resolved: To accept a donation of a Clausing Vertical Milling Machine from Tom Braun to the North Shore High School Robotics Team at a value of \$4,000

Acceptance of Donation from Paul Spivack to the North Shore High School Robotics Team

Resolved: To accept a donation of a Manually Operated Coldsaw from Paul Spivack to the North Shore High School Robotics Team at a value of \$895

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

Establishment of The North Shore Women’s Club Scholarship

Resolved: To establish The North Shore Women’s Club Scholarship as a need based scholarship to be awarded annually to multiple high school seniors

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

Approval of Revised Policies

Resolved: To approve the revisions of the following policies and regulations as reviewed and recommended by the policy sub-committee and reviewed by the board on November 19, 2015: Policy numbers 4000, 4100, 4205, 4220, 4240, 4326, 4326-E.1, 4327-E.1, 4340, 4410, 4510, 4526, 4526-R, 4531-R, 4532, 4712, 4770-R, 4810, 5100, 5162-R, 5205-R, 5205-R.1 5220-R, 5240, 5251, 5280,, 5406, 5406-R, 5420-R, 5440, 5500, 6605, 6605-R

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

Approval of Agreement with Insight Grants Development

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Insight Grants Development to provide grant writing support for an assessment learning grant at a fee of \$2,800

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

Approval of Changer Order

Resolved: To approve change order #1 from Total Construction Corp. for Bond Referendum Projects Phase 2 at the North Shore Middle School at a deduct amount of (\$50,000)

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

Approval of Agreement with Seeing Eye Dog Productions, LLC

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Seeing Eye Dog Productions, LLC, to provide a multimedia presentation to middle school students on November 24, 2015 at a fee of \$500

Action Item K was tabled

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

Approval of Special Education Consultant Agreement

Resolved: To approve a special education consultant agreement with Margaret Dawson, Ed.D, to provide executive functioning training on January 6 & 7, 2016 at a cost of \$2,850

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

Approval of Revised Agreement with a Special Education Consultant

Resolved: To approve a revised agreement with Marie Mazza, Special Education Evaluator, to provide evaluation services effective December 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

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

Approval of an Agreement with Mill Neck Interpreter Service

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Mill Neck Interpreter Service to provide sign language interpreting services for parents/guardians of designated students pursuant to the IEPs for the 2015-2016 school year

Prior to approving the agreement with Dr. Brooks, Trustee Russo asked that Dr. Brooks meet with the guidance review committee. She also requested the material supplied from the guidance department. Mr. Chlebicki will forward the material which was previously sent to the committee. Trustee Berliner requested some background information on Dr. Brooks. Dr. Melnick explained that Dr. Brooks is a former Superintendent and is the Director of Tri-States which is also conducting a guidance review for the Oyster Bay School District. In addition, Dr. Brooks was a former guidance counselor in the early part

of his career. Dr. Melnick said Dr. Brooks should be able to keep the original timeline for finishing the review and reporting back to the board.

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

Approval of Agreement with Martin Brooks to Complete the Guidance Review

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Martin Brooks, to complete the guidance review during the period January 1, 2016 through March 15, 2016 at a total fee of \$5,500

Comments from the Public

Rob Mazzella, Glen Head, asked if the district purchases iCare policies along with the iPads. Dr. Melnick explained yes, these are 3rd party policies. Mr. Mazzella asked what parents are paying for when they purchase insurance through the district. Dr. Melnick explained that parents are given a choice to use their own insurance or to take insurance through the district to cover the device if it is damaged or broken due to mistreatment by students. Dr. Melnick further explained that if a district-owned device malfunctions, the district will pay for the repair or replacement. Mr. Mazzella asked where the money for the self-insurance is held. Ms. Buatsi responded it is in a separate holding account for iPads and is accounted for and monitored by our auditors.

Old Business

Trustee Russo said at the last meeting she brought up an issue about board communication however the issue instead became a discussion about the content of an email. She then read a statement regarding the policy of board members communicating directly with faculty, staff, administrators, district counsel, and community members; the statement was filed with the District Clerk. President Berliner suggested a discussion at a future board meeting to address the issues brought forth in Trustee Russo's statement. The board agreed to discuss the issues further at a future board meeting.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Executive Session

At 9:15 pm on motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Labbate and all in favor, the board moved to convene an executive session to consider discussions regarding collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law), current or pending litigation, and matters leading to the employment, promotion, demotion of a particular person or persons.

Adjournment

At 10:20 pm on motion of Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk