

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
January 25, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Antoinette Labbate at 6:30 p.m. in the North Shore Middle School Cafe. Present were Trustees Berliner, Commander, Galati, Jones, Ludmar and Russo. Also present Superintendent Dr. Peter Giarrizzo, and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi & Rob Chlebicki.

At 6:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session in the faculty room to consider matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or persons and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 7:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Commander seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the meeting in the cafe. There were approximately 75 people in the audience.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Labbate led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Student Recognition**

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Labbate and Dr. Giarrizzo recognized students who participated in All County Band, Chorus and Orchestra as well as Jacqueline Mordhorst who was chosen to participate in PEAK for African Drumming.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Commander with Trustees Berliner, Commander, Galati, Jones, Labbate and Ludmar for and Trustee Russo abstaining, the minutes of January 11, 2018 were approved.

**Approval of Treasurer's Reports**

On motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, the treasurer reports of September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017 and October 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017 were approved.

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Giarrizzo congratulated the student musicians who were recognized this evening. He noted that being selected to All County is quite an accomplishment. He reported that over the past several weeks, the work has been primarily focused on the development of the 2018-2019 budget. Tonight he will report on the status of the revenue side of the budget as well as what is known so far on the status of the tax cap. The preliminary budget will be presented on February 8th with the line by line analysis beginning that night as well. Dr. Giarrizzo congratulated the Legislative Action Committee for putting together an informative and excellent Legislative Night, and our legislators for their attendance. He explained that High School Principal Albert Cousins and AP/IB Teacher Leader, Kerri Titone will be

presenting a report on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate at the High School. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that since last spring, he has had many conversations about the extent to which the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs may coexist. Over the course of these past months he has been pleased with the level of analysis and synthesis that has taken place. The benefits of both programs are strong, and he is pleased with how IB has provided a strong framework for teaching, learning, and assessment. The strength lies in the Learner Profile, and he considers them undeniable prerequisites for life beyond high school. He went on to say that we understand the importance of advanced placement courses and the unmistakable value that they add to our total school program. A student in North Shore may take a full complement of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or any combination of both with Regents level classes as well. The analysis that will be presented tonight reflects the fact that customization of scheduling is possible and accessibility to high level coursework is plentiful. He continued by stating that the overall message is one of balance and wellness. Simply because a student at North Shore has so many AP or IB classes available and accessible to them, in no way means that they should take anywhere near that. He emphasized that each student will benefit from a comprehensive discussion with their counselor, teachers(s) and parents to ensure that their program is appropriately rigorous, balanced, and affords them enjoyable and manageable high school experience that positions them well with a multitude of options for college. Next Dr. Giarrizzo reported that North Shore High School has been named one of only 155 schools in New York State as a Reward School for high performance; quite an accomplishment. Dr. Giarrizzo also reported on a meeting of the Littleworth Lane Joint Committee. They spent time talking about the charges of the three subcommittees, and will meet again in a few weeks after they have had time to follow-up on next steps. The committee is looking at signage/short-term solutions, issues regarding education and traffic safety, and long term solutions. He reported that they are making good progress and he will continue his collaborations with Mayor Lieberman. Dr. Giarrizzo next reported on the status of the 2018-2019 calendar which is in the final state of development. He explained that New York State has changed the manner in which state aid can be calculated. He reported that rating day has been set for June 26<sup>th</sup> meaning this is the last day that we can have students in session and Regents exams will be scheduled through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to bring a calendar to the Board for action at our next meeting. Finally, he asked everyone to “like us” on our new *Facebook* page.

#### **Report from the SGO**

SGO co-presidents, Emilie Biolsi and Lindsay Golden, were not present for the meeting.

#### **Regular Business**

##### **Update on Budget Development Process**

Dr. Giarrizzo updated the board and public on the budget development process including the status of expenditures and revenues. He explained that the maximum allowable levy for North Shore this year is 2.24%, this takes into account the CPI and adding in exceptions to the formula. The tax levy that is being proposed is lower than the tax levy cap. He is anticipating revenue of \$18,751,973. This comes from split properties, LIPA PILOTS, State Aid, tuition from special education related services, reimbursement from St. Christopher tuition and miscellaneous receipts. This year monies will be used from reserves and fund balance to further reduce the tax levy. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that the entire budget book has been reworked this year and will include the philosophy behind each component of the budget with a narrative of how and why each piece of the budget is necessary and good for our kids. The board discussed the proposed revenue. Questions were raised as to why State Aid is anticipated lower than the governor’s numbers and *Newsday’s* reporting, which has us being increased. Ms. Buatsi

explained that due to a delay in our construction projects, we did not spend what was anticipated and therefore our building aid was decreased.

#### **Update on AP/IB**

High School Principal, Albert Cousins, and Kerri Titone, Teacher Leader for AP/IB, gave an update on the further implementation of IB and program recommendations for 2018-2019. These include co-seated AP/IB courses in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science & World Languages; restoration of AP Physics; and AP exam option and support provided for AP US History and AP English Language & Composition; the inclusion of 18 AP courses and 20 IB courses, director support of 22 AP exams and 18 IB exams. Mr. Cousins reviewed those AP courses that would be “free-standing courses with exams”, “fully co-seated courses with exams” and “IB courses with AP exam options”. He also reviewed the individual IB course offerings for 2018-2019 and those that would enable students to successfully achieve on corresponding AP exams. Mr. Cousins gave sample schedules for both juniors and seniors. He stressed a focus needs to be on balance as many students are feeling the stress of the rigorous & challenging course work they are choosing. Counselors will work with students and families in an effort towards a more balanced approach. Mr. Cousins reviewed the number of exams taken by the Class of 2017; 617 AP exams and 369 IB exams. In addition, students participated in record numbers of extracurricular/athletic/music/arts activities as well as being inducted to several different honor societies while maintaining rigorous school work.

The board had a lengthy discussion regarding the implementation of co-seating AP & IB courses. Questions raised were whether students will be well prepared to be successful on the AP exams; whether the curriculum for both the AP and IB courses are aligned; whether teachers will be well trained to teach both curricula; whether students will be able to include music or art to an already full schedule; what would constitute the most rigorous program; the cost of running both programs; whether colleges are actually accepting AP credit; if other Long Island districts are offering these types of opportunities. Individual course choices were discussed. Concern was expressed about the stress put on students and how they might find a healthy balance with so many options available. Trustee Jones noted that the sample schedules did not address the situation of students in the arts or research where students are starting their day at 7:20 in the morning and skipping lunch. Trustee Galati asked for a comparison of courses that were co-seated at Northport and those selected to be co-seated at North Shore. He also asked for information on standardized test scores from courses that were co-seated at Northport. Dr. Titone did not have this information available. Trustee Galati expressed concern about students at the opposite end of the academic spectrum, particularly those with special needs. He asked for assurances that there will be no detriment to those students. Dr. Giarrizzo confirmed there would be no changes in the course offerings for students who do not participate in either AP or IB courses. Trustee Galati asked for specific information on how courses are being offered regarding Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism. Mr. Cousins explained that this was decided after discussions with teachers, however he will have a further discussion as Trustee Galati’s suggestions seem to make more sense. Finally, Trustee Galati asked if the district is prepared to support teachers who will be teaching the co-seated courses. Mr. Cousins and Dr. Titone responded the district will provide the necessary professional development to make the transition as productive as possible.

Mr. Cousins explained that compared to other Long Island districts we have more options and pathways for students to pursue. There is a before school period that accommodates physical education classes and upper level research and although they do encourage all students to include lunch in their schedule, many students & families opt to include another rigorous course instead. Regarding cost, he said there will be no increase in staffing with these changes. Mr. Cousins explained that all recommendations for the co-seating courses were made by teachers. Ms. Binion spoke to whether colleges accept AP credit which she explained varies by institution, department and year-to-year.

However, she said good AP scores do look good on a high school transcript. Trustee Russo added, AP credit can give a college freshman the advantage of registering as a sophomore to have better opportunities of course selections, pursuing masters courses, and for some, graduating early which can result in significant savings for families. Trustee Berliner noted, many students choose to study abroad, change majors, or do a combined BA/MA degree, therefore AP credits are used very different than they were years ago. Dr. Giarrizzo added it is important to focus on the goal of accessibility and the importance of balance. A small number of students may opt to take 12 AP courses. He went on to say our job is to work with counselors, parents and students and find that balance. Dr. Giarrizzo also noted that it is the administration's responsibility to look at every single teacher to be sure they are equipped to teach what they are assigned to teach.

#### **Comments from the Public**

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, asked when the television and radio courses will begin at the Victorian Studio. She said many resources came from the community to building the structure and she would like to see the children benefit from it. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that it was recently evaluated for video production. The equipment will cost several hundred thousand dollars which will be phased in over 2-3 years beginning with next year's budget. Ms. Reiner asked if the Viking Foundation might be able to give funding to move it along quicker. Responding to a comment by Trustee Jones about our students and "Race to Nowhere", Ms. Reiner suggested giving choices to all students and respecting the different choices families want for their children.

Ethan Baron, a High School IB Diploma Candidate, asked that deadlines need to be addressed and coordinated better. He explained that diploma candidates have huge deadlines every day and it is extremely stressful on students. He believes this is a serious concern. He also has concerns about co-seating AP & IB courses. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that conversations have been on-going about this issue. He thanked Ethan for bringing his concerns forward. Trustee Russo added, this has been an on-going problem from the beginning of the IB program and it needs to be addressed.

Larry Ruisi, Glen Head, thanked Dr. Giarrizzo for being sensitive to the community during the budget process. He expressed his opinion that the community wasn't heard regarding the implementation of the IB program. He said he believes we are headed in the right direction and seem to have found a balance without compromising opportunity.

Derek Schoenhofen, Glen Head, asked what the steps would be for his daughter who is trying to figure out her schedule for next year. Mr. Cousins explained that Dr. Titone and her counselor will sit with them both to present all of the options.

Agatha Nadel, Glen Head, thanked Dr. Giarrizzo and the Board for allowing her to express her opinion about New York American Water and the North Shore District at the last meeting. She said she was not attacking the district, it was just a critique to make things better. She offered to sit down with the Superintendent to have a further discussion. Ms. Nadel pointed out some corrections to comments made by a resident at the last meeting regarding the decommissioning of the LIPA plant. She went on to say that New York American Water rate payers are shouldering a disproportionate amount of taxes from the decommissioning from the LIPA plant. She further stated that contrary to a question at the Legislative Night, no one had ever requested that the North Shore District use the funds from the state to pay for residents' water bills.

Mark Baghdassarian, Glen Head, said it seems that the approach to AP & IB has great benefits for students but they are very different courses. He wondered how they could be homogenized when they have very different approaches. Mr. Cousins responded only those courses that are identical will be co-seated, i.e. Biology. He said they rely on the expertise of the teachers. He further stated there is three years of data to track how the kids are doing.

James Versocki, Sea Cliff, supports the IB/AP balance of courses, but he is a little concerned about the kids who are going to be plumbers and electricians. He thanked the board for addressing the over scheduling, keeping in mind a high level of education. He also thanked the board for all of the information on the budget.

Jerry Romano, Sea Cliff, asked how the AP/IB courses relate to the budget. He asked of the courses offered, how many students participate in those courses. Mr. Cousins responded 78% of students participate in these courses. Mr. Romano said he does not feel the cost of educating students at North Shore is being seen through results. He asked to see that every dollar being spent in the budget is being spent wisely. President Labbate asked that our new Superintendent be given the chance to present the budget before making presumptions about it. She also stated that we are not turning out students who are "low rate" as Mr. Romano intimated. Mr. Romano suggested that current and former school board members have manipulated previous school board elections by obtaining voter lists. President Labbate responded, poll lists are obtainable by anyone who would like to request one. Trustee Ludmar noted that all residents are welcome to ask any question they want of any Trustee. He noted there are times when comments are made that are opinions, not facts. He went on to say the board takes what residents say to heart and always strives to be transparent.

Dominick Fortugno Glen Head, thanked the board for all of their hard work. He read from a list of grade 3-8 ELA & Math testing scores for North Shore and surrounding districts which indicated that North Shore students scored far above the Nassau County and NYS average, and higher than Herricks and Great Neck Schools. He also noted that since 2015 our scores have increased in the double digits while during the same time frame most districts only increased 3-5%.

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, said to keep in mind the opt out rate and what it does to the validity of ELA & math percentages. Ms. Reiner suggested one way to save money is to run less clubs that have very little activity using those funds to possibly fund the equipment for the Victorian Studio. Ms. Reiner asked if the juniors and seniors who have already signed up for courses will be able to revisit their schedules in light of what was presented this evening. Finally, she addressed preparedness of the faculty. She asked how they will be measured, who will measure them, and how parents will be made to feel confident that teachers will be ready from day one. She suggested mandatory training.

Lisa Cashman, Sea Cliff, said she moved into Sea Cliff after researching many districts in the area. She noted there are many resources available at North Shore that are not available to all school districts in Nassau County. She asked that the lower grades be made more developmentally appropriate. She would like to see more time for play. Dr. Giarrizzo responded, in the spring we will talk about how to allocate time and meet the standards. He went on to say he has had this conversation with many parents and although it is hard to change things mid-year, he will look into scheduling for the following year.

Mandee Zapken, Roslyn Harbor, thanked the board for volunteering their time. Her son is a college freshman and was in the inaugural IB class. He asked her to speak on his behalf to let the board know that he appreciates the IB program and all of the hard work he was asked to do because of it. In his opinion this made college much easier. He said the Theory of Knowledge course changed the way he learns. Ms. Zapken thanked the teachers and the administration for all of their support. She said it is a pleasure to live in a community that is so progressive.

Dan McDermott, Sea Cliff, asked if there is a plan to fix the softball field at the middle school. Ms. Buatsi will get back to him with an answer.

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

Personnel

Resignation - Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Amy Koenig, Special Education, effective February 2, 2018

Increments for Advanced Study

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Karen Rasin, Elementary, from Step 22 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 22 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Maria Perdios, Elementary, from Step 15 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 15 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Appointment – Non-Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Elizabeth Shields, Part-time Bus Driver, effective January 17, 2018

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Katherine Boehm	Teacher Substitute
Hayli Weitz	Teacher Substitute

Approval of Extra-Curricular Activity Advisors & Coach

Middle School

Dramatics

Vocal Musical Director	Brian Messemer	Step 1
Production Advisor	Brian Messemer	Step 1
Set and Construction	Benjamin Benfield	Step 1

Coach

Men’s Swimming	Megan McCormack*	Step 1
*replacing Megan Dawideit		
MS Intramural (Bowling)	Michelle Hagen	Step 1

Prior to approval Trustee Commander asked why this is not being paid for out of the budget if it is a safety issue. Ms. Buatsi responded, it is replacement padding, not a safety concern.

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

Acceptance of Donation to The North Shore High School from The Athletic Booster Club

Resolved: To accept the donation of custom wall padding for the High School Gymnasium from the Athletic Booster Club at a value of \$3,600

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

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

Resolved: To approve of the disposal of the following inventory items:

Glen Head School	Glenwood Landing	Central Office	Districtwide
3 – Printers	1 – Computer	1 – Printer	107 Textbooks
8 – Cameras			
3 – Projectors			
2 – DVD/VCR			
2 – Laptop			
9 – Netbooks			
5 – Computers			



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

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

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

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

Approval of Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of North Shore Schools, hereby establishes and approves the standard work- day (for units defined below) as the official measure of reporting standard work days to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System:

Cafeteria/Food Service Workers-	7 hours	Part-time Bus Drivers	-	7 hours
Paraprofessionals: Aides -	6 hours	Part-time Cleaners	-	8 hours
Monitors-	7 hours			

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

Approval of Budget Transfer

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$30,710.30 to cover teacher leader salary

**Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**Old Business**

Trustee Russo thanked the Legislative Action Committee and Trustee Berliner for a successful Legislative Night. She asked the board to let her know if they had any specific issue they would like the LAC committee to focus on at this point.

Trustee Jones updated the Board and public on the water issue. She reported that we are hoping to join the Sea Cliff Village in a suit to protect the taxpayer's interest, we are not sure we can join that motion but we have put out some interesting arguments. The opt out data shows that most of the opt outs came from high-end kids. Trustee Jones noted as already referenced tonight the State Aid runs seem to have massive caveats from the Governor. Dr. Giarrizzo said he does not expect the state aid levels to go down although the governor might be using it as a leverage point. Dr. Giarrizzo will be meeting with Senator Marcellino next week and should have better information at that point. He went on to say, if the state aid levels do decrease it would be devastating.

Trustee Ludmar commended Deb McDermott for all of the work she put into Legislative Night. He requested that a discussion on enrollment and enrollment projections be added to a future agenda. Dr. Giarrizzo suggested this be addressed during the budget discussion covering instruction.

**New business**

Trustee Jones noted there was a data breach on the state testing (grade 3-8). Although it has been reported that only 38 students on Long Island were affected, it is very troubling. Trustee Jones asked if there should be a discussion about the information from the State Comptroller regarding the district's almost perfect score regarding fiscal stress. Ms. Buatsi explained the only reduction came from the assessed property value which went down, however it was based on data that is not current.

**Adjournment**

At 10:50 p.m., on motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk