

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
February 8, 2018

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

At 6:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Galati and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session in the Earth Science Room (H4) to consider matters leading to the appointment, employment, or promotion, 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 Jones seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the meeting in the library. There were approximately 20 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Labbate led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Galati, with Trustees Galati, Jones, Labbate, Ludmar & Russo for and Trustee Commander abstaining, the minutes of January 25, 2018 were tabled.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the treasurer's report of November 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017 was approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Giarrizzo waived his report to give more time to his budget presentation.

Report from the SGO

Brianna Centeno, SGO Treasurer, filled in for Emilie Biolsi who is on the school trip to Spain and Lindsay Golden who is on the school trip to Italy. She reported that next week the music trip will leave for Portugal. She also reported on other events and activities at the high school including: a Valentine's Day fundraiser, money raised will go to St Jude's Children's Hospital, and by request of the SGO Sports Night has been changed to Thursday, March 1.

Dr. Giarrizzo explained that the SGO had reached out to him about changing the date from Wednesday (February 28) to Thursday, as this has been the traditional day for holding Sports Night. The board discussed moving their meeting to another location or to Wednesday so as not to conflict with the space. The board was not in favor of moving their meeting and it will therefore remain on Thursday, March 1 in the High School Library.

Regular Business

2018-2019 Proposed Budget

Dr. Giarrizzo presented the 2018-2019 proposed budget which stands at \$104,868,518.83. He explained the goals for the budget which were to remain sensitive to the fiscal pressures faced by residents, address all instructional program needs in line with the district's SVO's, provide a strong program of professional development, stay at or below the NYS tax cap, comply with all NYS and federal mandates, continue to upgrade the district's technology infrastructure and maintain plant & facilities to provide a safe and healthy learning environment. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that during the budget formulation some unknowns included portions of state aid, the health insurance cost for calendar year 2019, changes in student enrollment, incoming kindergarten enrollment, unanticipated health & safety needs, student services based on annual review of IEPs, and economic & political environment changes, to name a few. He gave an overview of the major dollar amount changes in the budget which include Instruction (regular and special education) and Employee Benefits. Dr. Giarrizzo also reviewed the budget drivers; those areas of the budget which make up the largest percentage and dollar amount increases, most coming from contractual obligations. He noted that the total dollar amount of those increases (over \$3.3 million) is more than the total amount of the budget-to-budget increase of \$2.75 million. Next, Dr. Giarrizzo reviewed the staffing cuts that are included; 1.5 FTE Behavioral Specialist, 4 FTE Teacher Aides, 3 FTE Elementary Teachers (due to decrease in enrollment, however 2 positions will be used as a safety), .5FTE DW Maintainer, and .5FTE Bus Monitor. New staffing due to increased enrollment will include (Mandarin) .5FTE@GWL, .3FTE@MS & .2FTE @HS (Reading) .4FTE @GWL, (General Music) .2FTE @GWL. In addition a .3FTE Information Technology Resource Teacher @MS, and a .5FTE 4 hour hall monitor @Sea Cliff (for health & safety reasons). Dr. Giarrizzo covered sources of anticipated revenues for 2018-2019 which include split properties, PILOTS, State Aid, Marcellino/Lavine Grant, Tax Certiorari Grant (closed), Fund Balance, and Miscellaneous Revenues. The proposed tax levy is 1.891%, which is below the allowable tax levy cap of 2.24%. Finally, Dr. Giarrizzo reviewed the plan for use of the Marcellino & Lavine Grant from its first use in 2014-15 through its proposed use through 2025-26. He did the same for the recently closed Tax Certiorari Reserve which will begin allocation with the 2018-2019 school year and be used to offset the levy through the 2024-25 school year. The plan for both is to allocate the funds in a way to ensure structural balance of the district's finances.

The Board discussed the new format of the budget including the narratives provided by the Superintendent, and two Assistant Superintendents. In addition, they discussed the Buildings & Grounds, Facilities & Transportation Departments sections of the budgets along with their narratives which gave context to their lines in the budget document. Trustee Ludmar expressed concern with our current enrollment study not being in-line with actual enrollment figures and therefore under estimating our needs. In particular, he suggested that 3 sections of kindergarten in GWL may not be realistic, especially for that young cohort of children, and considering the importance of keeping those class sizes small. Dr. Giarrizzo responded, we are using those demographic projections as that is all that is available at this point. Currently kindergarten registration is low but it is the very beginning of the process with a long way to go and many unknowns. He went on to say, this is why the 2 contingency positions were left in the budget. Trustee Russo added, the study does consider children currently in the district, as well as pre-k schools in the area and birth records, however she noted no one can predict home sales or whether those purchasing homes have children. Trustee Ludmar asked if there is any data on historic growth or reduction in enrollment, possibly by cohort; whether there is a large reduction or addition to a class when entering 6th or 9th for instance. Trustee Russo noted there used to be a significant number of families who sent their children to private high school but that changed after the stock market crash.

Trustee Ludmar raised a question about the equipment line in the buildings/grounds budget and the need for replacing vs. repairing of the equipment. Mr. Hall, Facilities Manager, explained that it is not possible to maintain the two pieces of equipment in the budget; they cannot get the parts and/or the pieces of equipment are in such bad shape they are beyond the point of being repairable. He went on to say both have needed replacement for several years.

Trustee Jones expressed concern that the upgrading of cabling under the special projects is being postponed. She said she is concerned with the amount of things we will need to fix in the future and wonders if it would be possible to use some of the fund balance that might be left for projects that need fixing. Ms. Buatsi responded, we always maintain special projects from year-to-year but we had to bring the high school projects in front of the cabling project this year. Trustee Russo added, there is the emergency repair reserve that can always be used for something that comes up unexpectedly, like the school house project. Trustee Jones clarified, she is speaking more about forward thinking projects, not emergency situations. Trustee Ludmar noted that we spent much less in fuel than was budgeted for last year. Dr. Giarrizzo explained he will do fund balance projections in March and that process will be shared with the board.

In regard to Transportation, Trustee Ludmar asked for a ridership study to ascertain if more students are utilizing the bus since lowering the limits for 7th and 8th grade students. Trustee Jones noted many steps have been taken over the years to reduce transportation costs and she would like to see if ridership is up as well. Trustee Russo suggested adding an early and late bus to increase ridership. She went on to say she had requested this study several years ago and was given statistics that suggested the cost would be astronomical. She proposed that most of the traffic problems may be alleviated by adding an early and late bus and she requested a new cost report for adding both. Dr. Giarrizzo will speak to Michelle Hall, Transportation Supervisor, about scheduling a ridership survey over several days and will cost out the early/late bus additions. President Labbate noted a major cost to the addition of an early and late bus would be additional drivers and including the same for Private and Parochial schools, as mandated by the State. Trustee Russo suggested the addition of an early & late bus may give families the incentive to send their children to Private & Parochial schools.

Trustee Jones expressed concern for the number of budget transfers that occur over the year. While she is thankful for the five-year expenditure report, she feels it is hard to compare lines in the budget from one year to the next when funds have been moved. Ms. Buatsi explained that most of the transfers have to do with staff movements; most times it is unavoidable. Dr. Giarrizzo further explained that as per the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and Board Policy, the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to make budget transfers within the same function code, so long as the transfer for any one item does not exceed \$10,000, and between line item accounts, so long as the transfer for any one item does not exceed \$5,000. All transfers in excess of \$10,000 require prior Board of Education approval. In addition, all transfers are sent to the Board on a quarterly basis. Trustee Jones expressed concern that revenue projections are discussed too late on the budget calendar. She said she realizes state aid numbers are received late, however it seems uncomfortable to talk about the amount to spend from reserves so late in the budget discussions. She would like to have a more comprehensive discussion about spending reserves and revenue projection. Dr. Giarrizzo and Ms. Buatsi will work on a three-year revenue projection for the next meeting, March 1.

Trustee Russo asked for data on the effectiveness of programs that have been instituted over the last several years. She noted that many of the programs have been very expensive and she would like to see that we are meeting the goals that were defined when the programs were added. Some examples she gave were: the FLES program, is there data that shows children's proficiency with numbers have improved due to the addition of Mandarin; Readers/Writers Workshop, is there data showing that students are doing more than before, has grammar increased, is there another program that might give a better result; regarding SVOs, data on integration into our strategic plan. Trustee Russo would like to

determine, when spending funds on new programs, what our goals are, what we are expecting to achieve, and means to measure that we are spending those funds wisely. Dr. Giarrizzo responded, there is much of that information in Mr. Chlebicki's narrative. He went on to say he will get whatever information he is able to if it not available in the narrative.

Comments from the Public

Rob Mazzella, Glen Head, suggested changing the column in the budget for Actual Budget 17/18 to a dollar amount of what has been spent in the 17/18 budget. Mr. Mazzella noted that during significant snowfalls students are walking in the street if there are no sidewalks or when sidewalks are not shoveled. He asked if there is a way to address this with additional transportation. In particular he expressed concern to the area near Whitting's Funeral Home where boats are parked close to the road causing children to walk into Glen Cove Avenue. He asked if the district can help with this issue. Dr. Giarrizzo responded that he had noticed this as well and already made calls to the County which has improved the situation somewhat.

Larry Ruisi, Glen Head, said it would be helpful for the community to know what the current budget looks like from the beginning of the fiscal year until now and suggests showing the flow of budget transfers. He also said people should look at the budget as an investment not as an expenditure.

Tim Madden, Sea Cliff, said the board should consider the consequences of going \$300,000 below the tax cap and how that will affect every subsequent year.

Dan McDermott, Sea Cliff, and member of CASA, thanked Dr. Giarrizzo for being supportive of CASA as Dr. Melnick was before him. He went on to say CASA cannot meet its mission, whether it's the opioid epidemic or underage alcohol abuse, without the support of the school, it takes a village he said. He urged the board to approve the agreement with CASA on the agenda.

Katia Armata, Glen Head, said currently her elementary children see their STEAM teacher only once in a 6-day cycle. She asked if there are plans for a more elaborate STEAM lab in the elementary schools and whether there are science labs in the middle and high schools. Dr. Giarrizzo responded, there was a second STEAM teacher added to the 2017-2018 budget and the district has been recruiting for a second teacher, however they have not found a candidate. Currently there is one STEAM teacher for the three elementary schools. He is hopeful the pool of candidates will get better in the spring. Dr. Giarrizzo also responded that there are science labs at both the middle and high schools. Trustee Russo added the district was planning to do more 21st century classrooms better suited to the demands of STEAM through bond projects, however this has been delayed. She further explained the Construction Steering Committee is moving forward and will make recommendations to the board. Finally, Ms. Armata asked for some information on BOCES. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that every County in New York State has a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) which is designed to be a place of shared services for school districts, as well as programs for students. Trustee Russo added, they provide services that districts cannot run on its own. Trustee Ludmar added, they may provide a program or service that is best for a student that we cannot provide in-district. Ms. Buatsi further stated that BOCES also includes services for a summer program, and Occupational Education such as plumbing, hair stylists, etc.

Marty Glennon, Sea Cliff, spoke in support of the CASA agreement. He explained that CASA has been working tirelessly to change the discussion of substance use and abuse by education. They feel it is very important to work closely with the school district. He recently met with representatives at the County and found that the amount of opioid deaths in Nassau County was 20 times more than homicides; mostly kids in their 20s. He further stated that the Coalition needs an executive director, will partner with the school district and Dr. Giarrizzo, and will track every dollar spent. Some of their plans for presentations include one regarding social hosting laws as well as a presentation by law enforcement.

Sophia Caldwell, Glen Head, thanked the board for the hard work that went into the budget. She asked about the line for St. Christopher's and getting revenue back. Dr. Giarrizzo responded, St. Christopher-Ottillie rests within the boundaries of our district. Students are placed in the facility by the courts. We must fund their education but we bill New York City back for the expense and we are reimbursed. Currently there are three students placed in the facility and there can be as many as six. Ms. Caldwell said she appreciated the commentary by Trustee Russo regarding Mandarin. She would like to see a comparison of how many students move from Mandarin to another language after grade 3 and then how many change once they move to middle school and then transition to the high school.

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

Personnel

Increment for Advanced Study – Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advance study for Michele Cochrane, Physical Education, from Step 13 of the MA salary schedule to Step 13 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Megan Corrao, English, from Step 9 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 9 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Janine Gibstein, Special Education, from Step 23 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 23 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve the probationary appointment of Cindy Ellenbogen, Special Education, on Step 4 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 6, 2018 through February 6, 2022

Change of Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve the change of certification area for Gila Leichtung, from Elementary to ENL, effective September 11, 2017 through September 11, 2020 (Gila was originally appointed under the wrong certification area)

Resignation for Retirement Purposes – Non-Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes from Frances Christ, Administrative Assistant – Technology, effective February 28, 2018

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Katherine Kearney	Food Service Worker
Lisa Scarola	Teacher Substitute
Nina Livingston	Teacher Substitute

Approval of Extra-Curricular Activity Advisors

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

High School

Musical Director	Robert Wilgoos	Step 1
Production Advisor	Alison Clemente	Step 1
Spring Play Technical Director	Robert Weismann	Step 1

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Russo with Trustees Commander, Galati, Jones, Labbate & Russo for and Trustee Ludmar abstaining, it was:

Approval of the 2018-2019 School Calendar

Resolved: To approve the school calendar for 2018-2019

Prior to approval, Trustee Russo noted that SAT Review Courses are available through Community Education and are very reasonably priced. She went on to say our own faculty are the instructors and she encourages families to utilize this resource, as well as the high school writing center, as alternatives to the very expensive courses that are out there.

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

Approval of Spring 2018 Community Education Instructors

Resolved: To approve the following Community Education Instructors for the Spring 2018 session:

Anu Annam	Laura Green
Doug Augenthaler	Jason Hill
Helen Bauer	Phyllis Hintze
Bell Auto	John Manzone
Michele Cochrane	Patricia Mitchell
Jerry Cohen	Notary Public Central
Adam Demetri	Janice Nunziata
Cyril Fabijanic	Teresa Piolilli-Schiano
Stephen Goldstein	D. Phillips – Wickham Farms
Heidi Gottlieb	Jerry Vivona

SAT Review Teachers:

Seth Klein	Carolyn Chimieri
Patrick Cassara	Michelle Lempenski
Emily Whelan	

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

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$315,000, to cover special education & St. Christopher tuition and staff development & curriculum initiatives, effective February 8, 2018

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

Acceptance of Donation from the North Shore Women’s Club, Inc. to the North Shore High School

Resolved: To accept the donation of student graduation caps and gowns from the Women’s Club, Inc. at a value of \$48

Prior to approval Trustee Russo noted that funds going from the district to CASA was originally presented as seed money. She continued, that was unfortunate as the Board of Education cannot give public money to an organization. She said those concerns have been addressed in the agreement up for approval. She noted that many presentations and programs regarding substance use and abuse have already been done by the PTOs and therefore it would be beneficial to include their representatives when setting up future programs. Trustee Commander noted CASA has already made that request.

On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Jones, with Trustees Galati, Jones, Labbate, Ludmar, and Russo for and Trustee Commander abstaining, it was:

Approval of Agreement Between the North Shore Central School District and The Coalition for Drug Free North Shore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore CSD hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and Coalition for a Drug Free North Shore, Inc. a/k/a North Shore Coalition Against Substance Abuse in the form attached hereto (the "Agreement");

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

Trustee Commander read a statement about her disappointment with the last minute exclusion of the board liaison position from the CASA agreement. She said the board is a leader of the community and CASA and the school district must have a partnership to keep the children of the community safe. She hopes the board will agree to have a discussion in the future about the position. She said for as long as she is on the school board she will keep that line of communication open, however once she is no longer on the board she feels there will need to be someone who can continue in that role.

Trustee Russo said the agreement provides for Dr. Giarrizzo to be the contact person. She went on to say the school is invested and involved with programs. CASA is an independent entity with a 501c3 status, the Board does not appoint liaisons to any other independent organization. She feels to put a board person on the coalition makes it look as if it is an arm of the board. Finally, she said she applauds the efforts of CASA but feels strongly it is inappropriate to have a board liaison.

Trustee Commander said she feels this decision should be made by the whole board.

President Labbate said she is very appreciative of CASA and their efforts. She said way too many teens are at risk; some experimenting with the consent of their parents. She said we are looking to CASA to help change the whole perspective to stop these tragedies.

Trustee Ludmar noted this was a major change to the agreement at the last minute. He said procedurally when something comes up at the last minute the Board needs to be brought up to speed.

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

Approval of Health Services Contract

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Huntington UFSD for 1 student residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Huntington UFSD for the 2017-2018 school year at a cost of \$594.12 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

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

Approval of a Side Letter of Agreement Between the Board of Education of The North Shore Central School District and The North Shore Schools Federated Employees Concerning Parent-Teacher Conferences

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a side letter of agreement between the North Shore Central School District and the North Shore Schools Federated Employees concerning Parent-Teacher Conferences, dated February 6, 2018

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

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

Approval of a Side Letter of Agreement Between the Board of Education of The North Shore Central School District and The North Shore Schools Federated Employees Concerning Donation of Sick Days

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a side letter of agreement between the North Shore Central School District and the North Shore Schools Federated Employees concerning Donation of Sick Days, dated February 7, 2018

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

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

Approval of a Side Letter of Agreement Between the Board of Education of The North Shore Central School District and The North Shore Schools Federated Employees-Secretarial Unit Concerning Donation of Sick Days

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a side letter of agreement between the North Shore Central School District and the North Shore Schools Federated Employees-Secretarial Unit concerning Donation of Sick Days, dated February 7, 2018

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

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

Approval of a Grant Disbursement Agreement Between The North Shore Central School District and The Dormitory Authority of The State of New York (DASNY)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Grant Disbursement Agreement between the School District and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") in connection with the State and Municipal Facilities Program Grant for the Renovation of Elementary School Kitchens Project, including the purchase and installation of kitchen equipment (Project ID No. 7550), in form attached hereto;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President and/or the Superintendent of Schools to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Grant Disbursement Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

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

Approval of Change Order

Resolved: To approve change order #1 from Total Construction Corp. for Bond Referendum Projects Phase 2 at the Glenwood Landing Elementary School, in the amount of \$8,453.13 (addition)

Comments from the Public

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, said she is grateful for the formation of CASA which seems to be much more community based. She went on to say the PTOs are collecting a list of programs they have run from past years. She further stated that what she feels needs to be addressed is what is being done in our schools right now and what can be done better in our health program. She asked if there is a policy for addressing students who are first time drug users when they are found on school property. She suggested addressing where we are failing at school and putting some funding and resources right here. Ms. Reiner also asked how the social worker from LICADD is being utilized. Dr. Giarrizzo responded, we will look at our curriculum K-12 health strands and figure out what does and does not exist. Dr. Giarrizzo noted that the social worker is being utilized in many areas. He said we will rely on CASA to do wide outreach. Trustee Commander added we are about to get the results back from the recent 7-12 survey that students took. This should give us a game plan of how to go forward.

Rob Mazzella, Glen Head, asked if the funds set aside for CASA is exclusively for programs or is it for the organization itself. Dr. Giarrizzo responded, it is for programs only. Mr. Mazzella asked what will happen once the PILOTS expire. Dr. Giarrizzo said they are looking into that. Finally, Mr. Mazzella noted that Dr. Melnick had reached out to the Civics about volunteering with CASA. He noted they are a good resource if CASA is in need. Trustee Commander said they are reaching out to a number of community organizations and will be in touch.

Old Business

Trustee Jones noted that the discussion on IB/AP was fantastic, however they did not discuss how to evaluate that change. Trustee Russo said she would be interested to know how the additional support discussed in the presentation will help student be successful on the exams.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

At 10:20 p.m., on motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk