

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
April 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Antoinette Labbate at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library. Present were Trustees Berliner, Commander, Jones, and Ludmar. Trustees Gonzalez and Russo were absent. Also present Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick, and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi & Rob Chlebicki.

At 6:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session in room H4 in the high school to discuss matters regarding collective negotiations and proposed, pending, or current litigation.

At 7:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the library. There were approximately 100 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. Melnick recognized All County Musicians, students chosen to present their work at the "GO APE" Advanced Placement Art Exhibition , Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Award winners, and students chosen by the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Region to perform at the 2017 Festival .

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, the minutes of March 23, 2017 were approved.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the Treasurer's Report of February 1, 2017 through February 28, 2017 was approved.

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Melnick reported that the opt-out rate at the middle school was about 45-50%, the average at the elementary schools was approximately 42%; 25% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Glenwood Landing, 53% of 4th graders at Sea Cliff and all others somewhere in between. Our numbers were comparable to Long Island and Nassau County and higher than the state which was 20% overall. He reported that we have seen phenomenal college acceptances this year, better than ever before. Students have had early admissions to Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Notre Dame, Cornell, and Georgetown. He reported that after disaggregating the data for the IB Diploma candidates, it certainly shows a major strength in college acceptance not seen before. To date, 120 members of the senior class have been admitted, by early admission, to the 100 most difficult colleges to be accepted to using "Barron's Most Difficult Colleges to Get Into", with students still waiting to hear. He gave his congratulations to the senior class and to the high school faculty.

### **Report from the SGO**

SGO co-president Megan Tornatore reported on events and activities at the high school including: a teacher vs. student volleyball game fundraiser is scheduled for April 26, the SGO Relay for Life Team fundraiser "Tape a Teacher to the Wall" fundraiser was just approved (teachers will volunteer to be taped to the wall). The team will also have a booth at North Shore Lacrosse Day, scheduled for April 22. The SGO has been asked to take a role in promoting student ridership on school buses to help cut down on emissions, as well as to encourage the use of crosswalks for safety. Dr. Melnick suggested they expand their efforts to middle school and elementary schools as well.

### **Regular Business**

#### **Direction for Legislative Action Committee (LAC)**

The board discussed current and proposed projects for the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) to focus on for the remainder of the year and next year. LAC chairperson, Deborah McDermott asked that the Board appoint a chair for the coming year before the end of this school year and to maintain committee membership as three members will be retiring. The board agreed to try and make selections to the committee at their meeting of June 1<sup>st</sup> and Deborah McDermott agreed to continue in her position as Chairperson of the committee for the 2017-2018 school year. Regarding topics for LAC to pursue, Dr. Melnick explained that our legal counsel in Albany does not recommend pursuing the issue of tax cap reform; the only discussions currently happening in Albany surrounds the budget. Although Senator Marcellino introduced a bill in regard to the creation of a TRS Reserve, that bill has not moved because everything has been pushed aside due to budget discussions. Dr. Melnick did recommend LAC start a letter writing campaign in regard to bill HR610 which looks to defund free and reduced lunch and some special education programs. In addition, the Board authorized another Legislative Night to be scheduled in October, 2017, suggested LAC become more of a research arm of the board going forward, update the website, go forward with creating a newsletter, and proposed the committee provide reports to the board on a regular basis.

#### **Use of Smart Bond Allocation**

Dr. Melnick gave some background on the Smart Schools Bond Act which was passed in the 2014-15 state budget. It authorized the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the State. North Shore's share of the bond allocation is \$413,397. Tonight's presentation is considered a public hearing and if the board agrees, they will act upon it at the meeting of April 20<sup>th</sup> and the plan will then be sent up to Albany for approval. Director of Technology, Elliot Kaye, outlined the reasons our focus of the Smart Bond allocation is on upgrading the District's network wiring infrastructure. An upgrade to the network wiring and fiber will provide an equitable level of benefit to every teacher, student, and staff member. The extra bandwidth that will be created in every classroom through this upgrade will provide present and future support for the proliferation of mobile student devices to better support our increasing volume of networked devices. Improve the overall speed and responsiveness of our networked devices (particularly wireless), systems, and services in all buildings. Dr. Melnick noted that Mr. Kaye recently attended a meeting of the Construction Steering Committee. Trustee Jones noted questions were raised about security and redundancy. Discussions centered around how this work is important to support the future platforms and future of technology. The committee seemed very comfortable with the focus of the work. The plan will be approved at the next meeting of April 20.

### **Policy Discussion**

The board discussed changes to the regulation for policy 5405 (Wellness). There were no further comments or recommended changes to the regulations. Dr. Melnick noted that the board currently has 2 policies (2410 and 2420) that contradict each other regarding the need for board approval of regulations. He asked that the sub-committee review those policies at a future date and revise them so they match. Until those policies are revised, he recommended continuing the practice of approving regulations, therefore the regulation 5405-R (Wellness Policy Regulation) will be approved at the next meeting of April 20.

### **Comments from the Public**

Melissa August, Glen Head, read a statement in response to an opinion stated at the meeting of March 23<sup>rd</sup> in regard to the IB program. Ms. August stated her support of the IB Program and the overall direction in which the elected representatives of the district have taken the district. Ms. August filed her statement with the District Clerk.

Joanna Commander asked if LAC would add to their list of topics legislation that should be coming forward in regard to limiting prescriptions of opioids to a 7-day prescription and diagnosis of substance abuse. Dr. Melnick noted at the April 20 meeting they will be outlining the next steps to be taken in the health curriculum K-12 to address substance use and abuse, use of opiates, and personal loss which has been a focus this year.

### **Budget Adoption**

Prior to adopting the budget, Dr. Melnick noted that the budget-to-budget increase is 2.63%. This budget includes an additional Guidance Counselor to reduce the load on each counselor therefore giving more time to individual students, an increase of a social worker at the middle school from part-time to full time with an emphasis on identifying students who are at risk for emotional difficulties, and substance abuse, and maintains all of the other programs that we have. He went on to say that even though it is a 2.6% increase the amount to be collected in property taxes is approximately \$9,000 less than last year. This is realized by taking revenue collected to fund the budget increase. Therefore, if an assessment remains the same, and base proportions remain the same, there should not be an increase in taxes. While individual tax payers may see a variation in their tax bill as an aggregate, people who live in this community might see a slight decrease or remain essentially flat. Coordinating Council will sponsor Meet the Candidates on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria.

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, it was:  
RESOLVED, that the proposed budget in the amount of \$102,113,514.86 for the 2017-2018 school year be adopted for submission to the qualified voters of the North Shore Central School District at the annual election to be held on May 16, 2017

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

#### **Personnel**

##### **Appointment - Administration**

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Robert Chlebicki, Acting Superintendent, effective July 1, 2017 through August 20, 2017

##### **Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment**

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Colleen Wanser, Special Education, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule, effective March 28, 2017 through June 30, 2017



Resolved: To approve an agreement with Anthony Michael Lopez to provide a one day “press conference” with high school English classes about his journey from amputee to Broadway star at a fee of \$75

On motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Berliner 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 North Merrick School District for 1 student residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the North Merrick School District for the 2016-2017 school year at a cost of \$1,161 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

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

Approval of Change Orders

Resolved: To approve change order #1 from Ultimate Power, Inc. for Capital Reserve HVAC Reconstruction at Glen Head Elementary School, in the amount of \$5,000 (deduction)

Resolved: To approve change order #2 from Ultimate Power, Inc. for Capital Reserve HVAC Reconstruction at Middle School, in the amount of \$20,000 (deduction)

Resolved: To approve change order #1 from Ultimate Power, Inc. for bond Referendum Projects-Phase II at Glenwood Landing Elementary School, in the amount of \$7,161.49 (deduction)

Resolved: To approve change order #1 from Ultimate Power, Inc. for bond Referendum Projects-Phase II at Middle School, in the amount of \$5,000 (deduction)

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

Award of Bids for Capital Reserve Projects (Second Round)

Resolved: To award bids for capital reserve projects to the low bidders of March 9, 2017, as recommended by BBS Architects and Savin Engineers, P.C., as follows:

Mechanical Construction –Sea Cliff Elem. School MC-1 (Boiler Replacement)

Ultimate Power Inc.

45 Nancy Street

West Babylon, NY 11704

Base Bid MC-1: \$713,000.00

Total Award: \$713,000.00

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

Approval of Resolution for Rejection of Bids

WHEREAS the North Shore CSD solicited bids for the purpose of Bond Phase III: General Construction-Glenwood Landing Elementary School (GC-2)-Glenwood Landing School Auditorium Floor Painting & Stage Sanding, Bond Phase III: General Construction-North Shore High School (GC-4)-Masonry Reconstruction and Bond Projects, Bond Phase III: Mechanical Construction-Sea Cliff Elementary School (MC-1-Mechanical & HVAC work, hereafter referred to as “Bond Projects-Phase III” and

WHEREAS, bids for “Bond Projects-Phase III” were opened on March 9, 2017,

and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the North Shore CSD has determined it is in the best interest of the district to reject all bids for “Bond Projects-Phase III”

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore CSD hereby rejects all bids for “Bond Projects-Phase III” opened on March 9, 2017

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

Approval of Appointment for Special Counsel

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Shore CSD Board of Education appoints Douglas A. Spencer, Esq. of 80 Orville Drive, Suite 100, Bohemia, New York 11716 to serve as Special Counsel to the School District in matters relating to a certain student’s (ID# 367362622496) educational placement at Nassau BOCES at the rate of Two-Hundred and Thirty-five Dollars (\$235.00) per hour

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

Approval of Facilities Use Agreement with The Roman Catholic Church of St. Rocco

Resolved: To approve a facilities use agreement with the Roman Catholic Church of St. Rocco, for the purpose of AP testing from April 28, 2017 through May 19, 2017 at a total cost of \$6,900

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

Approval to Participate in the Cooperative Bid for Bus Auto Parts & Transmission Materials and Supplies

WHEREAS, It is the plan of the Boards of Education of Garden City UFSD, Herricks UFSD, Mineola UFSD, Great Neck UFSD, Levittown UFSD, North Shore Central School District, Port Washington UFSD, East Rockaway School District, Roslyn UFSD , Long Beach UFSD, Island Park UFSD, Floral Park-Bellerose School District, Plainedge School District, Jericho School District, and East Williston UFSD, Bethpage UFSD, County of Nassau, New York, Southampton UFSD, County of Suffolk, New York to bid jointly for Materials & Supplies (Bus & Auto Parts & Transmission) and

WHEREAS, The North Shore School District is desirous of participating with other school districts in Nassau County in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 and

WHEREAS, The North Shore School District wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, reporting the results to the Boards of Education and making recommendations thereon, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore School District hereby appoints David C. Murphy, Jr., for the Garden City School District to represent it in all matters related above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Shore School District Board of Education authorizes the above mentioned committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned commodities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Shore School District Board of Education agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs of the cooperative bidding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the North Shore School District Board of Education agrees (1) to abide by the majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards: (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee: (3) that after award of contract(s) it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s)

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

Approval of Agreement with Creative Tutoring

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Creative Tutoring, Inc. to provide tutoring services for North Shore students during the 2016-2017 school year

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

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

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

**Comments from the Public**

Rob Mazzella, Glen Head, asked why North Shore was 1 of only 7 districts that did not have their opt out numbers reported in Newsday. Dr. Melnick explained that he was at an out-of-district meeting when Newsday called for the information. The numbers have been given to the local papers and *NorthWord* News and anyone who wants the numbers can request them.

**Old Business**

Trustee Ludmar commended the production of Oklahoma and Director of Fine and Performing Arts, Dalia Rodriguez.

**New Business**

Joanna Commander, said she feels this board has made it a point to be transparent and in that spirit she recommends putting our vendor transactions online, similar to what the Town of Hempstead is doing. Dr. Melnick explained that Ms. Buatsi has investigated this option, the software is \$8,500 and if the board wants to pursue it, he will ask her to get further information. President Labbate said this will require a full discussion on a board agenda and will need consensus of the board before it becomes an agenda item. Trustees recommended getting cost information on the upkeep, labor, hardware as well as an implementation schedule and timeline. There was consensus to proceed with a full discussion on a future agenda. Dr. Melnick suggested a meeting in May to give Ms. Buatsi time to get all the information available to the board.

Trustee Jones reported on research done on the PARC assessment that indicated students who took the computerized test did worse than kids who took the paper version. She asked if there is a plan going forward in regard to computerized testing. Dr. Melnick explained that we opted out of piloting the computerized tests this year and will do so for math as well. His understanding is the state plan to have everything computerized by 2020 and we are prepared with wireless devices.

President Labbate attended a recent special education meeting where they spoke about bringing in the social workers and psychologists to talk about stress on special education students. She suggested having the social workers come and talk about the stresses in our schools and how we can address it, specifically around the race for college and how that is affecting our students. Mr. Chlebicki said he is involved in a consultancy at Scarsdale which is centered around wellness. As mentioned in his report to the board, Mr. Cousins is concerned with stresses put on students and has begun a study on wellness. Mr. Cousins will be joining the group at Scarsdale. Dr. Melnick suggested making this a goal for next year.

**Adjournment**

At 9:10 P.M. on motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk