

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Sara Jones at 7:00 p.m. in the North Shore High School Library. Present were Trustees Commander, Galati, Ludmar, Madden, Russo and Vizza. Also present Superintendent Peter Giarrizzo, and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi and Christopher Zublionis.

At 7:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Madden and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session in the Faculty Room to consider discussions regarding the appointment of a particular person or persons and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 7:45 p.m. on motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the library. There were 5 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jones led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Galati, with Trustees Galati, Jones, Ludmar, Madden, Russo and Vizza for and Trustee Commander abstaining, the minutes of February 27, 2020 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Giarrizzo reported that he is monitoring all reports on the Coronavirus and is updating the community on what we are doing. Currently the CDC continues to recommend frequent hand washing. We have hand sanitizer dispensers on order and are cleaning touch surfaces around the schools. Wipes and sanitizing supplies are on order. All directions are coming from the CDC and DOH. Quarantine decisions come from government agencies. The best advice is to stay home if you are sick.

Most of the focus over the last week has been on the Coronavirus and budgeting. Dr. Giarrizzo also reported that he recently gave a tour of the schools to a group of realtors from a local agency.

Report from the SGO

SGO co-presidents Sam Scordo and Christian Genet reported on events and activities at the high school. Sports night was February 27 and was very successful. The Freshman class came in third place and won the dance contest. Everyone had a really good time. The SGO received the socks for their fundraiser. Over the next few weeks they will be creating a council to revise their by-laws which haven't been done since the early 2000's.

Regular Business

Budget Review

The Board discussed the following sections of the proposed 2020-2021 budget: Staffing, Employee Benefits, Debt Service, and Revenue & Financing Sources.

Ms. Buatsi explained that staffing has now changed with the additional special education positions. The total staffing, which includes all faculty and staff district wide, stands at 832.75 employees. Ms. Buatsi explained the debt service listed does not include the new debt. Trustee Russo further explained that debt service is the debt we pay on capital projects and interest rates can differ. She further explained the debt listed in the budget is for old debt and not for the upcoming projects which have not started yet. Finally, Ms. Buatsi explained that with the changes in calculations from the budget savings of \$326,000, the tax levy has shifted and now stands at 3.034%.

How We Use Time: The School Day

Dr. Zublionis explained that as part of the Teaching & Learning pillar of the Strategic Plan the district committed to research and propose how best to structure time at each level for academic, special area and support classes so as to facilitate and foster active student engagement and discovery. He went on to say that principals have led explorations into more fundamental and foundational school schedule changes with each building team engaged in collecting and analyzing literature, and educational publications of other school districts; input from faculty on challenges to instruction & possible solutions; and exploring the impact of scheduling on student learning and well-being. He explained that our schools face several challenges in the schedule which include: students being pulled from academic classes for remediation; intervention or special ed services; overscheduling; insufficient time for faculty to meet with students or to collaborate with colleagues. Principals shared the impact of the issues at their specific school building, the process that they are following for feedback, and possible solutions and design changes. All principals and their teams are focused on how the master schedule in their building can promote the core values of the school district; promote the North Shore vision for quality teaching and learning as well as best practices in teaching & learning, nurture student health, wellness and positive social interaction; maximize an efficient use of personnel and other resources; and encourage and allow for collaboration between faculty, independent time for students, and time for mentoring of students. Dr. Zublionis provided the Board with research and literature which illustrates the range in scholarly thinking about school time as well as the derivation of some of the ideas presented.

Mr. Cousins explained that they looked at the old model for the senior programs; a 3 period block. Feedback from graduates indicate they felt unprepared with how to use free time and also that the high school is too programmed. His team researched several models and the model used at Port Washington Schools is very popular. Both models they are most interested in have guaranteed lunch, one has a community lunch in the middle of the day with more time for teacher/student interaction, down time for students, and time with counselors. He plans to have a student focus group to discuss the models they researched and will bring it to the shared decision-making committee.

Mr. Dennis said he feels the current schedule at the middle school, which includes team teaching, block schedule and elective choices, works very well. He will be surveying students, faculty and parents to get feedback for areas where they may look to make some changes, especially in light of the physical changes to the building that will be taking place in the near future.

On the elementary level, the three principals explained the challenges in the elementary schedule. Ms. Finder explained that each year they look to do scheduling better to enable them to fit in all that is needed, including language, whole class enrichment, STEAM, wellness, social emotional learning of students and pull-outs. Ms. Wojcik explained that they sent out a survey to faculty to get feedback on scheduling and had 100% participation. Mr. Rufa continued that there have been some themes that emerged from the data collection which they will explore. He said they are looking for blocks of time for students to have contact with counselors as they are committed to the social emotional learning of students.

Trustee Russo said she feels the elementary schools have the most difficult scheduling issues as they need to get so much done in a short day and that includes interventions and STEAM. She noted that the district will be redoing the library and wondered how often students have access to the library. She also asked how often students get STEAM, language and other enrichment activities. Dr. Smyth responded that students have STEAM 16 sessions a year at 40 minutes each session. The modules rotate with the first being twice in a 6-day cycle. Trustee Russo said once every quarter does not seem like a great deal of time is devoted to STEAM. She noted that the library is being renovated and money was budgeted for library books. She asked how often students have access to the library. Ms. Small responded this year there is a regular library rotation and in addition they visit the library once in a 6-day cycle for book exchange. Beyond that, students access the library for research projects with their teachers. She further explained that the survey did indicate teachers would prefer a more regular schedule of library access. Trustee Russo said Teachers College workshop was supposed to give teachers autonomy over what they are reading. She said access to the library should be a priority. Ms. Small said she feels children are getting that with the current schedule. Dr. Giarrizzo added there is also tremendous collaboration between STEAM teachers and librarians. Dr. Rufa said with the second grade CAPSTONE project children leveraged their time to research and write a paper. He went on to say it was a great opportunity for students to access the library during their research for this project. Trustee Russo said she would like to see students have more access to STEAM and library opportunities. Dr. Zublionis explained that there are multiple STEAM clubs available to students.

President Jones asked if there are thoughts for older kids regarding the length of lesson blocks. Mr. Cousins said it depends on the design of the lesson. He said the most appealing model is having class once in an 8-day schedule for 110 minutes uninterrupted. He said it really depends on the nature of the lesson. Ms. Wojcik added in the elementary school it depends on how the lesson is structured. It could start with a mini lesson and transition to an anchor lesson.

Trustee Ludmar said parents want to slow it down in some way and wondered if there is some way to accommodate so many kids with so many needs. Dr. Zublionis explained that the schedule may need to change in many ways, possibly having schedules for K-1, 2-3 and 4-5. This is something the elementary team is looking at. Trustee Ludmar noted that kids are being trained early to take on as much as possible so it's not surprising that students in the high school are not taking lunch in order to have a full schedule. He wondered if a mandatory lunch would really work. Mr. Cousins explained that they are trying to strike the balance and would certainly help students on how to use that time.

Trustee Vizza would like to see a plan where students are not interrupted during the day and have access to everything. Ms. Small said they were asked to look from the perspective of the student who is pulled out and the number of transitions they go through; there is a priority to limit the number of transitions for students.

President Jones wondered if it would be helpful to look at other parts of a kid's day, such as what happens when they leave school which ties into the school start time. Also, how hard it is to get from one part of the building to another or the physical space impact on time.

Trustee Russo asked if the model that is being looked at for the high school would be more of one where students work independently. She said we need to be careful if looking at that type of model for kids engaging in athletics or clubs. Mr. Cousins said there will be no change in the overall minutes to the school day, it will just be spread out differently. Students will have help managing long term projects. He further explained that schools who have community lunch plan for clubs to meet during that time. All the models they have looked at do not limit the number of courses a student can take. He went on to say they are not seeking to take away opportunities for kids.

POLICY REVIEW

The Board reviewed the following policies: 6680 (Internal Audit Function), 6700/6700R (Purchasing), 6800 (Payroll Procedures), 6900 (Disposal of District Property). After discussion on the thresholds for verbal and written quotes it was decided to table a further discussion on policy 6700 (purchasing) policy until the meeting of March 26. Policies 6680 (Internal Audit Function), 6800 (Payroll Procedures) and 6900 (Disposal of District Property) along with policies 6600 (Fiscal Accounting & Reporting), 6650 (Claims Auditing) and 6660/6660-E (Internal/External Auditing) will be adopted at the meeting of March 26, 2020.

Comments from the Public

There was no one in the public present at this point of the meeting.

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

Personnel

Resignation – Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Jessica McNeill, Music, effective June 30, 2020

Increment for Advanced Study - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an increment for advanced study for Alicia Ezat, Spanish, from Step 3 of the BA+30 salary schedule to Step 3 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 1, 2020

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes – Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Colleen Hasselmann, ENL, effective March 14, 2020 through June 30, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Kathleen Webber, Elementary, effective March 27, 2020 through June 30, 2020

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment – Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Patricia Colon, ENL, on Step 1 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective March 14, 2020 through June 30, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a part-time (.4) regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Martin Abrams, Social Studies, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective March 23, 2020 through June 30, 2020

Appointment – Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Mark Glickman, School Monitor at the North Shore Middle School, effective March 9, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Keith Maler, Part-time Bus Driver, effective March 9, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Susan Taghavi, School Monitor at Glenwood Landing Elementary School, effective March 9, 2020

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the addition of the following names to the per diem substitute list:

Linda Cook Food Service Substitute
Susan Davitt-Herbert Food Service Substitute

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

Adoption of Policies

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby adopts the following policies, regulations and exhibits, as reviewed by the Board on February 27, 2020, effective March 5, 2020:

5605 (Student Voter Registration), 6110/6110-R (Budget Planning),
6690/6690-E (Audit Committee), 6720 (Purchases Directly Charged to a Federal Award), 6741
(Contracting for Professional Services), 8130.1 ("Red Flag Law")

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

Acceptance of Donations

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts a donation of \$2,000 from the Glen Head PTO to the Glen Head Elementary School to help support the Science Saturday Workshop on March 14, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the following donations from the Sea Cliff School PCA to the Sea Cliff Elementary School:

\$900 for the Calpulli Mexican Dance Co. for the Grade 5 FLES Spanish Culmination Experience
\$465 for the Grade 4 Field Trip to Garvies Point
\$340 for the new light board for the auditorium

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the following donations from the Arts Angels to the North Shore Schools Fine and Performing Arts Department:

\$1,650 to support Advanced Placement Art students' participation in a workshop at Gowanus Print Lab
\$750 to support Master Classes with a Guest Conductor for Middle School Band Ensembles

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts a \$2,000 award from The Giants Foundation, Inc. to the North Shore High School Football Program as awarded to Coach of the Week Dan Agovino

Prior to approval, Trustee Russo asked if the architect fees charged for the foul ball netting is the same fee structure that is being charged for the bond. Dr. Giarrizzo responded no, we are charged hourly rates for the foul ball netting.

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

Approval of Budget Transfers

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves budget transfers in the amount of \$148,000 to cover the Middle School Greenkill trip, Spanish language legal notice publication for bond and budget vote, architect fees for foul ball netting, design for GH

Nurses Office, MS locker room & MS Library AC, 21st century classroom layout, and mentoring and curriculum work for new teachers, effective March 5, 2020

President Jones expressed concern that in the near future holding large assemblies may become an issue. She asked when and where this presentation will take place. Dr. Zublionis explained that Rob Dennis and Dan Doherty are already working on it.

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

Approval of Agreement Between the North Shore CSD and Long Island Crisis Center

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an agreement between the School District and Long Island Crisis Center, to provide a presentation to middle school students regarding mental health at a cost of not to exceed \$200, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement, effective March 6, 2020 through June 30, 2020; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board

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

Approval of Health Services Contracts

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby enters into a contract for Health Services with Syosset CSD for 9 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Syosset CSD for the 2019-2020 school year at a cost of \$1,018.24 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

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

Approval of Agreement Between the North Shore CSD and Fitzgeralds Driving School

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an agreement between the School District and Fitzgeralds Driving School, to provide adapted driver education services as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement during the period February 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020; and

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

Trustee Ludmar asked about the exception in the audit report that a consultant was paid without a contract or Board approval. He asked if this was a service used before and/or if we would be using the consultant again. If so, he noted that the Board should receive a contract. Ms. Buatsi will look into this.

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

Acceptance of Claims Audit Report

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the internal claims audit report for the period February, 2020 as reviewed and submitted by the internal claims auditor, Denise Longobardi

On motion of Trustee Vizza and seconded by Trustee Madden and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Special Education Services (IEP)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves special education services (IEP) as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE)

Comments from the Public

There was no one in the public present at this point of the meeting.

Old Business

Trustee Russo asked for an update on her question about the textbook manager stipend. Dr. Zublionis explained the high school student book manager's responsibilities are: taking and keeping current an inventory of all the text books, including novels, keep the books stored in an orderly way and in an easily accessible location, inspect books to assess damage and determine if a recommendation should be made that the book needs to be replaced due to excessive wear or damage, use the hardware and software the district purchased to bar code each book, and keep an electronic record of our collections, including quantity and location of each textbook, and ensure each book has the district stamp and book number on the inside cover or first page of the book. Trustee Russo asked if one person actually does a physical inventory of all books at the high school and if so, she wondered why we also have a textbook management system. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that there is a physical inventory of all textbooks over the summer. Ms. Buatsi explained that the textbook management system is to track private and parochial textbooks. President Jones added someone needs to barcode the books. Dr. Giarrizzo suggested if the Board wishes to rethink the structure of the inventory system, that can be done. Trustee Galati said in his experience of overseeing the clubs, he never got formal reports back of the inventory and therefore never signed off on that position because of the lack of documentation. President Jones said textbooks are an enormous asset and we do need to keep track of them. Trustee Russo stressed we need to know what is happening and that it is accurate. She suggested checking to see what other districts are doing. Trustee Vizza asked what the middle school and elementary schools do to track their textbooks. Dr. Zublionis responded that the directors are actively involved in the elementary schools. Dr. Giarrizzo will take a look at the structure and bring back a recommendation to the Board.

Trustee Russo reported that at a meeting of the stadium lighting task force the results they received from a survey sent to our quadrant showed that everyone who responded has a lighted field. She said it seems there is a strong desire of the community members on the committee for lights and they are concerned about a timeline. Dr. Giarrizzo clarified that only 50% of schools in Nassau County have lighted fields. He went on to say that the committee is still doing research. Each sub group is working on a task and reported out to the larger group. Their next meeting is scheduled for April. The committee will do visits, make a more formal report to the larger committee, take questions, figure out what to do next. Their final meeting will be in May, after which they will make a report and recommendation to the Board for review and consideration. He explained that they are still in the work and research part. Trustee Russo said there seems to be concern in the group about the timeline for doing lights. She went on to say if the Board decides to do lights they need to determine how to fund it. She suggested the possibility of funding it through a capital reserve and said if the Board wishes to do that it should be established on the ballot this May. She further said although the lights themselves are not astronomically expensive, with ancillary costs the funding would be approximately \$1.3M. The Board discussed the possibility of placing a referendum to establish a capital reserve on the ballot. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that the committee has not finished its work and has not made a formal recommendation. He said although there is a lot of support for the lighting there are a lot of issues to compensate for. He asked the Board not to get ahead of the committee's work. Trustee Commander expressed concern over the problems associated with a lighted field such as sound and usage issues. She said she feels pushing forward so quickly is a major mistake. Trustee Madden noted that the capital reserve would give flexibility; creating the reserve doesn't mean you must use it. He said the committee is putting a survey out to the community so if the desire is there it gives the option of moving forward. President Jones expressed concern that it would be difficult to explain to the public why we are establishing the reserve. Trustee Vizza said setting up a general capital reserve without a specific reason would not be transparent to the public. Trustee Ludmar noted that establishing a capital reserve does not need to be done with the budget and could be done in a separate vote. He said he would like to

learn about the nuts and bolts of putting lights in. He wants to determine what the committee wants and what the community wants. He went on to say this was only the second meeting of the committee and it is early in the process. He said he feels we should not proceed according to what a small group wants but should wait to see what the larger community wants. He also reminded everyone that we need to see what is going to happen with LIPA. Trustee Russo asked that the Board discuss the establishment of a capital reserve as a future agenda item.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment

At 11:00 p.m., on motion of Trustee Vizza and seconded by Trustee Madden and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk