

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Sara Jones at 6:15 p.m. The meeting was held via Video Conference through Google Meet. Present were Trustees Commander, Galati, Ludmar, Madden, Russo and Vizza. Also present Superintendent Peter Giarrizzo, and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi and Christopher Zublionis.

At 6:15 pm on motion of Trustee Galati and seconded by Trustee Madden and all in favor, the Board moved to convene a meeting of the Audit Committee.

At 7:25 pm on motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, the Board adjourned the Audit Committee Meeting and moved to convene an executive session to consider discussions regarding the appointment of a particular person or persons.

At 7:50 p.m. on motion of Trustee Vizza and seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jones led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, the minutes of April 2, 2020 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Giarrizzo reported that the administration is working on contingency plans for graduation. They will have to wait to see what comes from Albany and what can be done in June. He has been speaking with seniors on how to wrap up the year, but it is still unclear what will happen with the rest of the year, so a major event will probably be difficult to accomplish. They have discussed a few options, a live event happening in July or August, a video meeting in June or possibly holding graduation at a drive-in theatre. Most of the students would like a live event. He went on to explain that the prom is unlikely for June, this may happen over the summer and options for the fall are also being explored. Other end of year events such as decisions day, yearbook signing, and Moving Up Day may happen virtually. He has been getting feedback from students and parents and continues to work with both groups.

Capital projects is ongoing. Schematic designs and initial costs estimates have been forwarded to the Board. The construction team meets remotely on Fridays. Dr. Giarrizzo suggested the Board email him with any questions and he will bring those to the team meetings.

He reported that the Governor has announced there will most likely be reductions in state aid; currently they are unsure what that may be. He and Ms. Buatsi have been working on scenarios of how that might affect North Shore. They have worked up scenarios assuming a 20%, 15%, 10% and 5% reduction in aid. He explained that our total aid is approximately \$5.3M so a 20% reduction would be around \$1M. He went on to say that most likely there will be a formula created by Albany, with a figured assigned to each district. He further explained this is how it worked in 2008 and it took our district until 2016 to recover from that. Finally, he said we want to be prepared for whatever is going to

happen. Trustee Madden asked if we had received all of our state aid payments for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Buatsi responded, not yet, about 80% of the aid has been received. She explained that a piece of expense aid, special education aid, is delayed until August. Trustee Madden asked if the Governor's announcement on April 30th would impact this year or next year. Dr. Giarrizzo said it would impact this year. Ms. Buatsi added usually there is a reconciliation around this time every year for the end of the school year.

Dr. Giarrizzo reported there is still no information on a date for the budget vote and election of trustees. He said there have been rumors, however our attorney has informed us there is no real information on it. He has heard the state will not make a decision until early May and we will probably have to come up with a plan quickly to put into action.

Finally, he reported that they are recruiting in earnest for next year and the high school principal search will gear up in the next week or two.

Regular Business

Online Learning

Dr. Giarrizzo thanked Dr. Zublionis for the massive effort he and his team has put into distance learning to ensure high levels of compliance and engagement. He went on to say that Dr. Zublionis has been working with the team on evolution and increasing time. He said they have all put in a lot of sweat and effort and he really appreciates their work.

Dr. Zublionis explained that overnight the faculty became first year teachers again. They went from "brick and mortar" classrooms to virtual classrooms. They do feel that a lot of the pedagogy will go back to the brick and mortar classroom when they return. Dr. Zublionis explained that the directors met the first week of March to complete a two-week unit thinking that would be the length of the closure. Originally the material was mostly review material, as the thought was they would be back in the classroom very quickly. Once they learned the closure would be more extensive they switched to Google Classroom. Google accounts were set up for all students. Devices and hotspots were delivered to those students who did not already have a device or internet service. He said this is unnatural to the way elementary learning happens and it was a large undertaking to set up for elementary teachers and students. It was easier and quicker for the secondary level. He further explained that a meeting structure was initiated with principals and administrators; this happens on a daily basis. Dr. Zublionis reviewed the schedules developed for the Middle School and High School. He explained that they will merge quarters 3 and 4 and there will be a no harm grading policy. For elementary they are still developing the report card which will most likely be narrative feedback. He reviewed the support being offered by counselors and through the special education department; annual CSE's started this week. Professional development and support for teachers include weekly faculty meetings, daily principal and director meetings and check-ins, formal and informal sessions with Dr. Zublionis or Kristie Lieberman, resources through Stony Brook University and BOCES as well as North Shore's training website. Dr. Zublionis reviewed the data and feedback from the recent survey of parents, students and teachers. He reviewed next steps which include mitigating learning loss and regressions and plans for the fall. Finally, he said they are trying to create more teacher interaction and more meeting time. Moving into the summer they are looking at the August Regents.

The Board discussed the presentation. Trustee Russo asked when he anticipates online instruction to be more like what students receive in the classroom. She also asked if teachers will have access to their classroom so they can use a whiteboard, or have access to labs or to their materials. Dr. Zublionis explained that question has come up and he is working with John Hall and the principals. He went on to say it would be easier for both the teachers and the students to have access to their materials. However, he noted that whether a posted video or a live meet with the teacher, for the high school it may be a 2 hour plus block of time, for the elementary student a little less, but it is hard to keep

students' attention in that type of venue. Trustee Russo said parents are asking about this and other districts are doing it. She said from the survey it seems parents feel there should be some traditional instruction in addition to the type of instruction that is happening. Dr. Zublionis said he understands there is some frustration, and elementary parents have also expressed that there is just so much new learning that can take place with this type of instruction.

Trustee Galati asked what type of assessments are being looked at. Dr. Zublionis said it varies by grade level. At the secondary level they are looking at longer type assessments; such as week-long assignments with feedback. There might be variations but not traditional tests or that type of assessment. On the elementary level it is more modular based offering shorter answer diagnostic responses; more objective. President Jones asked how a student knows that they have been left feedback and comments. Dr. Zublionis explained that students need to turn on email notifications to see that feedback has been given. He further explained that in the classroom section there is a bubble for feedback, but it is limited; they are working on verbal feedback. They are also working on more small group sessions to diagnose learning needs in the immediate.

Trustee Commander asked what is happening in physical education. Dr. Zublionis explained physical education teachers mostly use posted videos for secondary students, for elementary students it may be live. Trustee Commander noted this is a good opportunity for teachers to explore mindfulness and mediation with students.

Trustee Madden asked if there have been discussions regarding how much time students should be spending on work and/or what an appropriate amount of work is each week. Dr. Zublionis explained that on the elementary level parents are saying there is too much work. He went on to say that could be the result of the steps or the awkwardness of the platform. He further explained that this week they were engaging on live meets and cutting down on the written work, trying to keep screen time to one hour. He feels the more live meets there are interactions will go up. On the secondary level he is receiving reports that it is stressful, and perhaps too much work, however he also gets emails saying they want more work and there is concern about regression.

Trustee Vizza asked if related services, such as speech, is being provided to students properly. Dr. Zublionis explained that all related service providers have a Google Classroom. They have flexible meets, however lack of attendance in those settings has been reported. Trustee Vizza asked if teachers are reporting who is not engaged and if we are reaching out to families if there is "school refusal". Dr. Zublionis explained if there was home instruction we will continue with home instruction as a bridge. There will have to be some sort of planning for re-entry for these students as well. Trustee Vizza asked if students who have mandated time with school psychologists, are having that fulfilled. Dr. Zublionis explained they are reaching out to the families but there may not be the same amount of time per week due to scheduling. Trustee Vizza asked about guidance from the state regarding flexibility with IEPs. Dr. Zublionis said the state has indicated districts need to maintain the goals and services of the IEPs but can be flexible with time. Trustee Vizza asked if science laboratory seat time has been waived. Dr. Zublionis explained that yes, the lab seat time was waived along with the cancellation of the Regents exams,

Trustee Galati said the College Board has cut the curriculum now that the AP exams won't be administered. He wondered, now that the Regents exams have been canceled if there is any talk of curricular changes and instead going back and looking in depth at the curriculum. He said some districts have dropped the ending topics in their classes which will not culminate in AP or Regents exams. Dr. Zublionis explained that they are looking at the essential concepts and review instead of topics that might be on the Regents exam. He is working with Mr. Menchel, but said it is hard to decide what to cut and what not to cut.

Trustee Ludmar asked about oversight; how are you making sure the faculty is doing what has been put in place. Dr. Zublionis explained that Ms. Smyth and Ms. Small are members of all Google Classrooms on the elementary level. Dr. Zublionis is a member of all Google Classrooms. Principals are

members of all Google Classrooms in their buildings. Principals visit each classroom at least once per week if not more. They assume the best of intentions but want the same result; posted videos and live meets, work assigned and feedback given. They do want to move toward more of a consistent general structured framework. Trustee Ludmar asked if there is a way of knowing who is attending. Dr. Zublionis explained that teachers report to counselors or principals on attendance. If there is a pattern over a week then phone calls are made, notes are made on the students, and there is follow-up. There is more concern at the high school level on this.

President Jones asked if the system we have is sufficient if this is to continue into the fall, or if we need a different way to manage it. Dr. Zublionis said the information and the way it is being communicated is good, however we need to strategize how to leverage technology, counselors and assistant principals in a different way. He said they are diagnosing strategies.

Trustee Vizza asked how our educators are doing with working from home. Dr. Zublionis said our social workers are helping the teachers as well. He went on to say in addition to all the new learning and adapting, our teachers are having issues just like everyone else, like taking care of a parent or another family member. He said principals are keeping tabs on how their teachers are doing.

Dr. Giarrizzo said he is very proud of the teachers and said they are working hard. He went on to say this is all new and our teachers are experiencing all of the emotions that everyone is feeling, managing the health and wellness of themselves, their children, parents and working at the same time. He said there is a lot of anxiety all over the system and our job is to help them and to get the job done as well. Trustee Ludmar added it is not a realistic goal for our society and not an ideal way to deliver education. He said we need to think of this as a way to move education forward. Dr. Giarrizzo explained this is why we have reached out to Columbia University. They are experts in online learning and we are looking to leverage it for long-term growth. Trustee Ludmar said he supports looking to external resources.

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

Resignation – Administration

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Albert Cousins, Principal, effective June 30, 2020

Change of Family Medical Leave Period

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, upon the request of Danielle Hild, the term of a leave of absence previously approved at the February 6, 2020 Board meeting, be amended to February 3, 2020 through April 3, 2020

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, upon the request of Lauren Kottler, the term of a leave of absence previously approved at the March 26, 2020 Board meeting, be amended to April 6, 2020 through June 19, 2020

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, upon the request of Wei Huang, the term of a leave of absence previously approved at the March 26, 2020 Board meeting, be amended to April 13, 2020 through May 15, 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 Jane Launer, Elementary, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective April 25, 2020 through May 29, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District, hereby approves a part-time (.6) regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Amy Mueller, Elementary, on Step 10 of the MA salary schedule, effective April 25, 2020 through June 30, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Wendy Bruno, Special Education, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective April 25, 2020 through June 19, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Kerri McDonagh, Elementary, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule, effective on or around May 18, 2020 until June 30, 2020.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Amy Davies Hollander, Social Worker, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective April 25, 2020 through May 8, 2020.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby modifies the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Joan Neugeborn, Elementary, on Step 10 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 28 2020 through April 8, 2020

Approval of Teacher Overages

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following teacher overages:

Xian Xian Cascella, World Language (.2) effective 4/13/2020 through 5/15/2020

Lingling Xie, World Language (.6) effective 4/13/2020 through 5/15/2020

Nicole Haddican, Special Education (.1) effective 3/27/2020 through 5/8/2020

Chris Gish, Special Education (.2) effective 3/27/2020 through 5/8/2020

Kayleigh Escamilla, Special Education (.3) effective 3/27/2020 through 5/8/2020

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Ludmar 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 March, 2020 as reviewed and submitted by the internal claims auditor, Denise Longobardi

On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Russo 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 \$30,000 to cover the purchase of masks, gloves, antiseptic, cleaners and other supplies for the custodial and building staff, effective April 23, 2020

Board Committees

Trustee Ludmar reported on a meeting of the Construction Steering Committee. The high school entry is proceeding. The technology project of re-wiring is not, because they do not have access to the buildings currently. The alternative energy photovoltaics project that was discussed awhile back, they are trying to find more space at Glenwood Landing or Sea Cliff schools by Eco Systems. That doesn't seem possible by they will take another look at it. The energy audit was completed by Eco Systems and they are looking at a third party reviewer to streamline the process with SED. The

committee will be forwarding a recommendation for a third party firm. Trustee Russo explained that certain projects get held up at the State Education Department. She explained further that it is possible to pay a fee to a firm to expedite the process. The committee was looking at a consultant, however they were not on the SED list; the firm the committee will recommend is an expeditor on the SED list and is based in Buffalo. Trustee Ludmar continued with his report. Trustees received preliminary design work from their architects that is expansive and includes preliminary work for Phase 1 with work taking place roughly during the summer of 2021, subject to change with the current environment. It is still preliminary as they are seeking review from the different departments, and the administration however, the committee wanted the Board to be able to review the plans and see where they are in real time. The capital reserve work is moving along; as schools are considered essential some work can be done with parameters around the stay-at-home orders. There is nothing going on with the repair reserve. They discussed the new capital reserve and are waiting on the authorization at the budget vote to do the work on the projects in there. The middle school softball field drainage problem has had some success in tracing the line from one catch basin to a secondary catch basin. They need additional equipment to find that second catch basin. The foul ball netting project estimates have come in bigger than expected, almost double. To protect spectators at the track & field/bleachers is \$82,000 and behind home plate \$98,000. These costs have increased due to the footings. Trustee Vizza asked for the status on the repair of the track and field. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that it is being negotiated between the two sets of attorneys. Trustee Commander asked if the ripple on the Lacrosse Field is being looked at. Dr. Giarrizzo said there hasn't been a chance for someone to come and look at it yet, due to the current circumstances, but it is in the que. The Verizon upgrade to our copper line is on hold. The vaping detection is on hold but the wiring is in. The lighting task force has been on hold; Dr. Giarrizzo is looking to bring that back. Dr. Giarrizzo spoke about the traffic study/parking at front entrance of middle school and traffic patterns in front of the high school/middle school. He explained that they have received 3 options and estimates. The options are: 1) Middle School car traffic would have a revised entrance off Glen Cove Avenue, and a new exit on Kissam Lane which would direct car traffic north toward Shore Road. This would provide a new parking lot in the upper circle with 46 parking spots. Two estimates came in for this option \$800,000 and \$1.3M. 2) Is similar to option one - Middle School car traffic would exit from a new exit on Kissam Lane and this would provide a new parking lot in the upper circle with a few less parking spots. The two estimates for this option are \$757,000 and \$1.2M. 3) Middle School car traffic would exit from the current exit (Glen Cove Avenue) with a new parking lot of 20 parking spots in the upper circle at a cost of \$377,000 and \$550,000. The Board discussed the options. They felt it made the most sense to change the traffic pattern by bringing cars out on Kissam Lane, however that is cost prohibitive especially during these times of economic uncertainty with state aid reductions almost certain. Trustee Ludmar asked if it would be possible to find 10 parking spots somewhere on the campus. Dr. Giarrizzo said it will be put on the agenda for the committee to discuss at their next meeting. He said the reason for bringing the options to the Board was so they are aware what the committee is speaking about. This is not a budgeted item and they wanted to get feedback to see if the committee should go forward with pursuing it.

Comments from the Public is Suspended

Based on the suspension of the Open Meetings provision of the New York State Public Officer's Law pursuant to New York State Executive Order 202.1, public attendance is not permitted

Old Business

Trustee Russo asked what the status is on her question about the textbook manager position. Dr. Zublionis responded that he had sent out a description for this position. Trustee Russo said she did review the description however her question is whether the position would be taken off the list that

they approve over the summer as she does not feel there was satisfactory evidence that the person in the position is doing the job. She further stated that her understanding is that teachers collect their own textbooks.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Executive Session

At 9:40 pm on motion of President Jones and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session to discuss the appointment of a particular person or persons.

At 10:05 pm on motion of Trustee Vizza and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the meeting.

Adjournment

At 10:05 pm on motion of Trustee Commander and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk