

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
November 4, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President David Ludmar at 6:15 p.m. in the High School Library. The meeting was simultaneously live-streamed. Present were Trustees Colacioppo, Galati, Jones, Macari, Mosca and Russo. Also present were Assistant Superintendent Dr. Christopher Zublionis and Assistant Superintendent Olivia Buatsi.

At 6:15 p.m. on motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the high school library to consider matters regarding collective negotiations pursuant to Article 4 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law), and the employment, promotion, demotion or dismissal of a particular person or persons.

At 6:45 p.m. on motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Macari and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and convened a meeting of the Audit Committee in the library.

At 7:45 p.m. on motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo and all in favor, the Board adjourned the meeting of the Audit Committee and resumed the regular meeting in the library. There were approximately 15 people in the audience.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Ludmar led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Macari and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the minutes of October 21, 2021 were approved.

**Report of the Superintendent**

President Ludmar reported that Dr. Dolan is not in attendance this evening as he is in Washington, DC at the Blue Ribbon Ceremony for the high school.

Dr. Zublionis reported he is proud of the North Shore athletics program with many teams participating in playoffs including Women's Tennis, Women's Soccer, and Men's Soccer. He further reported that the Men's Cross Country team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the County Championship and he congratulated junior Sam Sturge who finished first. In addition, the Women's Cross Country team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the County Championships and the Volleyball team defeated Locust Valley to advance to the county semi-finals. The football team will be playing their first playoff game on Saturday and the Women's swim team begins playoffs this week. Middle School and High School winter sports will begin over the next 2 weeks. Dr. Zublionis reported that the High School Masquers will be presenting "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" the weekend of November 19<sup>th</sup> and last week was Red Ribbon Week throughout the District with great presentations. Several things going on at the high school including ideas from the intermediate science research students on carbon neutral cruise ships, treatment for sickle-cell anemia, and wildfire prevention. IB students presented how theory of knowledge manifest in the world around them; HS Spanish teachers celebrated and shared Hispanic Heritage Month with students; 9<sup>th</sup> grade research labs are conducting their first end-of-quarter conference reflections; physics classes studied acceleration due to gravity through a "pumpkin drop"

from a fire truck; advanced photography resumed their photo-field trips. The Middle School held E3 day- a school wide celebration that focused on social emotional learning, wellness and stress reduction. E3 Day 2 is scheduled for November 23. At Glen Head they were excited to have their first ever Halloween parade. Sea Cliff's No Place for Hate initiative held a grade level assembly where students learned about the Dignity for All Students Act. The No Place for Hate Committee created resources for families to support school discussions about DASA including Sea Cliff School Family Supports Unity Day Window Flyer, Sea Cliff School Illustration of Kindness flyer, 5 Steps for Talking About bullying with your Child. Dr. Zublionis attended Sea Cliff's Halloween Parade and also reported on their robust clubs, intramurals and PCA enrichment program. He reported that Glenwood Landing's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dignity Diplomats have been preparing to work with first graders with a goal to help younger students become independent problem solvers. He also reported that their student government representatives are kicking off the Island Harvest Food Drive on World Kindness Day. He was glad to also attend their Halloween parade as well. Finally, he reported that there is a sink hole at Glen Head School from drywells. Work is in progress to address this situation. He also reported that there has been no word from the state on the requirement for vaccinations in the schools.

#### **Update on the Search for a New Superintendent**

President Ludmar gave an update on the search for a new superintendent. As he reported at the last meeting, many community outreach meetings were held with the consultants as well as a survey to solicit feedback from the community. The Board just received a report from consultants where these results were synthesized, partly numerical and partly commentary. The Board will meet next week with the consultants to finalize the profile which will be approved at the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and will be used to recruit candidates.

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

SGO Co-Presidents, Kathryn Ditrano and Noah Glickman reported on events and activities at the high school. The SGO will be funding decorations for the school for special occasions throughout the year. They just decorated the school for Halloween. On Friday they sponsored a Halloween Costume Contest; Dr. Kurrus and Dr. Mabrouk judged the contest and sophomores who dressed as Gatorade bottles won the contest. They are hoping to create more spirit in the school. The next event will be "Spirit Day" which will be "pink-out day" for breast cancer. The SGO is also planning a No Place for Hate tee shirt contest at the high school but they are hoping to make it a district-wide event.

#### **Regular Business--8:10 p.m.**

##### **Establishing 2022-2023 Budget Priorities**

Dr. Zublionis explained the budgeting process. He explained that at this point in the year the Board gives the administration their priorities for the next school year's budget and a framework for different aspects of the budget to ensure students grow and thrive. He further explained the importance for all to understand that administrators build their budgets from a zero-based budget; they do not roll over their budgets from the year before. Additionally, each building and department creates a narrative to explain why they need what they need. They work within the constraints of the tax cap and the CPI. He reminded everyone that the tax cap percentage is based on the tax levy to tax levy increase, the amount the District raises from taxes, and not the budget to budget amount. He also stressed the importance of the pressures on the budget due to collective bargaining in the form of salaries and benefits.

President Ludmar added that prior to the 2% cap districts could raise their tax levy by whatever their communities would support. He explained that close to 80% of the budget is tied up in salaries and benefits which does not leave much that they have control over. President Ludmar further explained

that the Board wants the community to be engaged and they want to build confidence in the process. They are aware the budget came close to failing last year and they want to improve their communication with the entire community. Dr. Dolan will host “budget boot camps” and the LAC committee will be charged with assisting the Board with better communication. The Board is creating an ad hoc-budget advisory committee and the parent organizations will also assist in getting information out in a better way. Their focus has been on how community members want to be engaged, and they plan to act on those suggestions. President Ludmar noted that although the District has a 5-year plan, the budget process begins tonight with the Board sharing their priorities. Next district administrators will meet with Central Office administrators. Ultimately, the budget process comes down to how their decisions affects kids, it is not just about numbers on a page.

The Board discussed their priorities for the 2022-2023 budget. Trustee Macari noted a third STEM teacher has been recommended for many years; she would like to see that be added in this budget. She also stressed the importance of funding for remediation and support in special education, investing in technology, support for professional development. She recommended a program for “twice exceptional learners”, she would like to ensure there is enough supervision and training for people doing the supervision and would like to look into playground equipment that is age appropriate at the middle school.

Trustee Colacioppo expressed the importance of maintaining small class size, the commitment to the SVOs, varied opportunities for students, expanding outdoor learning and ventilation, ensure funding for special education, support for professional development and create engagement.

Trustee Galati stressed the importance to do their best to maintain and improve programs in a fiscally responsible way and to maintain equity. He asked whether student programming can be done earlier so they know what type of projections they need. He suggested trying parallel classes to alleviate extra sections early in the year.

Trustee Mosca suggested continued and expanding outdoor learning, not just at recess/lunch but she would like to see it expanded into academic learning. She recommends directing funds to outdoor learning in the forms of seating, larger and stronger tents, professional development, storage for materials, and wind barriers.

Trustee Russo noted last year it was a challenge to stay within the tax cap and with the shift in the base proportion many residents saw their taxes increase more than they expected. She also noted that there has been a decline in enrollment but not a decrease in the budget. She said over the years there have been initiatives such as iPads/Chromebooks, offering 5 languages, and IB and she asked whether they should look at how funds are allocated and what is sustainable. She also suggested looking at the administrative structure and whether there is room to make changes. Trustee Russo did stress the importance of maintaining the position of Assistant Director of Special Education for Elementary.

Trustee Jones recommended a more updated health curriculum and would like to see a summer program reflected in the budget. She recommended the SVOs and strategic plan may need budgetary support. She would like to see professional development support around DASA and is also in favor of the addition of a third STEM teacher at the elementary level. She advocated for continued support in their investment in infrastructure and technology.

President Ludmar stressed the importance for the community to understand the budget. He explained that LIPA was a discussion before he was on the Board; he participated in a Superintendent Council with Dr. Melnick to help understand the budget. He further explained that LIPA currently has a suit against the County; we are engaged with a lobbyist to understand and be a part of those discussions. Regarding class size, he explained that from last June (2021) until October 2021 there has been an average of 5 kids added to each cohort, year over year. He said there was a

large graduating class last year and they will keep a close eye on kids moving into the district, but he wanted to stress that they budget for every student. Finally, he advocated for more field trips. The Board meeting dates for budget discussions are: Initial Budget Presentation: February 3, 2022. Budget Discussions: February 17, 2022 and March 3, 2022. Budget Adoption: March 24, 2022.

#### **Comments from the Public -- 8:45 p.m.**

Lisa Vizza, Glen Head, said she is glad to see the Board is following through on their goal of engagement with the community. She is also pleased to see an ad hoc committee for finance and feels it will work well together with Dr. Dolan's budget boot camp. She suggested that the administration hold a financial impact presentation for the budget boot camp which includes the impact LIPA has had on taxes from 2013 on. She feels this would provide greater clarity to the community.

Toni Curran, Glen Head, asked if there is an update on curriculum program maps which Dr. Zublionis has spoken about. Dr. Zublionis explained that the curriculum maps are ready and should be on the website soon. He invited any parent with questions on a specific course or program to contact him directly in the meantime.

Katia Armata, Glen Head, said although outdoor learning is great, it is sometimes too cold for kids to be eating outdoors. She asked if it is possible to apply the funds for outdoor learning somewhere else and possibly eliminate masks. She also asked if the approval of the amendment to the ACD agreement which includes vaccinations for 5-11 year-olds is related to the possible mandate of those vaccines. President Ludmar explained that the contract is just to offer those services, it is strictly voluntary for those who would like to take advantage of the services, it is in no way related to the mandate. President Ludmar further explained that currently masks are mandated. He further explained that there are additional benefits of being outdoors and there is a temperature limit to being outdoors. Dr. Zublionis added that teachers want to be outside. Temperature is an obstacle, but the pedagogical silver lining of the pandemic, and mask issue, is outdoor learning and the District wants to keep doing what is cost effective.

#### **9:00 p.m.**

Prior to approval of personnel, Dr. Zublionis noted that Allyson Storck was being granted tenure. He explained that she would be honored in June with the rest of the tenure "class", however he wanted to congratulate her at this meeting.

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

#### **Personnel**

##### **Granting of Tenure**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby grants tenure to Allyson Storck, School Psychologist, effective November 13, 2021

##### **Increments for Advanced Study**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an increment for advanced study for Alyssa Bacchioni, Biology, from Step 2 of the MA salary schedule to Step 2 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2021

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an increment for advanced study for Samantha Boniberger, Special Education, from Step 7 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2021

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an increment for advanced study for Jennifer Rizza, Math, from Step 6 of the MA+60 salary schedule, to Step 6 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2021

Rest and Restoration Leave

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a rest and restoration leave for Alana Cavallini, Speech-Language Pathologist, effective August 31, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Leave of Absence for Birth/Adoption Purposes

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, pursuant to the provisions of Article XV of the 2020-22 teachers' collective bargaining agreement, Ryan Shanks, Special Education Teacher, be granted a Birth/Adoption leave of 20 school days for the period immediately following the birth of his child on or about November 12, 2021

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 Katie Kozzula, Speech-Language Pathologist, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective November 5, 2021 through November 18, 2021

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Jenna Politoski, Teaching Assistant, on Step 1 of the Level II Teaching Assistant salary schedule, effective November 5, 2021 through November 18, 2021

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Katherine Boehm, Elementary, on Step 3 of the MA salary schedule, effective November 5, 2021 through November 23, 2021

Teacher Overage

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a .033 overage for Nicole Giametta, Speech, effective October 18, 2021 through June 24, 2022

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 additions of the following names to the per diem substitute list:

Name	Substitute Type
Eliana Vollmer	Teacher Substitute
Christopher Cilibrasi	Cleaner Substitute
Robert Petrucci	Security Aide Substitute
Juan Lopera-Ramirez	Food Service Substitute
Yunting Montana	Teacher Substitute

Extra-Curricular Activity Advisors and Coach

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following extra-curricular activity advisors and coach:

	Advisor	Step
<b>High School</b>		
<u>Clubs - Level 3</u>		
Entrepreneurial School Store	Lisa Johanson	1

<u>Clubs - Level 1</u>		
World Language Honor Society	Steven Burgos*	2
	Diana Garone*	1
<b>Middle School</b>		
<u>Clubs-Level 2</u>		
Ski Club	Tom Granieri	1
<u>Organizations</u>		
Student Council	Samantha Drexler	1
<b>Elementary</b>		
<u>Clubs-Level 2</u>		
Dignity for All Students (GH)	Carolyn DiPreta	1
<u>Clubs-Level 1</u>		
Jogging Club (GH)	Anne Marie Burden*	1
	Sharon Richmond*	1
	Jill Russo*	1
<u>Dramatics</u>		
Dramatics Program (SC)	Wendy Bruno*	1
	Lisa Daly*	1

\*co-advisor

Sea Cliff School Intramurals

Jodie Larsen  
Wendy Bruno  
Lauren Kottler  
Lisa Daly

High School

JV Men's Basketball Christopher Hurley Step 1

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 11 and 12

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

Approval of Musical Accompanists

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following musical accompanists on an as needed basis at a rate of \$75 per rehearsal and \$120 per concert:

Stephen Goldstein  
Li Ju Cheung  
Ann Zalkind Sullivan

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the disposal of the following inventory items:

High School

403 Textbooks  
10 Monitors  
3 Printers  
11 Computers  
1 Digital Camera

Middle School

38 Computers  
34 Cloud Connect Devices  
2 Switches  
2 UPS  
1 Refrigerator  
1 Chair Lift

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, it was:  
Approval of an Amendment to the Agreement Between the North Shore Central School District and Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics, PLLC

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Amendment to the Agreement between the School District and Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics PLLC, to include services for flu shots, booster vaccines and any upcoming vaccines for children ages 5-11, effective immediately; and

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

Prior to approval, Trustee Jones noted what a great opportunity the electric buses were both fiscally and environmentally. She asked if there was any idea the amount in grants the District might be able to receive. Ms. Buatsi said she did not have a figure but knows there are many grant opportunities out there and she is hoping this is just the beginning. She went on to say this firm wants to use North Shore as a stepping-stone to other districts. President Ludmar explained that this is an agreement with a consultant firm to assist the district in applying for grants.

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, it was:  
Approval of a Consultant Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and McBride Consulting & Business Development Group

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a Consultant Agreement between the School District and McBride Consulting & Business Development Group to provide consultation services related to electronic bus funding, procurement planning and grant application submission, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Consultant Agreement, at the monthly rate of \$5,500.00; 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 of Education.

Onn motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Macari and all in favor, it was:

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Vicki Klein

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Agreement between the School District and Vicki Klein, PhD, to provide Neuropsychological evaluations during the period July 1, 2021 through June 2022, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement; 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 of Education

Prior to approval, Trustee Macari noted that so far this year we have approved approximately 300 IEPs. She went on to say these are developed with administrators, teachers, parents and sometimes students. She further explained that the District is mandated to provide these services but it is not enough to approve them, the IEP must be followed.

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Macari 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 per the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education (CSE)

Prior to approval, Trustee Russo asked how members of the ad hoc committee will be solicited. President Ludmar explained that the discussion over the last two meetings was raised regarding the tremendous interest from the other open committees and the vast experience of the candidates who

applied and were not selected. Therefore, it had been decided the initial outreach would be to those people first. After that, they will reach out to the broader community by posting on the website, sending out an email and a notice in the District Newsletter. He noted interested candidates must be willing to commit to the training required.

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

Establishment of Ad Hoc Committee for Finance

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education create an Ad Hoc Committee of citizens to answer the attached charge

**Old Business - 9:15 p.m.**

Trustee Jones reported that the date of December 18 from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon has been set for the Board retreat. Trustee Jones asked that a meeting of the policy committee be set. She asked that the District look into legislation surrounding cameras on school buses. She noted the county is still negotiating with school districts on this.

Trustee Russo asked if the update from DHC had been received. It was in the Board update.

Trustee Macari asked for a follow-up on the meeting with building leaders on the homework policy. Dr. Zublionis explained that he and Dr. Dolan will meet with each principal and homework team in each building. He went on to say the District is due for a Tri-States revisit and he feels those action steps surrounding student engagement might have a common link to homework. Trustees all shared that they have heard similar remarks from parents on the tremendous amount of homework especially for middle school students. They expressed their concern over the demands and pressure on this group of students and the fact that the homework policy does not seem to be working. President Ludmar noted that the report on student achievement is coming up. He suggested what is and is not feasible about the homework policy be included in that report. He also suggested that an update on homework, specifically in grades 6 and K-5, be a follow-up item under old business at the next meeting. Dr. Zublionis and Dr. Dolan will definitely revisit the policy and address this issue.

Trustee Macari asked for an update on middle school supervision. Dr. Zublionis explained that with the changes that have been made at the middle school, there is not as much supervision needed. There have been additional aides hired and for the most part they feel staffing has been stabilized. He feels there is a definite improvement but will get more specifics.

**New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

**Adjournment**

At 9:40 p.m. on motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Macari and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk