

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 6, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President David Ludmar at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom and simultaneously live-streamed. Present were Trustees Colacioppo, Galati, Jones, Macari, Mosca and Russo. Also present were Interim Superintendent Dr. Thomas Dolan and Assistant Superintendents Dr. Christopher Zublionis and Ms. Olivia Buatsi.

At 6:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Macari and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session to consider 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 came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Ludmar led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Macari and all in favor, the minutes of December 16, 2021 and December 22, 2021 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Reports

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Treasurer's Report for the period August 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Treasurer's Report for the period September 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021.

Report of the Superintendent-7:50 p.m.

Dr. Dolan thanked everyone for their efforts in getting school open. He said unless we are compelled to close he believes staying open is the correct course of action. He further reported that student attendance has been very good in all schools with an average of almost 85% of students in person over the last 4 days this week. He visited every school on Monday and Tuesday and reported that students were engaged, teachers were active in their instruction and administrators were necessarily visible. He reported that although he observed excellent, but not perfect mask compliance, he reminded everyone of their personal responsibility to wear a mask. Dr. Dolan reported that schools will be closed tomorrow, January 7th for weather conditions and the impact of COVID-19 on staffing; including the building and grounds department upon whom we rely to clear the way into school and parking lots. Dr. Dolan thanked Dr. Zublionis, Mr. Hall and Mr. Ahern for designing and implementing a plan to distribute home test kits to families. Although they cannot be used to clear a student to return to school, he asked that if there is a positive result it is reported to school. Dr. Dolan discussed the policy called "Test to Stay". This policy would allow for asymptomatic students who have had a close contact with a positive person to avoid quarantine by taking an antigen test, and if a negative is revealed, return to school immediately. The CDC has developed this new protocol and the NYS DOH has

left it up to the local health agencies to decide whether to endorse it; the Nassau County DOH has not yet endorsed it because of the high level of contagions in the county. He went on to say if this is made an option for schools, we will have to determine whether we can implement it, whether we have sufficient nursing staff to clear students prior to the start of the school day. Once the District is told whether it is an option, possibilities will be explored. Dr. Dolan reported that the DOH is re-evaluating the requirement of a PCR to return to school. He will keep the community informed if an antigen test is accepted. He further reported that the requirement that athletes have medical clearance to return to their teams will stay in place for the time being. He also reported that for now the 10-day requirement for quarantine for employees who test positive will remain. He explained that while the District does have a vendor who provides mandatory testing to employees who are not vaccinated, it is unlikely they will be able to offer this to the community at large.

Dr. Dolan reported that although Nassau County Executive Blakeman issued an Executive Order directing all Nassau County Boards of Education to vote publicly during the month of January to determine whether they will continue the mask mandate, the Governor and Commissioner of Education both advise that he has no jurisdiction over schools. He explained that they will keep the community advised of developments and follow the advice of legal counsel. In the meantime, he stated that the mask mandate will stay in place in our schools.

Dr. Dolan reported that high school senior Evelyn McCreery has placed in the top 300 of the Regeneron Science Competition and will move on to the next round. He said this is an extremely impressive accomplishment and we all offer our congratulations to her and her advisor Dr. Mordechai for the hard work and determination. Evie's topic was "Physiological Effects of PET plastic leaching and polystyrene microsphere ingestion in wild type drosophila melanogaster". He wished Evie the best of luck as she continues in the competition and in her future studies next year at Hamilton College.

Finally, Dr. Dolan explained that he will be introducing members of the Music Department who will offer a recap on this winter's excellent performances.

Update on the Search for a New Superintendent

President Ludmar gave an update on the search for a new superintendent. He explained that the advertisement for the position will be going out. Now that the break is over recruitment will be in full swing. He has been in touch with the consultants and they are on schedule and moving ahead as planned.

Report from the Co-Presidents of the SGO

SGO co-presidents, Kathryn Ditrano and Noah Glickman, reported on events and activities at the high school. Noah reported that the SGO worked with the Guidance Department on a collaboration with the last three graduating classes which was a great success. They received feedback on the college experience and the necessary skillsets needed. Katie reported on the successful virtual holiday concerts. Noah explained that the seniors are preparing for the annual senior play. It will be in a SNL style with musical guests. Seniors will be writing the script, directing, and holding auditions. There is a lot of enthusiasm for it. Both Katie and Noah expressed excitement for the snow day.

President Ludmar thanked both Noah and Katie for attending the meeting.

Regular Business-time

Winter Performance Recap-8:10 p.m.

Dr. Dolan explained that originally part 2 of the AP/IB review was slated to be discussed at this meeting, however positive COVID cases made that impossible. He is very pleased that Ms. Rodriguez agreed to step in and put together a recap of the winter performances which showcased the

department through a videotaped presentation. Ms. Rodriguez explained how the performing arts/music department aligns with the SVOs and how they have adapted around the pandemic. Ms. Rodriguez gave a review of the winter performances including visuals of students practicing and performing at all levels from elementary through high school. It included selections from band, orchestra and chorus from each school. Jodie Larsen, elementary band teacher and Jason Domingo, high school orchestra teacher, gave reflections on their experiences and their students' experiences through the pandemic culminating with the winter concerts.

The Board discussed the presentation. All Trustees expressed their amazement at how beautiful the performances were and what great experiences the students have had throughout the pandemic. They were grateful to hear students speak about their experience and were impressed with how articulate and reflective students were. It was noted that parents were concerned about not being present for the performances, but it was an important lesson that our arts department is able to create exceptional experiences for our students despite the challenging circumstances. Dr. Dolan thanked Ms. Rodriguez for putting the presentation together on short notice and the two teachers for joining the meeting to share their reflections.

Comments from the Public-8:50 pm

There were no comments from the public.

Prior to approval, President Ludmar commented on the approval of an Assistant Director of Special Education. He thanked the administration for being flexible and the SEPTA community for working with the administration as a partner during the process.

He also noted the per diem rate for substitute nurses is being increased and took the opportunity to thank the nursing staff for all they have done to care for the students of the district and the community in general. He said they are on the front lines and go beyond their scheduled work hours every day. He thanked them all.

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

Personnel

Appointments-Administration

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the probationary appointment of Amy McKee, Assistant Director for Special Education (Elementary), at a salary of \$150,000, effective February 8, 2022 through February 8, 2026

Resignation - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Edward McCabe, Teaching Assistant, effective November 23, 2021

Appointment - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the probationary appointment of Margot Varrichio, Teaching Assistant, on Level I of the Teaching Assistant salary schedule, effective December 15, 2021 through December 15, 2025

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointments - 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 Nick Pandolfi, Elementary, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule, effective January 7, 2022 through January 29, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Walter Kleinmann, Spanish and Italian, on Step 10 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 15 2022 through January 20, 2022

Family Medical Leave

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District approve an unpaid Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") leave of absence for a period of twelve (12) weeks that will run concurrently with any available paid leave, for employee, Beth Boehm, Sr. Typist Clerk, that includes the period January 18, 2022 through April 26, 2022

Appointments - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Michael Rumont, Senior Account Clerk, on Step 15 of the senior account clerk salary schedule, effective January 3, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Gilbert Villalta, Custodian, North Shore High School, on Step 8 of the custodial salary schedule, effective January 10, 2021

Establishment of Per Diem Rate for Substitute Nurses

BE IT RESOLVED, That the per diem rate for nurse substitutes be established at \$180 per day effective January 3, 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 following names to the per diem substitute list:

Lucy Pigliacelli, School Social Worker Substitute

Extra-Curricular Activity-Supervision

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following employees for athletic supervision for 6th grade intramural bowling:

Crystal Ramirez Jackie Trotta
Patti Gromling Howard Bloom

Prior to approval, Trustee Mosca commended Ms. Buatsi for the November report noting the error percent in dollars was only 0.002%, a figure she called very impressive. President Ludmar added that the exception was for \$173 out of \$7,165,884 processed, and was due to the date of the invoice being out of order with the date of the purchase order.

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

Approval Of Claims Audit Report

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the claims audit report for the period November 2021 as reviewed and submitted by the Internal Claims Auditor, Denise Longobardi

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo 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 \$54,217.03 to cover instructional technology purchased through BOCES

Prior to approval, Dr. Dolan explained that contact tracing has been done by the school nurses and principals for the last 20 months. He further explained that contact tracing needs to be done for every person who tests positive, and this does not end at 3:00 p.m. or Friday afternoon and has been impacting their practice. In checking models of other districts, he found that they have been using agencies to do the contact tracing and he feels this would work better for our District. The nurses will assist Dr. Dolan in handing off this task to Horizon who has had a good relationship with the District for years. Finally, Dr. Dolan expressed his appreciation for the nurses and principals for handling this job for so long. He noted that at least 2 of them were on the phone Christmas Eve doing contact tracing.

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

Approval of Amendment to the Agreement between North Shore Central School District and Horizon Healthcare Staffing

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 Homecare Therapies, LLC dba Horizon Healthcare Staffing, to include contact tracing services as set forth in the Amendment, 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

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and Chakira-Illiana Doherty

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an agreement between the School District and Chakira-Illiana Doherty to provide costume rentals and costumer consultant services in connection with the middle school musical production "Footloose: Youth Edition" as per the terms and conditions in the attached agreement at a total fee of not to exceed \$5,445 effective January 7, 2022 through February 5, 2022; and

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

Approval of Health Services Contract

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby enters into a contract for Health Services with Uniondale Union Free School District for 11 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Uniondale UFSD for the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$934.27 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

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

Approval of Special Education Services Contract (DOL-DOR)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and the Herricks Union Free School District for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Herricks UFSD and residing within the North Shore Central School District during the 2021-2022 school year

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of

Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Old Business-9:00 p.m.

Trustee Colacioppo asked whether Univents and extra HEPA filters have been made available in large spaces as discussed in the Construction Steering Committee meeting. Dr. Dolan said the data is still being collected as that meeting only happened on Tuesday. He understands the cafeteria, auditorium and spaces like that do not have adequate ventilation under these circumstances. He said there is a plan in place and at the meeting the numbers they heard for addressing this were very hefty. Ms. Buatsi added that part of the grant last year was to buy the big HEPA filters for large spaces. She and John Hall are working on it. As a temporary measure Mr. Hall located, and has already placed, HEPA filters in the cafeterias which is where they found most children gather without masks. Trustee Jones asked if in the interim there are steps to take to make sure the staff understands the limitations of large spaces regarding ventilation and filtration, especially during physical education classes or lunch. Ms. Buatsi explained that during the Construction Steering meeting they came up with plans, but they only have a \$100,000 grant and much will depend on financing. Trustee Russo added that in the meeting they spoke about what type of HEPA filters to purchase, that is in the works and there will probably be some resolution within the next couple of weeks. Dr. Dolan said he did get a report regarding what the plan is for the spaces that were discussed; he will send that report to the Board. The principals, Mr. Lang and Ms. Rodriguez will engage in the educational effort of the imperfections of some of the large spaces and all will do a better job of educating the staff.

Trustee Macari asked if the criteria for being outdoors for lunch and recess is adapting to the increase in numbers. Dr. Dolan responded that they are using 32 degrees as the lowest temperature for being outdoors, but they are using outdoor spaces as much as possible.

Trustee Jones asked for an update on overnight ski trips and international trips to CDC level 4 areas. Dr. Dolan explained that one foreign trip is being canceled, another is looking for a delay to the spring and a third is still on. The ski trip for January 22 is currently on but may be postponed. The cheerleaders qualified for the competition in Florida; he will get an update on that trip.

New Business—9:17 p.m.

Trustee Russo asked if there is any interest on the Board to look at creating another capital reserve proposal for voter approval. She noted there are many projects that need funding such as the underground storage tanks, and the track and field is ending its useful life, and she wondered if Trustees would want construction steering to put together a list of possible projects for a capital reserve. She noted that they may be receiving funds from our FEMA reimbursement or other aid they might not be anticipating, and this would be a place to put those funds that would benefit students. She did note that the 5-year facilities review has a list of what has to be done and is updated every year.

President Ludmar said typically, under new business, a topic such as this would be brought up and then discussed on a future agenda. However, this is timely with the vote less than six months away so he would like to hear from Trustees what their thoughts are on moving forward with a capital reserve. He went on to say there are two separate questions; is the Board interested in hearing back from the Construction Steering Committee with a list of highlighted projects and then would they be suited for a capital reserve on the ballot for this year.

The Board discussed the questions. While all agreed putting together a list of critical projects, and prioritizing those, they were concerned about proposing a capital reserve to the community one year after having one defeated. Dr. Dolan suggested collecting the list this spring but waiting for the new superintendent to be involved in a capital reserve. President Ludmar agreed that it would be important for the new superintendent to own that issue. He also suggested the messaging on reserves

in general needs to be better and it seems premature for this election. It was decided to get started on the list but not to go forward on a capital reserve proposal for this election cycle.

Trustee Colacioppo asked when a calendar for the 2022-2023 school year will be ready. Dr. Dolan explained he has one drafted which he will share with the Board and hopefully it will be on the January 20th agenda for adoption.

The Board was sent information from Director of Mathematics and Educational Technology, Ms. Amy DiMeola, regarding the possibility of eliminating double acceleration in math. President Ludmar suggested Trustees pose questions to Ms. DiMeola and Mr. Doherty and then have a more in-depth discussion on January 20th.

Questions posed were: is there an estimate of students who can take linear algebra; are there sample schedules of a path if they doubled up on math; what are the trade-offs; how many kids would take these paths; is there any feedback from students in the early acceleration classes; from the equity standpoint gender was looked at, were those on free/reduced lunch also analyzed; how many students participate; how many are currently participating in double acceleration; how many more students do you anticipate would benefit if you change the format; how are the courses being staffed; what type of professional development will be needed; will the current staff be used or will additional staff be needed; how will the kids in the current program be affected by the change; who are we trying to help; how are students identified; how would they be identified going forward; how will this de-stress kids, particularly high performing kids (seems like an added burden); integrating this into the overall programs seems problematic.

Ms. DiMeola and Mr. Doherty will discuss the questions/comments put forth with Dr. Dolan and Dr. Zublionis, and they will continue the discussion with the Board at a subsequent meeting.

Adjournment

At 10:18 p.m. on motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk