

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
February 3, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President David Ludmar at 6:30 p.m. in the Sea Cliff School Auditorium. The meeting was 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 Jones and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the Sea Cliff School Library to consider proposed, pending or current litigation, the employment, promotion or demotion 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 Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Macari and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the auditorium. There were approximately 50 people in the audience.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Ludmar led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Student Recognition**

On behalf of the Board, President Ludmar and Dr. Dolan recognized North Shore High School Writing Fellows Mia Crocco, Sydney Getelman, Erin Schoenhofen and Abigail Schwab for their work with students on the CASA Initiative Red Ribbon Writing Contest and Athletes Reece Ramos, Nicholas LaRosa Dan Quigley and David Berlin for their selection to the All-Long Island and All-New York State Football Teams as well as Coach Dan Agovino for being named the Long Island Football Coach of the Year.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the minutes of January 20, 2022 were approved.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Trustee Jones thanked Ms. Buatsi for her managing the TANs so accurately. She noted that without the TANs there would have been a short-fall last year. She also noted that there may be a similar situation this year if the TOB allows a delay in tax payments and she thanked Ms. Buatsi for her stewardship.

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, the Treasurer's report for the period November 1, 2021 through November 30, 2021 was approved.

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Macari 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 approves budget transfers in the amount of \$91,999.94 to cover August and September legal fees including border property issues, EPC, provider contracts, FOIL requests, impartial hearing & DASA investigation and \$11,754.50 to cover the cost of capital market advisors for a total of \$103,754.44

### **Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Dolan welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the focal point is to present the proposed 2022-2023 budget. He reported on the COVID numbers which seem to be improving and he is hopeful that will continue. He acknowledged that the current circumstance regarding masks has been divisive which was emphasized recently by a back and forth between wearing/not wearing masks based on the interpretation of the law on a moment-to-moment basis. He explained that their decisions relied on the law, and they acted upon the advice of counsel which they will continue to do. He further explained that there is still a mask mandate in schools which is scheduled to expire on February 21. He continued to explain that he will work with central office administrators and principals next week to explore what a post mandate school will look like and how we will welcome students back after the February break. He plans to develop some recommendations, share them with the Board of Education and a re-entry plan will be announced and discussed at the February 17 meeting of the Board. He believes that by then it will be clearer whether the mandate is being continued and decisions can be grounded in that circumstance. He also feels that by discussing it on the 17th, it will allow for the community to be informed, to be involved in that discussion and prepare for any changes should they be in place. He has heard concerns about the need for advocacy around this issue and he assured everyone that it does take place. He reported that The New York State School Boards Assn. is very outspoken on this issue, and they have sent communications to the state. His own organization, the New York State Council of School Superintendents, has written to the Department of Health just today. Finally on this topic, he reminded everyone that there is a good stock of test kits from the Governor on hand and available to parents in all buildings.

Dr. Dolan gave an update on Buildings and Grounds projects: The Glenwood Landing Vestibule: the doors are experiencing more delays as the door hardware delivery was delayed. All entities involved are working to get materials and move the vestibule doors to the head of production. Currently it is unknown whether they can make the February break installation date. On the positive side, Mr. Doyle moved into the new security booth at the beginning of the week. He noted that this is of special importance to Mr. John Hall as a graduate of the Glenwood Landing School! The Glen Head Sink Hole: a temporary fence was installed around the entire work site. North Shore security was removed as it is no longer needed. The contractor cannot commit to a start date as weather conditions have impacted their work schedules on other jobs. Conditions at our site need to be favorable for work as well. John Hall will report on a start date as soon as it is known. The contractor is aware of the urgency to get this work started.

Dr. Dolan reported that the Community Budget Forum met last week, and he and Ms. Buatsi lead them through "Budget Boot Camp". They had a good presentation and discussion on how a school budget is built, some of our special challenges and how they hope to proceed this year. He thanked the community members who participated, and he and Ms. Buatsi will be in touch with members on how they plan to proceed.

Dr. Dolan shared news on the winter sports season. The Wrestling Team won their 3<sup>rd</sup> conference championship and are the county semi-finalists; the Women's Basketball Team were undefeated in the conference and Morgan Griffin scored her 1000<sup>th</sup> career point; the Men's Basketball Team is in 1<sup>st</sup> place and one win away from the conference championship; the Women's Winter Track Team won the conference championship and will be competing for the Nassau County Championship; the Men's Track Team placed second in the conference championship and will be competing for the Nassau County Championship; the Men's Bowling Team ranked 12<sup>th</sup> out of 48 schools in Nassau County in total average.

Finally, Dr. Dolan updated the community on the progress of the search for the next Principal of North Shore Middle School. The window for applications is open until February 18. At present there are

approximately 60 applications and screening will begin in March. Community members, staff and students will be involved in the interview process in late March and April. More to follow.

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

President Ludmar gave an update on the search for a new superintendent. He explained that the consultants have cast a wide net, the position has been advertised and over 1000 letters have been sent out reaching many potential candidates. Applications are due by February 6<sup>th</sup>. The consultants should have a slate of semi-finalists to the Board in a month and the Board is hoping to have an appointment this spring.

#### **Report from the Co-Presidents of the SGO**

SGO co-presidents, Katie Ditrano and Noah Glickman, reported on events and activities at the high school. Katie expressed how glad she and Noah are to be back to meetings in-person. She congratulated the various students and coach for their awards this evening. She said she is very proud to reiterate the Girls Track Team's first place finish and the boys second place finish at the Conference Track Meet. She reported that the winter sports season is going very well with many teams advancing to the playoffs; they are looking forward to a variety of awards. Noah reported that the SGO is trying to build a stronger student community at the high school and are preparing for spirit day for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. He reported that the senior play was very successful. Katie reported that IB Diploma candidates are working on their extended essay; Theory of Knowledge (TOK) just ended and she hopes students had as positive an experience in that course as she did. Noah reported that a North Shore initiative is to bring students together as one. Recent examples celebrating this was the Mandarin students held a Chinese New Year celebration and the Science Honor Society celebrated women and people of color in the STEM field.

President Ludmar thanked both students for their report.

#### **Superintendent's Budget Presentation--8:20 p.m.**

Dr. Dolan presented the 2022-2023 proposed budget. The proposed budget stands at \$115,964,181.54 or 3.872% increase from the 2021-2022 budget. The tax levy increase over last year is 2.499% which is at the allowable tax cap. Dr. Dolan explained that while formulating the budget the goals were to remain sensitive to the fiscal pressures faced by residents; reduce costs and seek other revenue sources; continue to align instructional programs with the SVOs and strategic plan; maintain all existing programs while meeting new and evolving needs of students; continue to strengthen academic support to bridge learning loss due to the pandemic; commit to the wellness of all students, faculty and staff by continuing to provide mental health support; continue outdoor learning programs and provide adequate security to protect students when learning outside the classrooms; provide a strong professional development to faculty and staff; provide a robust network infrastructure and technology to support teaching and learning; upgrade existing infrastructure; maintain facilities to provide a safe and healthy learning environment. Dr. Dolan reviewed the unknowns and challenges of the budget including the impact of the pandemic, the impact of LIPA settlement; long term state resources that are available; the impact of inflation on the cost of goods and services; and the impact of labor shortage on construction costs and collective bargaining. Dr. Dolan then reviewed the budget development process. Administrators were asked to formulate a zero-based budget proposal and to tie the initiative to prior years' plans to show the progression in student work. They were asked to consider students' learning loss including engagement and mental health. Dr. Dolan explained that the largest budget drivers are Employee Benefits followed by instruction (including regular and special education). New staffing includes the addition of the Elementary Assistant Director of Special Education, one elementary teacher for enrollment growth (emergency position) increasing the current MS/HS theatre position to full-time,

one ICT teacher for the rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade, a new .4 ILC position due to the expansion of the ILC program for grades 9 and 10. Next Dr. Dolan discussed the proposed plan to swap up to 6 large diesel school buses for electric school buses and to upgrade electrical service at the Bus Depot and install charging stations to support this plan. Dr. Dolan explained that by 2027 all newly purchased school buses will need to be zero-emission. The cost of purchasing the electric buses could be offset by grant funding which the District would qualify for due to our location of being located near a disadvantaged community. In addition, they have already begun lobbying our legislators for grant funds for the charging station which can eventually be used as a revenue source. In addition, the unused power can be drawn back to the power grid. Dr. Dolan reviewed revenue assumptions and challenges. He explained that revenue from the LIPA plant is a key source of funding and the continued reduction in the assessment from LIPA and NY American Water, and shift of the tax burden presents a challenge to residents. Other challenges are reduced interest income and the difficulty to predict state aid. He reviewed the sources of revenue for 2022-2023 resulting in a 2.499% tax levy and explained that an additional \$156,572.63 of revenue is needed, or additional cuts to the budget will be needed, to make up that difference. Finally, Dr. Dolan reviewed the status of reserves. \$200,000 of the Marcellino and Lavine Grant will be used to offset the 2022-23 tax levy and that reserve will end in the 2027-28 school year.

#### **Board Budget Discussion – 9:25 p.m.**

The Board reviewed the following sections of the budget. Enrollment; General Support (Non-Instructional); Transportation; Facilities; Transfer to Capital/Special Projects; Athletics/co-Curricular; Fund Balance; and Revenue Projections.

Prior to reviewing the individual sections of the budget, the Board discussed the presentation. Questions regarding the plan for switching to electric buses included: why it is better to lease than buy buses; is there an estimate of how much will be saved in energy costs; how many school districts does Suffolk County service. Ms. Buatsi explained that it would not be possible to buy 6 buses at one time, therefore leasing them would be the best option. She further explained that currently leases are available for only 5 years, however the Governor's proposal includes authorization for school districts to lease buses for up to 10 years. Regarding the energy savings, she explained that there is a lot of potential for savings in fuel costs and maintenance, but they do not have exact numbers for what they may get back in selling unused power back. She further explained that Suffolk County contracts with three school districts, we would be the first doing it directly with the state and stand to gain up to \$200K for each bus due to the routes being located near a disadvantaged community.

Trustees thanked Dr. Dolan and Ms. Buatsi for putting together a budget that maintains class size and program and resources that reflect North Shore's values and invests in special education. They noted that with benefits increasing by \$1.9 million alone it is hard to achieve the tax levy that they have. Ms. Buatsi noted that the idea for the electric bus came via a district resident through a Trustee.

President Ludmar said he realizes electric buses are inevitable and it makes sense to start now when grants are available; this may not be the case in 2027 when it is required. He further stated the District is working within the tax cap even with \$1.9 million in benefit requirements that we have no control over. He asked for a sense of what the tough cuts were to the budget prior to this proposal.

Dr. Dolan and Ms. Buatsi explained that there are 3 pages of items that did not make this budget. Some of the items were the elementary STEAM position, a technology position, instructional coach at the elementary level, a part-time reading position at the secondary level, additional music position, some technology equipment, summer enrichment for learning loss. Dr. Dolan went on to say there were things that were brilliant that did not make it.

The Board then reviewed the sections of the budget beginning with enrollment. Dr. Dolan explained that kindergarten registration has begun, however it is very early in the process and is ongoing. He will have an update at each meeting. A question was raised regarding the time frame for

work on the Middle School softball field. Ms. Buatsi explained that the bids have not been awarded yet; she will verify this with John Hall. They have received notice from the state to apply for funding. Dr. Dolan will get a better prediction on when work will begin by the next meeting. In the General Support-Non-Instructional section, a question was raised on why the budget amount on legal hearings is much lower (\$60,000) than what was expensed in the 20-21 school year (\$681,522). Ms. Buatsi explained that this was due to the tremendous amount of FOIL requests and the code needed to be raised to that level through budget transfers. She also noted there may be another high expense in that line in the 21-22 school year. The Board discussed whether they are able to charge back for those fees and for fees related to lawsuits that the district wins and whether it made sense to hire their own in-house counsel to handle these suits. It was noted that this is the only line in the budget that is eleven times higher than what was budgeted and those funds could be used in an instructional way; the equivalent of 6 teaching positions, or to fund all the items that needed to be removed from the budget, enhance program, or to reduce the tax levy. Dr. Dolan explained that regarding to the two recent favorable decisions from the Commissioner, the District is unfortunately not able to recoup any legal fees to defend ourselves. He went on to say we are probably able to charge for fees associated to FOIL requests, but it would most likely be incremental. He noted there is an RFP out for legal services and an important question to ask is how to defend these challenges. Dr. Dolan further stated that he was not sure hiring in-house counsel would necessarily save money. A question was raised regarding the new state reporting software. Ms. Buatsi explained that this pertains to the "Every Student Succeeds Act"; this software helps put the data together that gets uploaded to the SED website.

In the transportation section, questions raised were regarding the increase in part-time bus drivers, the decrease in garage maintenance, and what accounts for the overall increase in transportation. Ms. Buatsi explained that other Districts have had problems finding drivers, we have a steady pool of drivers and have not had the problems other district have. The decrease in maintenance is due to the completion of camera installation in all buses. The overall increase in transportation has to do with contract negotiations which cannot be discussed in public.

In the facilities section, questions raised were whether the amount budgeted for building supplies was too low and to clarify the amount for MERV13. Ms. Buatsi explained that the building supplies budget is for a list of specific items which is submitted by each custodian. There was a large item removed which will go on the list for next year. She went on to say the budget is very tight this year and there is the repair reserve in case of an emergency. Regarding the line for MERV13, the amount budgeted is for filter changes.

In the athletics/co-curricular section a question was raised regarding the Greenkill trip which has not taken place for the last two years and whether something will be planned for those students who missed out on that trip. Ms. Buatsi explained it is being budgeted for next year, but it depends on the pandemic whether it will take place. Dr. Dolan added there have been discussions of doing something with the students this year who missed out on that trip.

The Board discussed proposed fund balance. It was noted that there are two ways a Board can use fund balance, give it back to the taxpayer (by lowering the tax levy) or use it to fund reserves. Ms. Buatsi explained that the proposal is to use it to lower the tax levy.

President Ludmar asked for clarification on the overall increase of employees by 11.2. Ms. Buatsi explained that is a net increase and does not equate to FTE (full-time equivalent). It is for supervision, outdoor learning, monitors, security to work outside, some part-time workers, etc.

Finally, the Board discussed revenue projections. Trustee Jones thanked Ms. Buatsi for putting together the revenue projections and noted how difficult it is to project. She expressed her appreciation for the description and assumptions at this stage. Trustee Colacioppo added her appreciation for all that went into preparing the budget documents and the process of going line by line.

**10:20 pm**

Prior to approval, President Ludmar recognized Cindy Ellenbogen who is receiving tenure. He noted that she will be recognized at the end of the year but wanted to congratulate her on the achievement.

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

Personnel

Granting of Tenure - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby grants tenure to Cindy Ellenbogen, Special Education, effective February 6, 2022

Rest and Restoration Leave

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby grants Christopher Gill, Social Studies, a rest and restoration leave, effective February 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022

Increments 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 Kevin Cherry, Elementary from Step 7 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+30 salary schedule effective February 1, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an increment for advanced study for Rebecca Edelstein, Elementary from Step 9 of the MA+45 salary schedule to Step 9 of the MA+60 salary schedule effective February 1, 2022

Extension of Probationary Period - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and upon the request of Lauren Kottler, who currently works for the District as a probationary special education teacher, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby appoints Lauren Kottler to an additional probationary term for the period of March 2, 2022 through June 30, 2023, unless discontinued earlier by action of the Board of Education.

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 Jillian Hershman, Elementary, on Step 2 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 2, 2022 through March 3, 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 Lucy Pigliacelli, Social Worker, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 17, 2022 through March 3, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) part-time (.5) appointment for Kelsey Catalano, Physical Education, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 7, 2022 through March 3, 2022

Appointments - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Jody Gardener, School Monitor at Sea Cliff Elementary, effective January 18, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Thomas Cruz, Recreation Assistant at North Shore Middle School, effective January 11, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Marie Theodoropoulos, Part-time Bus Driver, effective January 31, 2022

Teacher Overage

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a .1 overage for Debra Henneberger, ELA/Literacy, effective January 31, 2022 through June 14, 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 addition of Grayson Valentino, Teacher Substitute, to the per diem substitute list

Extra-Curricular Activity Advisors/Supervision

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following extra-curricular activity advisor/supervision:

High School-Dramatics

Accompanist-Musical                      Ann Zalkind Sullivan      Step 1

MS-Athletic Supervision                  Megan Petrucci  
HS-Athletic Supervision                  Nicholas Glaviano

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

Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Termination of an Employee pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 75

BE IT RESOLVED that upon a review of the findings of fact and recommendations of the duly appointed hearing officer in the Civil Service Law Section 75 disciplinary proceeding against the employee named in Confidential Attachment "A" ("Employee"), the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby adopts the finding that respondent is guilty of Charges I and II as specified in the Statement of Charges dated December 12, 2021, and upon such finding of guilt, adopts the recommended penalty of termination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that effective January 21, 2021 the Employee's services in the District are hereby terminated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of this resolution, the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer, and the record of the Section 75 hearing with the Nassau County Civil Service Commission.

**Comments from the Public – 10:25 p.m.**

James Versocki, Sea Cliff, thanked the Board for volunteering their time to the community. He said they are the custodians of the largest employer of our neighborhoods and they impact so many in the community. He voiced his support for transitioning to electric busing especially with grant opportunities available and he commended the administration for raising and exploring the issue which he said is beyond the environmental benefits and makes fiscal sense. He agreed with Dr. Dolan's assessment that the budget is about human capital and acknowledged that most of the budget is fixed costs directed by contracts but provides for the best for the community as possible. He said he is offended by statements that disparage the Board and wanted Trustees to know that the vast majority of the community support

their efforts. He expressed appreciation for the countless number of hours Trustees give to the community at no cost. He said he is glad they raised the issue about litigation costs and was surprised they needed to expend nearly \$700,000 on FOIL requests and senseless litigation. He wondered how they will be able to address a shortfall again as the proposed budget only reflects \$60,000 and it seems there will be another large expense in that area this year.

Melissa August, Glen Head, read a statement thanking the Board and Administration for all of their efforts in leading our schools through a pandemic and being one of the only K-8 schools who went back to the classroom last year. She enumerated all of the awards the school has achieved including two Blue Ribbon Schools, high rankings of our Elementary Schools, and L.I. Football Champs. She said this is an award-winning school district and wanted to publicly acknowledge all that is good about our schools and to refocus the community away from the misinformation from those who are trying to undermine the educational community. She asked the community to rally around the core values of kids, focus on what matters and support our kids, our school, and their education.

Rene Monte, Glenwood Landing, asked if parents will be involved in the selection of the next superintendent. President Ludmar explained that the superintendent search is different from the search for a building leader which will involve committee groups. He went on to explain that our search consultants met with groups in the fall to get feedback from many constitute groups which helped create the profile of what the community is looking for. Dr. Dolan added for the middle school principal there will be a parent committee, faculty committee and hopefully a student committee. He suggested Ms. Monte speak to the middle school PTO leadership. Dr. Dolan will speak to the SGO to survey students about what they are looking for in a principal.

Ms. Monte asked if there is any further information regarding a presentation on fentanyl. She attended the last one and said it had a huge impact on her children. She suggested having one for younger children. Dr. Dolan explained that he met with CASA who have plans to produce their own resource and Mr. Contreras and Mr. Doherty are looking for the right person to come to the high school and CASA is assisting with that.

Ms. Monte noted she would rather see funds go to enrichment rather than towards electric buses. She said there is a lot of division in the community. She asked for transparency. She advocated for parent choice regarding masks, and curriculum choices such as CRT and asked that the Board look at both sides of the story. She also expressed her dissatisfaction in the survey that was given to students which caused her child to feel bad about herself. President Ludmar said he appreciates that Ms. Monte is looking for common ground and wishes there was less fighting in the community. Regarding the electric bus he explained that all buses will need to be changed from diesel to electric by 2027, therefore, this is a way to get in front of the requirement while there are grants available. He understands the investment in the outset may be difficult, but in the long run, like the bus depot, it will put us in a better position. He went on to say, while he understands her desire for parental choice, the issue is when individual choice effects the choice of others. He further stated that the Board hears what is going on, they do want to get to a time when masks can come off, but it is a complicated situation. This is a New York State rule and one that evolves every day. Finally, he addressed CRT and said he realizes there is public discourse surrounding this issue, but he does not see this in our schools. He recommended that if parents see something in our curriculum that implies that their child, or any child, should feel bad about who they are, parents should speak to their building principal. He said at the Board level they are not imposing beliefs on kids. He went on to say he believes it is of critical value for kids to be respectful of the huge level of diversity in our schools.



Roger Friedman, Sea Cliff, commended the Board and Administration on the budget presentation and quoted the district's auditor who called them the gold standard for fiscal management. He noted that only about 12% of the budget is something the Board can modify. He suggested they list what will be lost if the budget fails. He noted that last year there was a push from some residents who misstated the use of the reserves. He further stated that Jericho has about 47% of their operating budget in reserves and asked if it is possible to put more money into reserves for the impending loss of revenue from LIPA. Regarding the issue of masks, he suggests that everyone consider that the Board and administration are not medical or scientific experts. He said this puts the Board in a no-win situation and suggested they -- rely on official state or federal guidelines going forward. Dr. Dolan explained that they are already working with Assemblyman Lavine on funds toward the LIPA issue and Senator Gaughran is aware of the issue as well. Following up on the question of a presentation on Fentanyl, Dr. Dolan reported that Mr. Contreras is planning an event this month.

Cindy Peraica, Glen Head, said the Board will likely have to make a decision regarding masks and asked why they are waiting for the states guidance. She asked when the Board will be meeting and what metrics they will be using to make a decision. Dr. Dolan explained that, as he explained in his report, he will meet with central office administrators and principals to explore what a post mandate school will look like and how we will welcome students back after we return from the February break. He will develop some recommendations, share them with the Board of Education and a re-entry plan will be announced and discussed at the February 17 meeting of the Board. By then it will be clearer whether the mandate is being continued and our decisions can be grounded in that circumstance. By discussing it on the 17th, it will also allow for the community to be informed, to be involved in that discussion and prepare for any changes should they be in place.

Maryann Hojnowski, Glen Head, said she does not feel we are being a good example for our children regarding masks.

Lisa Cashman, Sea Cliff, noted that the budget includes 2 sections for next year's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She said there looks to be a big influx of kids and asked if another section would be added if need be. Dr. Zublionis explained that is why there is an additional position in case there is an emergency section added.

#### **11:08 pm**

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

#### Approval of Pit Musicians for High School Musical

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following pit musicians for the high school musical, at a rate of \$100/rehearsal and \$150/performance:

Josh Ganci (trumpet)

Brian Schatz (woodwinds)

Richard Blake (woodwinds)

Brad Bosenbeck (violin)

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

#### Approval of MOA between the North Shore CSD and the Nassau County Board of Elections

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 Nassau County Board of Elections to provide optical scan voting systems and training to the School District, in connection with the May 17, 2022 School

District Budget Vote and Election of Trustees, 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 the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

Appointment of the Board of Registration for the Annual Election

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby appoints the following individuals to serve as the Board of Registration for the Annual Election: Mary Lou Martin, Elizabeth Ciampi, Patricia Lerch, Marissa Vergara-Holden

Prior to approval the Board thanked Ms. Freeman for the donation and noted the Cheerleading Team is also holding a clothing drive this Saturday as a fundraiser to offset the cost of the trip.

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

Acceptance of a Donation from Jennifer Freeman to the North Shore High School Cheerleading Team

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts a donation of \$1,500 from Jennifer Freeman, to be used towards the cost of the North Shore High School Cheerleading Team's trip to the National's in Florida

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

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Building</b>
202 Textbooks	Central Office
20 Monitors	High School
3 Printers	High School
7 Computers	High School
9 UPS	High School
1 Desk	Middle School
214 Clocks	District Wide

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

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and Chakira-Iliana 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-Iliana Doherty to provide costume rentals and costumer consultant services in connection with the High School 2022 musical production "Hello Dolly" as per the terms and conditions in the attached agreement at a total fee of not to exceed \$6,250 effective February 4, 2022 through March 19, 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 an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and Legion-Aires Drum & Bugle Corps

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an agreement between the School District and Legion-Aires Drum & Bugle Corps to provide master composer classes within the month of March for middle school students as per the terms and conditions in the attached agreement at a total fee of not to exceed \$750 effective March 1, 2022 through June 30, 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 an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and the Cradle of Aviation Museum

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an agreement between the School District and Cradle of Aviation Museum to provide customized Astronomy outreach lessons for first graders in Glen Head and Glenwood Landing Elementary Schools, for a total cost of \$2,397, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement, effective January 15, 2022 through June 30, 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 a Health Services Contract with Jericho UFSD

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby enters into a contract for Health Services with Jericho Union Free School District for 6 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Jericho UFSD for the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$1,290.44 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

**Board Committee Reports 11:12 pm**

Trustee Colacioppo reported on the Wellness Committee. The website is complete and there are many resources available. They discussed the survey data from the Bach Harrison and Challenge Success surveys. Data from the Bach Harrison survey indicated risk factor for substance abuse was under the norm and there was low commitment to school, however social indicators were good. Struggle was with classwork/engagement and they spoke about ensuring students feel there is value in their work; that it is interesting and their homework is meaningful. The Challenge Success data indicated major sources of stress were grades, tests, quizzes, finals and other assessments, homework, lack of sleep, lack of time to play, relax or to be with friends and family. They discussed ways to collect data in real time/more often to possibly intervene immediately and concrete ways to make changes.

Trustee Mosca reported on a meeting of the policy sub-committee. They are more than half-way through reviewing the 1000 series and have several suggested changes. They will review those changes at their next meeting on February 10 and hope to present them to the Board at their meeting of February 17.

Trustee Mosca reported on a meeting of the Legislative Action Committee (LAC). Members were broken out into sub-committees. These sub-committees will be researching the superfund site near Glen Head School, testing mandates, outdoor learning efforts, the impact of IDAs on school districts, the review of the RXR development, LAC will be formulating a position statement for the Board. They are planning a Legislative Event in mid-March and there is good interest from legislators. Their next meeting is February 9.

Trustee Russo reported on a meeting of the Construction Steering Committee. The Glenwood Landing gymnasium floor is scheduled to be replaced over the February break; because the damage was from a burst pipe insurance will defray some of the cost. The replacement will be a composite floor. Bid openings for Phase 2 of the bond has been postponed for two weeks. The punch list for Phase 1 is nearly complete. There is a meeting scheduled with the architects for furniture/finishes on February 9<sup>th</sup>; Trustee Colacioppo will attend on behalf of the Board. Once the selections are made Trustee Russo suggested they be brought to a Board meeting to share with the public, as they did with Phase 1. The committee discussed MERV and HEPA filtration and they have a list of areas where they can be replaced because of the state of the equipment. They should have a comprehensive list for the next meeting and options for larger spaces. Financing for Phase 2 will be done in June. Foul ball netting at the baseball field will be done in time for the baseball season. Their next meeting is in 2 weeks.

Trustee Galati reported on a meeting of the safety committee. Drills are on schedule, employee training is also on schedule. Their next meeting is on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Jones added they discussed traffic issues. There is a shortage of crossing guards needed and they have been using patrol officers. It has been suggested that some of our part-time workers may want to become crossing guards. They also discussed recent legislation regarding lead testing which includes funding if repairs are needed.

President Ludmar asked about the Athletic Policy Committee. Dr. Zublionis explained they plan to meet after the February break.

#### **Old Business 11:25 p.m.**

President Ludmar noted that during the student engagement discussion at the last meeting Trustees rightfully focused on what is not being done to address the problem with student engagement. However, he realized they did not adequately acknowledge and recognize what is being done at our buildings. He thanked the administrators for bringing to their attention what is engaging in all of the buildings. He went on to say there are many offerings and successes and he wanted to take the time to acknowledge the good that is being done and thank the building leaders for putting together the presentation. He said what is going on is impressive and is a direct result of the work that we do.

Trustee Jones asked if there is an update on the RXR Development. Dr. Dolan said he has not received a reply yet.

Trustee Macari thanked Dr. Zublionis for his report and recommendations on engagement. She said he addressed their concerns on an organizational level and she was very happy with all of the suggestions. President Ludmar, Trustees Jones, Colacioppo and Mosca also thanked Dr. Zublionis for his report and how quickly and thoroughly he responded to their concerns. They also added to the statement by President Ludmar in acknowledging the presentation by the building leaders and Mr. Doherty.

#### **New Business-11:30 p.m.**

Trustee Jones asked what the plans are to raise awareness around the budget. Dr. Dolan explained that he and Ms. Buatsi will follow up and will place items on the calendar including budget

coffees if that becomes possible. He went on to say that the Community Budget Forum members will hopefully become advocates to communicate to the community. Trustee Mosca noted that the budget forum was very successful, and LAC has been brainstorming how to do community outreach.

President Ludmar added they will look at various efforts to promote budget awareness. Along that topic, he noted that although the Board cannot discuss on-going legal issues, they recently received two decisions from the Commissioner on legal challenges about the District's functionality that have come down in the District's favor. He explained that when residents come to the podium to state that the District is breaking the law, the Board is not able to comment when it is a pending legal issue. Now that the Commissioner has ruled unequivocally in the District's favor on both challenges, they can discuss them publicly. The first challenge was in the way we created budget awareness last year and the second challenge was that the Board has not seen the budget status reports, even though the Board said over and over that they do see the reports, they had to defend a legal challenge. Dr. Dolan added that the Commissioner's decisions were overwhelming in the District's favor and quoted from one of the findings: *"The District has properly produced and presented the budget status report on a monthly or quarterly basis as required by law, The Board's meeting minutes reflect the board's adoption of a treasurer's report at each meeting and the presentation and approval of monthly budget status reports, which are available on the District's website; and This evidence refutes any suggestions that respondents [the District] violated their budget reporting obligations."* Dr. Dolan ended by saying this is very clear, definitive, and affirming.

#### **Adjournment**

At 11:35 p.m. on motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk