

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Macari at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria. Present were Trustees Cashman, Colacioppo, Galati, Ludmar, Mosca and Russo. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Christopher Zublionis and Assistant Superintendents Dr. Carol Smyth and Mr. James Pappas.

At 6:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the faculty lounge to consider matters regarding proposed, pending or current litigation.

At 8:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting. There were approximately 12 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Macari led the public in the pledge of allegiance along with eleventh grader, Janessa Reyes, who signed the pledge.

Approval of the Minutes

The reading of the draft minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2023 and December 21, 2023, being prepared and disseminated to all members in advance of the meeting, was dispensed. There being no corrections to the minutes, it was declared by President Macari that the minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2023 and December 21, 2023 were approved.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 4 and 5

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Mosca 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 October 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023 and November 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023.

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 \$150,000 to cover the cost of workers compensation claims; \$13,500 to cover the cost of consultant performing comparative analysis; \$61,490.69 to cover the cost of salary adjustments following contract negotiations; and \$32,604.57 to cover the cost of teacher aides and substitute teacher aides for Glen Head for a total of \$257,595.26

Report from the SGO

Paul Pourakis, SGO Vice President, reported on events and activities at the high school including Acoustic Café; he congratulated all who performed and said it was a huge success with many great

performers. He reported the upcoming basketball game on January 19 will be a fundraiser, admission will be one can of non-perishable food and students will receive points towards Sports Night. Another canned food drive leading up to Sports Night is being planned. The senior play is in rehearsals, and it is expected to be a funny show. Varsity sports are in playoffs, and he wished all the athletes good luck. Finally, he reported that during the February break music ensemble groups will be taking trips to Europe to showcase their talents.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Zublionis reported on the Alumni Roundtable, when several recent graduates met with the entire senior class, as well as with parents, to answer questions and provide insight on their experiences transitioning to college. He expressed how proud the District is of these forever Vikings who were so generous with their time. It was a tremendously valuable experience for our students and families and provided insights that will be included in our May 30th presentation to the Board of Education on the transition to college and career. He reported that Junior College Night will take place on Wednesday, January 17 at 7PM in the HS Theater.

Dr. Zublionis reported that National History Day presentations are taking place this week. Every 8th grade student in North Shore Middle School created a presentation around the historical theme of Turning Points in History. This year's theme invites students to consider questions of time and place, cause and effect, change over time, and impact and significance. He and Dr. Smyth visited the Middle School and saw a tremendous amount of student ownership over their projects and incredible engagement in learning.

Dr. Zublionis announced that our Middle School Masquers will be performing Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella on February 2nd and 3rd and all are looking forward to a great performance by our "Masquers in the Middle". He congratulated our Women's Winter Track Team who won the Conference 5 Championship this week! The team will be recognized at an upcoming Board meeting for their fall and winter achievements. He gave the sports schedule for the weekend and said that the middle school winter sports II will begin on January 16.

Dr. Zublionis reminded parents that kindergarten and UPK registration is now taking place. The District sent out a postcard regarding eligibility for our UPK program.

Through our partnership with the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, on Friday, January 5, 2024, Gilda Zirinsky visited Glen Head School and told her story of survival to older students, faculty, and staff. She was born in Belgium in 1935 and with her family was forced to leave behind the lives that they had worked hard to create and love, when she was only four years old. She could still remember the sounds of enemy planes flying overhead, as she sat terrified in her home. She is now in her late eighties.

Dr. Zublionis reported on budget planning. He explained that, as always, the question that guides our budget planning is: How do we create the best possible experience for students while balancing the pressures of revenue loss, rising costs and the impact on taxpayers? He went on to say that they are actively working to complete the budget projections for the 2024-2025 school year. From what they know so far, it seems that cuts (or new revenue) of at least 3 to 4 million dollars will be needed to get an acceptable tax levy. It is important that all stakeholders share their perspectives on the direction the District should take in both the amounts of cuts and where the cuts should come from. He further noted that as many know, a major driver of this difficulty is a continued loss of revenue from LIPA. In addition to losing our biggest taxpayer, and the absorption of tax by our utility properties, the direct payment structure from LIPA is decreasing by another \$2.4M dollars next year. Additionally, we have lost a net \$750,000 in grants from the New York State Legislature. Dr. Zublionis reported that our Independent Budget Review is taking place and is based on a quantitative cost analysis through the lens of cost per pupil spending for North Shore as compared to Roslyn, Jericho, Herricks and Manhasset. This analysis is already providing valuable information that can inform our decisions going forward. This

analysis will be presented at an upcoming Board meeting. The data and analysis are based on data from the New York State Comptroller and the New York State Education Department. Moreover, he and Mr. Pappas are working to present the budget in a clearer and user-friendly way that absolutely covers all aspects of spending. He reported that the Community Budget Forum has met several times to look for areas of savings. At the same time, the Revenue Generation Committee has had many fruitful conversations about how to raise greater amounts of non-tax revenue to support our students. Finally, he recommended that all come out to the budget review meetings, “budget bootcamp” on January 23 and February 6 at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Library. He noted that the “budget talks” will be rebranded and improved this year. They will be organized by topic and how the budget affects that topic. Dr. Zublionis will be sending out more information on that soon.

Regular Business

Discussion - Opportunities, Learning & Achievement Part 3 – STEM – 8:18 p.m.

Dr. Zublionis thanked Dr. Smyth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and Mr. Menchel, Director of Science, for all of their work that went into this report. He explained that the new director of math will be starting at the end of the month and therefore Dr. Smyth would be reviewing the information on math.

Dr. Smyth gave an overview on math achievement on assessments; state assessments (grade 3-5 and 6/7, Regents, AP and IB all scoring strong in proficiency and mastery, while the AP and IB scores were above the New York & Global average. On the Science assessments students again scored high in proficiency and mastery on the Regents exams with the exception of Physics, on the AP again students scored above the NY average with the exception of Physics. In the Computer Science area students also performed very strong. Dr. Smyth explained that in elementary math and STEAM strengths include: high achievement and individual student growth in math; aligned, intentional, and responsive curriculum, instruction, and assessment systems in math, high quality and assured STEAM learning experiences. An area of focus- performance of sub-groups-ELL's and special education students. Dr. Smyth gave an overview of the elementary math program explaining the solution to the challenge of lack of efficiency in procedures and problem solving being the implementation of research-based approach to fluency. Dr. Smyth reviewed the fluency learning progressions, focus on strategy instruction and reviewed some sample student lessons. Dr. Smyth also reviewed the multi-tiered approach to support (MTSS); Tier 1 (Universal) Tier 2 (Targeted) and Tier 3 (Intensive) and how it is implemented, beginning with screening, progress monitoring, regular review of student progress and monitoring of instruction at each tier. Mr. Menchel reviewed the elementary STEM program including engineering, computer science and robotics and science. Mr. Menchel explained one of the challenges in the elementary STEM program being the implementation of the principles of computer science and digital fluency standards and the solution to that being refined incorporation of computer science in STEAM. This begins in kindergarten and progresses through fifth grade with creative computing, physical computing and progression in computational thinking. The next steps for elementary math include trying strategies to enhance performance of sub-groups; what interventions do they need in the classroom. For elementary STEAM next steps include continued attention to the new standards. Mr. Menchel then reviewed the secondary science program beginning with the strengths. Two Regeneron winners; Claire Tao and Michelle Yu; high achievement in AP scores; increased enrollment in science research classes; high participation levels in all 4 years of high school; high positive gap in all areas of performance task assessments. The areas of focus are on the performance of sub-groups and the physics scores. Mr. Menchel then reviewed the performance on the physics assessments as well as the action plan which includes frequent check-in meetings with teachers; having all 3 teachers teach at least one section of Physics-R; creating summative assessments that all spiral older topics as a means of review; limiting technology and fostering paper & pencil solutions of equations that require a deeper understanding of procedure and units; more direct

teaching when applicable; more opportunities for students to explain their understanding; holding students more accountable for the quality of their classwork and homework. Mr. Menchel then reviewed the NGSS Learning Progressions and Performance Learning Descriptors (PLDs). He also explained that the department took the NYS PLDs and from there created North Shore Learning Descriptors as aligned with the North Shore Journey. Mr. Menchel explained that the North Shore Learning Descriptors serves as a meaningful foundation for student conversations; helps a student with metacognitive thinking and growth; creates smaller “atomic habit style” moves to progress; can serve as a rubric for behavioral components of grades; can help motivate students that want to excel at the highest levels of distinction; can help teachers in making difficult grading decisions for students on the borderline of 2 letter grades. Next steps for secondary science include preparing students for the new NGSS-they are considering waiting one more year which the state is allowing; prepare curriculum for the new AP Physics-C course; implement North Shore’s PLDs for assessment writing and grading. Next steps for elementary science include preparing students for the new grade 5 exam-computer based testing.

The Board discussed the presentation. Questions raised were: How are we catching the needs of the subgroups; how do our struggling readers get assistance; what is behind the removal of extra credit; is there a departure from embedding the SVOs in the learning environment; is there information on population of those taking the physics exam rather than the percentage of students who took the exam; will Physics-2 be offered next year; concern for students not being prepared if they want to go beyond physics; the types of assessments, frequency and time gap for students getting results of assessments; AP scores stronger than IB scores – possibility of making a choice between the two with limited resources; concern regarding college preparedness on IB courses because we write the curriculum; question on the number of Living Environment teachers; whether there is an opportunity to capture physics in early courses and capture authentic interest in multi-dimensional learning settings; will the North Shore Learning Descriptors be used beyond the science department; is there any evidence that the investment in elementary STEM has lead to this later achievement; how will making cuts affect intervention services on students going forward; is there any information on why students do not take the physics exam seriously, is this unique to that subject; are students asked what they need or what they think the problem is with physics; is physics embedded in the curriculum; the rate of students disabled vs. non-disabled on the physics exam was about the same, are we providing services to that sub-group that could be provided to the general population.

Dr. Smyth, Mr. Menchel and Dr. Zublionis responded to questions. Elementary RtI (Response to Intervention) has evolved to MTSS (Multi-Tiered Student Support). The math team meets every 6 weeks and reviews data of all students to determine what every student needs either in enrichment or extra support. Six weeks later the team reviews how things are going. On the secondary level, in the middle school teams meet regularly and there is a lot of support in place; if another science teacher is needed to push in that is available. At the high school there is a pathway for every type of student; students are encouraged to take science at the highest level. Support from teachers is available, students are encouraged to take advantage of extra help sessions. After the mid-terms, assessments will be made and small group cohorts will be structured. Dr. Smyth explained that they make sure students who struggle with reading are learning the math part first and teach strategies and work closely with the literacy counterparts, in addition they use the strategies for learning literacy and apply math to it. Mr. Menchel explained that the idea behind removing extra credit was related to the Physics Exam; it was felt students were not taking the exam seriously. The thought was not to focus on recapturing points but to focus more on earning points. There is not a departure from the SVOs, they are framing it in the North Shore Journey, the SVOs are the foundational piece. Dr. Zublionis added the learning progressions – meaningful learning academic growth and understanding – critical thinking and collaboration, is the how of learning in our classrooms and embodies the SVOs in the process of learning. The number of students who took the Physics Regents will be made available to the Board. Physics-2 is not being

planned for next year, Physics-C is planned as the course for next year. Dr. Smyth explained that components of Physics-2 have been added to the first course of Physics, but they will go back and look at the concerns expressed. Mr. Menchel explained that there are much less students taking the IB exams which may be why the percentage of those results seems skewed, He went on to explain that teachers are covering the curriculum intended by IB, there is much more content in an IB course and they are making sure it is covered and taught. Regarding the number of Living Environment teachers, Mr. Menchel explained that when the schedules are created they know the need for Regents review, “lunch and learn” and space for support; at the end of the year, every teacher’s schedule is full. Dr. Zublionis added that there may be special education teachers who are also certified in Living Environment who are covering. The North Shore Learning Descriptors have just been introduced so conversations of implementing them in other areas have not yet happened. Dr. Zublionis explained that the learning progressions have been discussed and the directors are now building the SVO progressions and integrating them. Dr. Smyth explained that any evidence from STEM achievement would be mostly anecdotal. Mr. Menchel explained that he is not sure why students do not seem to take the physics exam seriously, however the action plan they have in place will approach the issue from many different angles, and with some changes, they feel it will establish better overall effects. Dr. Smyth added physics is part of the curriculum early. Mr. Menchel will look into what accommodations the disabled population received on the physics exam and whether any of those strategies can be used for the general population.

10:15 p.m.

Discussion - Policy Review - Workplace Violence Prevention #8130.2

Dr. Zublionis explained that the state informed us at the end of December the District must adopt a policy on Workplace Violence Prevention. Initially this was to be adopted by January 4, 2024 and new guidance just extended that date to February 3, 2024. This is an initial policy and step one in a 6 step process. The guidelines do not need to be accepted until May 3rd. The subcommittee reviewed the policy and will meet again to review a regulation to go along with it. Trustee Ludmar noted that the policy does not mention right or wrong and seems to be an affront to the system and this organization. It defines workplace violence as a safety hazard but of course it is much more than that. Dr. Zublionis explained that the guidelines state the Department of Labor, who is handling it, will not accept complaints from school district employers until May 3rd so there is time to actualize all of this.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Prior to approval, Dr. Zublionis said a few words about Elyse Kushel, the Sea Cliff School Librarian who is retiring after 20 years. He said it is a huge loss as she is more than a librarian, she is a teacher of all students at Sea Cliff School who has taught so much about literature and the world. He further stated she is a core team member of the school and it’s vision, an amazing person and thought partner and both the students and families will miss her. Trustee Colacioppo added that she worked with Ms. Kushel on the book fair for four years and called her a brilliant person and teacher. She noted that her love of children, for books, and her job was so apparent. She thanked her for all she has done for the children of Sea Cliff School and wished her well on her retirement and said she will surely be missed. Trustee Cashman also added her thanks to Ms. Kushel and the special way she shared her love of reading with students especially during the pandemic with the online library. Trustee Mosca also added her thanks to Ms. Kushel.

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

Personnel

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes of Elyse Kushel, School Library Media Specialist, effective January 26, 2024

Amendment of Appointment – Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby amends the July 10, 2023 appointment for Christine Messina as follows:

Christine Messina, Elementary (STEAM) is hereby appointed to a 1.0 FTE, effective January 17, 2024 through January 31, 2024

Family and Medical Leave Act "FMLA" Leave of Absence

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, Sandra Livoti, Teacher Aide, that includes the period January 3, 2024 through March 29, 2024

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes of Dawn Parrett, Cleaner at Glenwood Landing Elementary School, effective December 30, 2023

Resignation - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Natalie Scuderi, School Monitor at the Middle School, effective December 22, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Alexander Lupenko, School Monitor at Glen Head Elementary School, effective December 15, 2023

Per Diem Substitutes

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

Name	Category
Demetra Hrisikos	Teacher Substitute

Extra-Curricular Activity Coach

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

Sport	Coach	Step
MS Girls Basketball	Meagan Petrucci	1
MS Girls Lacrosse	Grace Beshlian	1

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

Adoption of Policy #8130.2 - Workplace Violence Prevention

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby adopts policy #8130.2, Workplace Violence Prevention, as previously discussed, effective January 11, 2024

Prior to approval, Trustee Mosca asked where the Beech Tree will be planted. Dr. Zublionis will find out and let the Board know.

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

Acceptance of a Donation from the Glen Cove Mansion to the North Shore High School

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts a donation of \$1,000 from the Glen Cove Mansion to the North Shore High School Madrigals Club who performed at their Tree Lighting

Acceptance of Donations to the Sea Cliff Elementary School

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the donation of planters for the front of the Sea Cliff Elementary School from Gadaleta Gardens at a value of \$320

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the donation of an American Beech Tree, with installation, from the Redenti Family to the Sea Cliff Elementary School at a value of \$1,200

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 13 & 14

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

Approval of an Agreement Between the North Shore CSD and Davidoff, Hutcher & Citron (DHC)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and Davidoff Hutcher & Citron, LLP ("DHC") for DHC, to provide government relations and lobbying services, during the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached retainer agreement; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute such agreement on behalf of the Board.

Approval of Change Orders from Hirsch & Co., LLC

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order #PC-01 from Hirsch & Co., LLC. for Phase Two bond work at the Sea Cliff Elementary School in the amount of \$4,206.56 (addition)

Approval of Change Orders from Inshallah Mechanical Corp.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order No. MC-10 from Inshallah Mechanical Corp. for Phase Two bond work at the North Shore High School in the amount of \$5,900.24 (additional)

Prior to approval, Trustee Russo asked if most school districts are self-insured and wondered if we should look into a fully insured policy as that would be better for planning. Mr. Pappas explained that most

school district are self-insured, as our District is, but he will look into whether it would be more cost effective to have a fully insured policy.

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

Authorization to Withdraw Monies from the Workers' Compensation Reserve

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes a withdrawal of \$150,000.00 from the district's Workers' Compensation Reserve to pay for additional and unanticipated workers compensation claims expenses (A9040-800-00-0000).

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 16 and 17

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

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Tracey Kellner, M.A.CCC/SLP

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Agreement between the School District and Tracey Kellner, M.A.CC/SLP, db.a. TraceyTalk Speech Pathologist, P.C., to provide Speech/Language Pathology Services, PROMPT Therapy Services and Assistive Technology Services, on an as needed basis, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement, during the period January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said agreement on behalf of the Board.

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD (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 Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD and residing within the North Shore CSD during the 2023-2024 school year; 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.

Unfinished Business 10:25 p.m.

Trustee Mosca reported on the Legislative Breakfast which took place on December 19th. She said it was a successful meeting with the legislators and asked if there are any ideas that came from the breakfast for the LAC committee going forward. Dr. Zublionis said it was an amazing event with tremendous facetime with our representatives. He listed some possible takeaways and next steps from the meeting: Attend a meeting with the company (Jupiter) seeking to build battery storage at the old fuel site (Global) to understand their intentions as to PILOTs and also whether they will be taxed as a utility; also meet with the Town of Oyster Bay and the county legislators on this issue. Peaker plant IDA/PILOT agreements: explore these, understand their parameters, and establish if they are in compliance; this could be accomplished by a review of reports filed by National Grid with the PSC and/or the DEC. Identify all utility properties in the district and superfund sites on utility properties in the district as well as any remediation plans. Set a meeting up with the Nassau IDA to voice opposition to utility PILOTs post-2027 to start planting those seeds now. Meeting with LIPA staff to better understand their 1, 3, 5, and 10 year plans for our waterfront. Explore environmental bond opportunities; while we may have an uphill battle here, we should explore this, nonetheless. Assessment study - explore a grant from our legislators to get a valuation/assessment on the value of the utility properties in our district to

have a baseline for future discussions; currently we have no data to contest valuations from the state or county assessors and having our own data could only be of assistance. Meet with the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor to learn any information that they have about developments in wind or other power generation replacements for our area. Explore charging tuition to non-resident students; this could generate millions of dollars in sustainable income each year and save personnel. Exploring the State Aid formula in collaboration with the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment

At 10:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk