

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
November 21, 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, Ludmar, Mosca and Svendsen. Trustee Galati was absent. 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 Svendsen and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the faculty lounge to consider collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law) and proposed, pending or current litigation.

At 8:15 p.m. on motion of Trustee Cashman and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the cafeteria. There were 8 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Macari led the public in the pledge of allegiance.

President Macari announced that Trustee Galati has informed her he is resigning from the Board effective November 21, 2024. President Macari then read Trustee Galati's letter of resignation.

President Macari thanked Trustee Galati for his service to the District, as a teacher and as a Trustee. She explained that he will be honored by the Board and community at a future meeting. At this point, the Board is working with their legal team to determine what their options are to fill his seat. They have a few options available and will work on what is the most helpful and cost effective solution for the community. Dr. Zublionis added this is a big loss for the District. He said Trustee Galati brought much wisdom and experience as an educator, as well as being somewhat of an historian to the Board. He went on to say it has been an honor to work side by side with Trustee Galati.

Approval of Minutes

The reading of the draft minutes of the meeting of November 7, 2024 being prepared and disseminated to all members in advance of the meeting, were dispensed. There being no corrections to the minutes, it was declared by President Macari that the minutes of the meeting of November 7, 2024 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Svendsen 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 August 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024; and September 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024.

Approval of Claims Audit Report

Prior to voting, Trustee Ludmar noted that the audit report totaled \$7.3M and 739 individual checks and had a 0% error rate. He thanked Mr. Pappas and the business office for doing such a great job. Mr. Pappas thanked the individuals in the business office who make sure everything is done correctly.

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, it was: BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the claims audit report for the period October, 2024 as reviewed and submitted by Claims Auditor, Denise Longboardi.

Student Recognition

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Macari, along with Dr. Zublionis and Dr. Smyth, recognized Dylan Reisberg for winning a Silver Key and Caroline Winchester for winning Silver and Gold Keys from the Scholastic Writing Award.

Report from the SGO

SGO president, Kaitlin Ho, reported on events and activities at the high school. She reported that in the spirit of Thanksgiving, the student body is creating a “thankful tree” dedicated to showing gratitude and appreciation to the high school faculty. Each leaf will have a message celebrating the faculty.

The SGO would like to know who does the ordering for feminine hygiene products, and what the process is to approve these items and get them into the bathrooms. The high school principal suggested having these items with the nurse, however the students would like these items in the bathrooms and locker rooms, making them easily accessible to students. She said students believe this will promote student dignity, reduce stigma, and demonstrate the school’s commitment to student’s well-being.

Kaitlin reported that two proposals have surfaced from the SGO. The first concerns the current traffic congestion during arrival and dismissal times which has significantly worsened, causing delays and impacting punctuality. The SGO suggests opening the Todd Drive gates in the mornings and afternoons. They feel this could provide a practical solution by relieving congestion and allowing seniors easier access to the parking lot and the school. To assess its effectiveness, a trial period of opening the gates is proposed, coupled with surveys for students, parents, and staff to gather feedback. Kaitlin noted that students are aware this has been brought up in the past and residents of Todd Drive have concerns over increased congestion on their streets. She has already discussed this with Mr. Contreras, however, the SGO would like to advocate for the change and gather additional support. Following the trial, data will be analyzed to evaluate the long-term feasibility. The other proposal is in regard to utilizing a digital payment system for fundraising efforts. They suggest offering platforms such as Venmo, PayPal or GoFundMe to make it easier for students, parents and community members to contribute without the need for cash. Kaitlin suggested digital payments would provide transparency and real-time tracking empowering clubs to independently finance their initiatives while ensuring accountability. Finally, Kaitlin reported on a concern among student athletes and theater students regarding the difficulty they face to attend extra help sessions or other extracurricular commitments. Although they are supposed to be allowed to attend extra help or other extracurricular commitments until 3:30 p.m., this is currently being frowned upon, or not permitted.

Dr. Zublionis will follow up on the feminine hygiene issue. He explained that opening the gates on Todd Drive is a difficult issue. The local civics had lobbied to close those gates, and he has

heard many complaints of students being picked up on Todd Drive and people parking in the driveways of Todd Drive residents. He also explained that it would be a security issue to open the gates. He said although he understands all of the pressures on students, and everyone, regarding the traffic situation, he would be interested in finding alternate ways to cut down on traffic and he wants to look at multiple causations and solutions. Mr. Pappas explained that they had looked into a digital payment system previously and it would have to be researched again. Dr. Zublionis added that schools have different rules than the PTAs. They will see if other schools are using it. Kaitlin noted that she had been told they did try it a couple of years ago; Mr. Pappas will follow up with Ms. Johnson on that. Dr. Zublionis will follow up with Mr. Contreras on the issue of students not being permitted to attend extra help sessions.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Zublionis reported that the Masquers will be presenting *The Skin of Our Teeth* on Friday and Saturday; senior citizens may receive complimentary tickets to the Saturday matinee by contacting the Fine and Performing Arts Department. Upcoming Parent University schedule is as follows: Monday, November 25 on Study Skills. Monday, December 2 on Injury Prevention through Sports Physical Therapists at Northwell and our own Athletic Trainer. It will be available through Zoom. Monday, December 9, Dr. Jolie Silva of CASA on Anxiety and School Avoidance. Tuesday, January 14 on Special Education, CPSE-CSE transition.

Dr. Zublionis thanked Glen Head Principal Mr. Sheehan and the Glen Head Faculty for designing a Veterans Day Breakfast. It was a student driven breakfast for Veterans who live in our community and was a model of project-based authentic learning.

Dr. Zublionis reported that a Construction Capital Project survey will be sent out soon. This is to get the community's input to inform some of the decisions on the next steps for capital projects.

Our administrators and Dr. Smyth have been discussing the new blue ribbon commission recommendations that the Board of Regents has discussed. The rolling out of the new graduation requirements, a profile of a graduate, assessment changes, credit and learning requirement changes, such as the addition of financial literacy which schools are required to teach. These changes are rolling out overtime, starting with the 2024 cohort currently in 9th grade. He will be giving more details on that and answering questions on it.

Dr. Zublionis explained that a letter is being prepared for the Commissioner and the Chancellor of the Board of Regents regarding regionalization. He said they understand the concerns about regionalization and the language in the regulation does not necessarily speak to the option of Districts for participating in collaboration through BOCES. State Ed does say it is purely optional. We want to be sure the language is changed. Regent Tilles mentioned it at the presentation in early November. He said we believe in maintaining local control and autonomy in making those decisions. Dr. Zublionis explained that everything that involves funds or resources must be approved by the Board and involves public discussion. He reaffirmed their stance to protect those resources. He said regionalization has come about as a result of the potential cuts to Foundation Aid across New York State and regionalization is a possible way for districts to deal with that. He believes the real concern will be for Foundation Aid in the spring. He said there is a new web page on North Shore's website regarding regionalization with information from New York State. Public comment is due at the beginning of next week and the Board of Regents meets again on December 9 and 10.

Finally, Dr. Zublionis said he plans to do his holiday shopping within the North Shore boundaries. He explained with utilities not paying as much in taxes, and there not being a shopping

mall within our school boundaries, most of our local businesses are family owned. He encouraged all to support our local business.

President Macari added that Dr. Zublionis, President Macari and Vice-President Colacioppo met with representatives of the Business Association this week.

Report on Student Achievement: Elementary Literacy & Civil Discourse – 8:45 p.m.

Julie Ritter, Director of ELA, Library and Literacy and Seth Gordon, Director of Social Studies, Business and Pre-K, presented a report on Student Achievement in Humanities and Civil Discourse.

Ms. Ritter reviewed K-5 Literacy Goals and the progress of implementing the Science of Reading. Teachers are being trained in LETRS; a schoolwide system for literacy. She reviewed the District Literacy Team (DLT) which is composed of teachers and administrators from different grade levels and representing general ed, special ed and ENL. They met for a full day once per month and began their 3-5 year review of a schoolwide literacy system using LETRS evaluation tools and protocols. She reviewed the professional development models and assessment plan. Ms. Ritter then reviewed the universal instruction and presented the Pilot Plan for the two Curricula PILOT; CKLA and HMH into Reading. 12 piloting classrooms total, and the pilot duration is September-February. Piloting classrooms are visited once per month by administrators including Dr. Smyth, Ms. Ritter, Ms. McKee, Literacy Coaches, Elementary Principals and Directors. Looking ahead, the plan is to design curriculum-adoption/revision; refine assessment plan, focusing on diagnostics; continue PD and training; begin exploring literacy and intervention block alternatives; move at a measured pace.

Mr. Gordon and Ms. Ritter spoke about Civil Discourse and Civil Discourse Day at North Shore. Mr. Gordon explained that according to the National Institute of Civil Discourse “*Civil Discourse is robust honest, frank and constructive dialogue and deliberation that seeks to advance the public interest. ...[It] must be founded on the participant’s willingness to share their views and to listen to another participant’s views.*” Mr. Gordon reviewed the timeline of the multi-year Civil Discourse Plan. Beginning with the 2020-2021/2021-2022 school years the launch of Humanities Civil Discourse became a focus. Implementation of Civil Discourse and conversation guidelines began in the 2021-2022 school year and is ongoing. Professional development began-reviewing protocols and strategies and deepening and reinforcing teacher capacity- this is ongoing. Building community partnership has been part of the ongoing plan. Mr. Gordon reviewed reasons why teaching civil discourse is so important; it aligns with the North Shore Journey and NYS Next General Learning Standards; the current political polarization; public comments, committee work, and coffee talk discussion about discrimination, bullying and lack of civility among students; technology impeding face-to-face conversation skills; social media (disinformation, algorithms, anonymity). He reviewed the conversation guidelines for students, such as support your assertions with reliable evidence; show respect and suspend judgment and stay engaged. He reviewed some of the professional development opportunities; Socratic Seminar, spider web discussion, conversation sentence stems. Mr. Gordon gave some parent support recommendations through Parent University. On October 29, 2024 the North Shore Middle and High School held Civil Discourse Day in all English and Social Studies Classes. He showed examples of students taking part in conversations and practicing the skills of civil discourse.

The Board discussed the presentation. Trustees thanked Ms. Ritter and Mr. Gordon for the comprehensive reports and the tremendous amount of information and data included in the reports forwarded prior to the meeting. Some of the questions raised were: Whether there is a plan to make this curriculum more interdisciplinary; any plan to raise the mastery level on the Global Regents; are we taking advantage of our surroundings by planning more field trips; are there any

progression issues for the cohorts in the Pilot programs with continuity; how are you getting kids to love reading especially in a digital world; regarding civil discourse, is the faculty comfortable in this area, is there any feedback; are more Civil Discourse Days being planned; what mechanisms are in place for students who do not love to read, how are they identified, what remediation is available; is there any information on media literacy; what is being done for the ELL students who seem to need more support; when are the DIBELS 8 assessments given and to what grades; how are you achieving equity for students in large class sizes who may need additional support (AIS intervention). It was noted this PILOT seems to be more comprehensive than what is in the New York State's recommendations for best practices for Reading,

Ms. Ritter, Mr. Gordon and Dr. Zublionis responded to questions. The Global History Regents does not have enough questions on the exam, and some of the questions are hard. Therefore, one or two bad questions makes it very difficult to reach mastery. Mr. Gordon did note that they have 99% proficiency on the exam, and he has advocated for more questions on the exam. Field trips are encouraged; however, Mr. Gordon does support trips that are teacher or student driven and are in coordination with the curriculum. The initial plan on the PILOT reading programs is K-1 this year, grades 2-3 next year and grades 4-5 the following year. Ms. Ritter said they will be mindful of the challenges for cohorts. Ms. Ritter noted that TC was very successful in giving North Shore students a love of reading and they are committed to continuing what has been built through the Science of Reading. Mr. Gordon explained that everyone, including teachers, was supported during Civil Discourse Day. It did take trust from teachers and administrators, and they tried to meet teachers at their readiness level. Emails were sent out, with goals, so everyone could understand ahead of time what they were trying to accomplish. There is not another Civil Discourse Day planned for this year; they may want to launch one each year. Ms. Ritter explained to boost a "love of reading" the North Shore Fellows make reading recommendations for students, there are book clubs, and the libraries have books that appeal to everyone's perspectives. The Middle School librarian pushes into grades for media literacy. Ms. Ritter explained that the hope is once this curriculum takes hold, there will be less AIS services needed. The DIBELS8 assessments are given three times a year, fall, winter and spring to grades K-5. Ms. Ritter also explained that ELL students are given the 11R exam in their senior year to give them more time to immerse themselves in the language. There is a plan to provide more translated books in the library, and in classrooms, as additional support for ELL students.

On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Cashman and all in favor, Comments from the Public was moved up in the meeting.

Comments from the Public-10:30 p.m.

Sadie Koo, Sea Cliff, high school senior, said after the high school library renovation some of the art books, graphic novels and Chinese and Japanese books were not returned. She asked that this be looked into. Sadie advocated for the continuation of the policy of sending fine and performing art students to the Nassau BOCES Long Island School for the Arts (LIHSA) school. She shared her personal experience of attending the program and would like this to continue for other North Shore students. President Macari thanked Ms. Koo for sharing her thoughts. She explained that the Board has heard from parents about this issue, however this was the first time they have heard directly from a student. Dr. Zublionis explained that while he understands LIHSA has provided a great experience for her, the District is not in a position to fund programs that are duplicative of those programs that North Shore offers. He went on to explain that there are programs that North Shore does not offer, and students attend those programs at BOCES. He said the feedback Ms. Koo

provided is very important as it will help to enhance the programs at North Shore where they have a high number of students who are enrolled in the Arts programs.

Policy Review 10:45 p.m.

The Board reviewed policy number 1500-Public Use of School Facilities. Some minor changes were made to the policy and a second reading/adoption will be placed on the December 12, 2024 agenda.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 11 a-k, 12, 13, and 14
On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Svendsen 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 Jennifer Horton, Mathematics, effective February 1, 2025

Increment 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 Alyssa Bacchioni, Science, from Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2024

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Matthew Falcone, Physical Education, effective November 7, 2024 through December 12, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Caroline Stevenson, Social Studies, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule, effective December 3, 2024 through January 17, 2025

Termination – Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of School, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby terminates the employment of Robert Rivera, Cleaner, effective close of business December 2, 2024

Resignation - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Donna Holden, Part-time School Monitor, effective October 25, 2024

Return of a Provisional Employee to Original Position - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That by operation of the New York State Civil Service Law §65(3), the provisional promotional appointment of Alfredo Montero to the position of Head Custodian I, which took effect on March 15, 2024, is hereby terminated effective December 2, 2024, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Rule XXI of the Nassau County Civil Service Rules, Alfredo Montero is hereby reinstated from his leave of absence from his former position of Custodian, effective December 3, 2024 with no interruption in District service, and shall be placed on a pro-rated base salary of \$75,133 for the remainder of the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Part-time Appointments - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the part-time appointment of BettyJean DiGiovanni, Part-time School Monitor at Glenwood Landing Elementary School, effective November 22, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the part-time appointment of Courtney Arias, Part-time School Monitor at Glen Head Elementary School, effective November 22, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the part-time appointment of Maha Wali, Part-time School Monitor at Glen Head Elementary School, effective November 22, 2024

Appointment of Alumni Coordinator

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Saul Schachter as the Alumni Coordinator for the North Shore School District

Overage - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a .2 overage for Jennifer Rizza, Mathematics, effective November 12, 2024 through June 27, 2024

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
Anna Martakis	Teacher Aide Substitute
Ryan Freund	School Monitor/Teacher Aide Substitute

Extra-Curricular Activity Advisors

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

High School		Step
<u>Clubs - Level 3</u>		
Autism Awareness	Michelle Stiffler	1
	Nicole Haddican	1
<u>Clubs - Level 2</u>		
Racism Education and Discussion (READ)	Amanda Haleiko	1
<u>Publications</u>		
Mosaic (Literary Magazine)	Michelle Maldari	1

Middle School Intramurals

Veronica Conejo Sanders	Step 1
Tara Fabiilli	Step 1
Lisa Suau	Step 1

Approval of Community Education Instructor

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Donna Jean Welch as the Intermediate and Advanced Pickleball Instructor for the remainder of the Fall 2024 Community Education Program, effective November 12, 2024

Establishment of the Jim Freund Memorial Scholarship Fund

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby establishes the Jim Freund Memorial Scholarship Fund to be awarded annually to one high school senior student athlete who plans to attend a two (2) year or four (4) year college or university

Approval of Health Services Contract between the North Shore CSD and Hempstead 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 the Hempstead UFSD for 4 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Hempstead UFSD for the 2024-25 school year at a cost of \$1,186.70 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 15, 16, and 17

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

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Therapy Dogs of Long Island

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and Therapy Dogs of Long Island to provide therapy dog visits with a handler to schools within the North Shore School District during the period September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 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.

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Oyster Bay-East Norwich School District (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 School District for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Oyster Bay-East Norwich School District and residing within the North Shore CSD during the 2024-2025 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.

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Tiny Transformations

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and Tiny Transformations to provide occupational and physical therapy services as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement, effective November 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; 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.

Board Committee Reports – 10:50 p.m.

Trustee Cashman reported on the Policy Committee. They will next be reviewing Advertising in the Schools.

Trustee Mosca reported on a meeting of the Legislative Action Committee (LAC). The committee is deciding on sub-committee members. They are getting closer to an information meeting with National Grid regarding the properties on the waterfront and how it could affect our District. They discussed the possible apprenticeship program; the chairperson will bring that before the Board. They are looking into Regionalization.

Trustee Ludmar explained that Construction Steering has not met since his last report.

Trustee Svendsen reported on a meeting of the Health and Safety Committee. They discussed drills, construction and battery storage facility.

Trustee Colacioppo reported on a meeting of the Wellness Committee. Mr. Doherty reported on mental health first aid. Free training for the staff. Someone from “Girls on Run” presented a program for grades 3-5 as an after school program with curricula and a mental health piece. Mr. Lang presented on physical wellness including “Fun Fitness Fridays, elementary and Mindful Mondays middle and high school. High School Sports are underway.

Trustee Colacioppo reported on a meeting of the Athletic Advisory. They discussed the Conference Championship Teams, the Captains Council, Parent University on December 2 regarding injury prevention. They talked about infrastructure, possibly reaching out to the Town of Oyster Bay for a partnership, and they talked about lights.

Trustee Cashman reported on a meeting of the Revenue Generation Committee. There are a lot of ideas in the infancy stage, such as out of district tuition and continuing making us attractive for location scouts. They discussed the new alumni coordinator position and maybe being helpful to combine with organizations such as the Viking Foundation to foster fundraising opportunities.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

Trustee Ludmar suggested that the Board respond to the questions from the SGO at the subsequent meeting to give time to follow up on some of the issues that are raised. He said it is important that they are engaging with the student body, and it is good to hear from them but some

issues that are raised, such as the issue of opening the gate at Todd Drive is something they know the neighbors are not keen on and is very costly. Trustee Ludmar also asked for some data on the removal of books from the library. He requested information on how many books were removed and what categories of books were excessed. President Macari added she has heard there are not many books in the high school library, and the type of books are not as interesting as what were offered at the Middle School. Dr. Zublionis explained that the new libraries hold fewer volumes, but he will follow up. Finally, Trustee Ludmar said he is glad to hear about the meeting with the business community and the encouragement to support local businesses.

Adjournment

At 11:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk