

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
December 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Macari at 6:15 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria. Present were Trustees Cashman, Colacioppo, Mosca and Svendsen. Trustee Ludmar was absent. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Christopher Zublionis and Assistant Superintendents Dr. Carol Smyth and Mr. James Pappas.

At 6:15 p.m. on motion of Trustee Cashman and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the faculty lounge to consider proposed, pending or current litigation and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 7:16 p.m. on motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and convened a meeting of the Audit Committee.

At 8:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Svendsen and seconded by Trustee Cashman and all in favor, the Board adjourned the Audit Committee Meeting and resumed the regular meeting in the cafeteria. There were approximately 10 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Macari led the public in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The reading of the draft minutes of the meeting of November 21, 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 21, 2024 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo and all in favor, it was: BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Treasurer's Report for the period October 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 6 and 7
Prior to voting, Trustee Mosca noted there is no way of predicting how many special education students may need services during the school year. Mr. Pappas explained this transfer was for a student who moved from one program to another, and the funds were moved to the correct expense line.

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

Approval of Budget Transfers

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves budget transfers in the amount of \$152,000 to cover the cost of special ed tuition

Approval of Claims Audit Report

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the claims audit report for the period November, 2024 as reviewed and submitted by Claims Auditor, Denise Longboardi

Student Recognition

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Macari, Dr. Zublionis and Dr. Smyth recognized the North Shore High School Valedictorian, Aaryan Vira and Salutatorian, Kaitlin Ho, as well as Chloe Connolly and Joanna Kenney two members of the Girls Cross Country Team who qualified for the New York State Cross-Country Championship.

Report from the SGO

SGO President, Kaitlin Ho, reported on events and activities at the high school. Kaitlin reported that the winter sports teams are off to a fantastic start, with three games already won. Every team holds an average GPA of 90+, earning All-Scholar Athlete Team recognition—a true testament to their hard work both on and off the field. Kaitlin reported that the mixed-media exhibit in the school gallery highlights incredible student creativity. She also reported that literature classes recently enjoyed *The Great Gatsby* musical and a trip to MoMA, while an art-focused visit to the Heckscher Museum brought classroom concepts to life. She reported that students have expressed gratitude for the additional feminine hygiene products in gym bathrooms. She went on to say that there have been no reported student concerns which she believes is a testament to the collaboration between the SGO and BOE in enhancing student life at North Shore. Finally, Kaitlin asked if there was an update on the suggestion of a trial period of opening the gates on Todd Drive.

Dr. Zublionis explained opening the gates on Todd Drive would be a major change and the residents in that area have held meetings about the traffic issue in their development. He proposes a meeting between the resident groups and the students to discuss the issue. Dr. Zublionis will follow up on that.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Zublionis noted that he and Mr. Contreras have been using a spreadsheet to follow up on student issues at the high school and this has been very effective.

Dr. Zublionis explained that as many in the community know, districts across New York have been working through the ever evolving concept of Regionalization that the New York State Department of Education initiated at the beginning of the school year. At that time, districts were required to complete a strengths and needs tool and would be required to participate in regionalization planning with Nassau County BOCES. He further explained that from the start, discussions about regionalization raised many concerns about the loss of local control of our schools, the forced sharing of resources, and the overall enforcement of significant changes to our approach to education without the consent of Boards of Education. After receiving thousands of comments, the New York State Department of Education suggested modifications to the regionalization regulation that would allow for districts to opt out of the planning process. When presented to the Board of Regents at their monthly meeting on Monday, the state education department stressed that “opting out” of planning is opting out of the regionalization process. He went on to say that given the unknowns and many unanswered questions about regionalization, in addition to our own concern and the concern of our community, as well as our own financial challenges related to loss of revenue from utility properties, he is recommending to the Board of Education that we opt out of regionalization planning. The Board of Education will act on this at the January 9th meeting. A letter will then be sent to the New York State Education Department’s office

before January 15th. Dr. Zublionis clarified that the North Shore CSD already collaborates with other school districts and BOCES but on terms that are publicly discussed and locally decided by this Board. They will continue to take these actions in the best interests of the North Shore Schools community and our most precious natural resource, our students. In addition, they will continue to closely monitor any developments connected to regionalization, even though we are opting out.

Dr. Zublionis thanked Ms. Rodriguez and the Fine and Performing Arts Faculty for the amazing concerts that are taking place. He said he has been so impressed by the student performers and by what the faculty has done in creating such impactful work. He went on to say that the concert performances demonstrate the power of Performance Based Assessments as a way of both yielding and celebrating growth. He also thanked Ms. Rodriguez for making these concerts available on YouTube over the last several years. He said not only do families benefit from this service, but our teachers and students watch their performances which extend their learning by evaluating, reflecting and setting goals and becoming keen music critics of their own work.

Dr. Zublionis reported that the Rockefeller Institute Study on Foundation Aid has made recommendations on how foundation aid is calculated. He is not sure how the governor will incorporate the changes into the budget, or how it will work in the formula, but will continue to share information as it is received.

Dr. Zublionis noted that at the November 7th Board Meeting they spoke about the future of advanced programs. He explained that he and Dr. Smyth shared information with the high school faculty last Monday. The goal is to maintain the programs, find efficiencies, and make the program work holistically by taking the best of both programs to serve the growth of our students. Information can be found in the course catalog which is on the website.

Dr. Zublionis reported that the alumni round table will take place on January 7th. This is when recent graduates return to speak to students and parents about their college experience and what they might do differently.

Finally, Dr. Zublionis reminded all to try and shop locally for the holidays. He said many of the local businesses in Sea Cliff, Glen Head and Old Brookville are run by district families.

Prior to Voting, President Macari reminded the public that at the last meeting they were informed that Trustee Galati was resigning. At that time, she was hoping he would be attending this meeting to be honored, however, he was not available. The plan now is for Mr. Galati to attend the meeting in January to be honored by the Board and public for his years of service. She also explained that later in the meeting the Board will have a public discussion on how they might fill the vacancy. On motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, it was:

Resignation of a Member of the Board of Education

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Richard Galati, as a member of the North Shore Central School District Board of Education, effective November 21, 2024

Regular Business

Discussion - Report on Student Achievement: Fine and Performing Arts – 8:35 p.m.

Ms. Dalia Rodriguez explained that their program philosophy is “Fine Arts are essential to a well-rounded education, offering students pathways to explore, express, and understand their world. Our mission is to foster creativity, critical and innovative thinking, and emotional intelligence, preparing students to become engaged, compassionate, and reflective members of society”. The K-12 teachers foster analytical skills and cultivate imagination in their students. Ms. Rodriguez demonstrated how “making marks and meaning” starts in the elementary schools and continues throughout an artist’s school life. She highlighted the photography course in the high

school, which was created and expanded by photography teacher Lynn Johnson. Examples of strobe photography, pinhole photography and how field trips around New York City and Long Island showcase student choice and student voice. Finally, Ms. Rodriguez reviewed some highlights for the 23/24 school year and next steps for the 2024-25 school year. Next steps include: continue to implement Universal Design for Learning; continue to develop Progression Maps for each content area; Propose new arts courses: Ceramics, STEAM Sculptures: The Science of Art & Engineering; explore the option of CTE credit in Photography; Articulation of Rubrics (PBA related goal).

The Board discussed the report. Trustees expressed how impressed they were with Ms. Rodriguez's report and the backup she sent prior to the meeting. Questions raised: are there opportunities for kids who are not pursuing a field in the arts; how does the fine arts curriculum work in the high school, clarify the graduation requirements for fine arts; is there a mechanism for honoring art students who are heavily involved in extracurricular activities and maintaining a 90+ average (similar to athletes); what are the enrollment trends; any information on participation of subgroups in the arts such as ELLs, how are they accommodated; are teachers trained to detect students who may need special education accommodations.

Ms. Rodriguez and Dr. Zublionis addressed questions. As the work of Performance Based Assessments develops it will be seen across disciplines supporting all students. Ms. Rodriguez explained that Studio Art is now offered in 8th grade as an elective to give kids a quicker path and more options in high school to take advanced art classes; this is communicated through the guidance department. There have been conversations about how to honor "scholar artists". One idea is a specialized seal, but conversations are ongoing. Ms. Rodriguez explained that enrollment trends are hard to predict, there are many different factors that impact enrollment. Ms. Rodriguez also explained the teachers use translation services in the classroom, including technical directions, which helps ELL students. Although the art teachers are not trained in the same way as special educators, they are able to see red flags in students, such as development of fine motor skills, or how drawings should look at a certain level, and they can bring this to the attention of the school psychologist.

Discussion - Policy Review – 9:18 p.m.

The Board discussed Policy #1511-Advertising in the Schools. The policy will be placed on the January 9, 2025 agenda for a second reading and adoption.

Vacant Seat on the Board of Education

The Board discussed their options for filling the vacant seat on the Board due to the resignation of Trustee Galati. President Macari explained that they have spoken with legal counsel and gathered more information to determine what their options are. They have three options available: 1. Do not fill the seat, leave it vacant until the next regular election (May, 2025). Counsel has informed them that the Commissioner does not appreciate this option; she prefers the seat be filled as soon as possible. In addition, there must be 4 members present at a Board meeting for there to be a quorum and leaving the seat vacant makes it more difficult to reach a quorum. 2. Hold a special election. After doing some research on this it was found that the cost of holding a special election would be somewhere between \$25,000-\$30,000 and this would be in addition to the regular election which would still be held in May, 2025. The other issue is timing. All regulations for the regular election must be met for a special election including deadlines and legal notices. The earliest an election could be held would be February 25, 2025. 3. The Board of Education may appoint someone until the next regular election (May, 2025). This would be a temporary measure but there would be no timing issue, no cost and the person would serve only until the May, 2025 election when, if they wished, could run for a seat at that election.

The Board discussed the options. The Trustees all agreed that with the considerable cost of a special election, only a few months between for the regular election, and waiting until the end of February to seat a new member, the most fiscally prudent option would be to appoint someone as a temporary measure until the May election. President Macari requested that any resident interested in the position should email her directly at her Board of Education email address no later than Monday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m. The Board will then have a discussion in executive session to decide a path forward.

Comments from the Public – 9:35 p.m.

Jessica Liu, Glen Head, advocated for opting out of the regionalization plan. She also suggested that we communicate and collaborate with other districts who are opting out and pursue special counsel for this purpose. Ms. Liu expressed how impressed she is with the District, with the art program and with how well the District manages funds. She thanked Dr. Zublionis for being so responsive to her communications. Dr. Zublionis explained that he had made a statement at the beginning of the meeting regarding his recommendation that the District opt out of regionalization. He will be sending out a communication on this subject shortly and the Board will be acting to opt out at their meeting on January 9th. He further explained that he is in constant communication with other district superintendents and for the time being our general counsel is advising us on this matter.

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

Personnel

Resignation - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Janine Leon, Teacher Assistant, effective December 6, 2024

Appointments - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a probationary appointment for Taylor Geen, Mathematics, on Step 3 of the MA salary schedule, effective December 9, 2024 through December 9, 2028

Amendment to Appointment - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby amends the August 27, 2024 regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Ken Mady as follows:

Ken Mady is hereby appointed through December 3, 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, on Step 1 of BA salary schedule, effective December 13, 2024 through January 9, 2025

Part-time Appointment - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a part-time (.8) appointment for John Maus, Mathematics, on Step 10 of the MA salary schedule, effective December 2, 2024 through December 11, 2024

Overages

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following overages, effective December 2, 2024 through December 11, 2024:

Name	Subject	Overage	Effective
Lauren DeLuca	Mathematics	.2	12/2/24-12/11/2024
Chuck Wankel	Mathematics	.2	12/2/24-12/11/2024
Danielle Brennan	Special Education	.1	12/16/24-6/25/2025

Amendment to Appointment - Nurse

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby amends the October 24, 2024 appointment of Kathleen Fitzmaurice-Keane as follows:

Kathleen Fitzmaurice-Keane is appointed through February 7, 2025

Permanent Promotional Appointment - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a permanent promotional appointment for Yvette D'Amico, from Typist Clerk to Senior Typist Clerk, on Step 20 of the Senior Typist Clerk salary schedule, effective December 9, 2024

Appointment - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Jeffery Johnson, Full-time Night Cleaner, at Sea Cliff Elementary School, on Step 5 of the cleaner salary schedule, effective December 13, 2024, with a probationary period of 26 weeks

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the probationary appointment of Jason Luecken, Head Custodian I, on Step 18 of the head custodian salary schedule, effective January 2, 2025 with a 26 week probationary period

Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave of Absence

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District approves 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, Shannon McNamara, Teacher, that includes the period December 12, 2024 through March 21, 2025

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District approves an unpaid Family and Medical Leave Act (“FMLA”) leave of absence for a maximum period of twelve (12) weeks for employee, Anna Szarej-Doherty, Food Service Helper, that will commence December 2, 2024 and will be used intermittently over the next twelve (12) months

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
Rachel Fisher	Teacher Aide Substitute
Lora Jakowlew	Teacher Substitute
Nancy Rowe	Teacher Substitute
Gaitree Ricknauth	Teacher Substitute
Vincent Scott	Teacher Substitute

Melissa Sydor	Teacher Aide Substitute
Elizabeth Longhway	Teacher Substitute
Katerina Vattes	Teacher Aide Substitute

Extra-Curricular Activity Coach

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

Sport	Coach	Step
Assistant Coach-Varsity Boys Lacrosse	Ralph Sommers	1

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

Prior to voting the Board expressed appreciation for the cafeteria workers

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

Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District and the UPSEU Cafeteria Unit

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby ratifies and legislatively approves the Memorandum of Agreement dated November 15, 2024 and signed by the negotiating committees representing the Board and the United Public Service Employees Union Cafeteria Unit regarding the terms and conditions of employment to be set forth in the collective bargaining agreement between the parties covering the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools and other designated school district officials are authorized to execute the resulting collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Appointment of Petty Cash Custodian

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby appoints Christine Cristofari as the petty cash custodian for the Sea Cliff Elementary School effective January 2, 2025, replacing Elizabeth Howell (retired)

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 17 & 18

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

Adoption of Policy #1500-Public Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby adopts policy #1500 (Public Use of Facilities), as discussed at their meeting of November 21, 2024 and December 12, 2024, effective December 12, 2024

Prior to voting, Trustee Mosca noted there was one less instructional day for the secondary classes. Dr. Zublionis noted the legal number of days are accounted for but it has become more difficult to reach additional days with the number of mandated holidays.

Approval of the 2025-2026 School Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the 2025-2026 School Calendar

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 19, 20, and 21 (a-c)

Prior to voting, the Board thanked the LeBron family for their generous donation.

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

Acceptance of Donation to the North Shore Middle School

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts a \$300 donation from the LeBron Family to the North Shore Middle School to offset the cost of field trips for seventh graders in financial need

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:

Quantity	Description	School
106	Chromebooks	High School
3	Printers	High School
1	Computer	High School
47	Door Frames*	Maintenance Shed

*Will be auctioned off

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, 2025 through December 31, 2025, 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 an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and All Care, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an agreement between the School District and All Care, Inc. to provide Behind-The-Wheel Training and In-Car Observation components of a NYS-DTSE course for North Shore High School students under the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement during the period February 10, 2025 through April 28, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education authorizes the Board of Education President 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 Sound Actuarial Consulting, LLS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and Sound Actuarial Consulting, LLS for a study to derive a fund contribution to join the Nassau County Schools Self Insurance Plan to be provided to the District, to be completed no later than 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.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 22 and 23

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

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Glen Cove City 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 Glen Cove City School District for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Glen Cove City 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 Special Education Services (IEP)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves special education services (IEPs) as per the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education (CSE)

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

President Macari congratulated the grade 3-8 math results placing North Shore first for Math in comparison to all Nassau County school districts, and sixth for ELA. She asked that this information be placed on the electronic sign so the community can see how well our students are doing.

President Macari suggested our new Alumni Coordinator begin an “Alumni Spotlight” in the Newsletter and an Alumni Speaker Series, similar to “Ted Talks”, to bring back alumni who are top in their field. Dr. Zublionis said the alumni survey is already out and Mr. Schachter is connecting with people.

Dr. Zublionis explained that due to a miscommunication, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, and their parents, were not invited to tonight’s meeting for recognition. Therefore, they will be invited back to the January 9th meeting to be recognized.

Adjournment

At 9:48 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk