

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 23, 2025

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, Dillon, Ludmar, Mosca and Svendsen. 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 Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Svendsen and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the Middle School Library to consider proposed, pending or current litigation and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 8:00 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 approximately 150 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 meetings of January 9, 2025 and January 10, 2025, 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 January 9, 2025 and January 10, 2025 were approved.

Approval of Claims Audit Report

Prior to voting, Trustee Mosca noted that once again there are no exceptions on the claims audit report. Trustee Ludmar added the report included 620 checks processed and over \$6.87 million dollars of expenses with a zero percent exception rate, or 100 percent success rate. He congratulated the business office on a great job.

On motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Cashman 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 December 2024 as reviewed and submitted by Claims Auditor, Denise Longboardi

Recognition of Former Trustee Richard Galati

President Macari read the following statement in recognition of Former Trustee Richard Galati:

Tonight, we are honoring Former Trustee Richard Galati who resigned in November after serving on the North Shore School Board of Education since 2017. Unfortunately, we have not had the opportunity to give a proper thank you until tonight.

Mr. Galati, thank you for attending the meeting. I have been entrusted with the great responsibility of saying a few words on behalf of the Board.

There are few community members who do not know Mr. Galati, as he has worn many hats. He is a resident of Glen Head with four children who graduated from North Shore High School. He was a beloved chemistry and physics teacher for 31 years in the District. He was a curriculum writer for the science program, a chief negotiator for the faculty union, and a mentor to many teachers and students. Because of these wide and varied roles, Mr. Galati has been an invaluable Trustee for the last seven years. He has been a vital member of the Policy Committee, the Health and Safety Committee and the Athletics Advisory Committee. I am confident in saying that there has never been, and will never be, a Trustee that is able to bring such a breadth of insider perspective, and such extensive institutional knowledge of this organization, as Rich has been able to do.

Former Trustee Marianne Russo said it best when I asked her to talk about Rich: “When Rich spoke, I really listened”. That is the truth. More reserved than the rest of us, when Rich speaks, you pay attention because it will be authentic, respectful, meaningful and full of wisdom.

It can be sad to say goodbye to a trustee. I have done it several times now, but on a personal note, this goodbye is particularly bittersweet for me. I had the privilege of being Mr. Galati’s chemistry student back in 1993 and then a chance encounter with my former teacher in 2011 at the VFW Hall on voting day led me to change my house hunting search to the North Shore School District. It was that random conversation with him that reminded me how much I loved my experience as a North Shore student and how much I wanted my own daughter to be taught by loving and dedicated teachers like him. That one conversation changed the trajectory of my life. Never would I imagine after moving back to Glen Head that I would serve so many years with my former teacher on the Board of Education. Rich, please know that I have always been comforted by your presence as we have this shared history together and I greatly thank you for your support and sage advice over the years. I hope you have come to realize that I made a much better trustee than chemistry student!

Although your time on the Board has ended, we know that your relationship with North Shore will continue. On behalf of my fellow trustees, we thank you for everything and wish you the best of luck in your next chapter.

Mr. Galati thanked the Board and the community for their support over the years. He said he has been fortunate to have such a close relationship with the North Shore Schools for over 40 years as a faculty member, a parent, a community member and as a Trustee on the Board of Education. He said serving in so many different roles has given him a unique perspective and as a teacher he has met so many people and had the opportunity to form relationships with many wonderful students that continue today. He has always been proud of what happens at North Shore, it is a place that continues to grow. He said his decision to step down was difficult and bittersweet, but he knows it was the right decision. He thanked the Board for all they do, he said the time and effort they put in is herculean. He thanked the many friends who came out to wish him well, especially former Trustee Marianne Russo who he said helped him during his time on the Board. Finally, he wished the Board all the best in the future.

Student Recognition

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Macari along with Superintendent Dr. Zublionis and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Smyth, recognized Yasna Imran and Fernanda Vela for receiving an Award of Merit in the Young Writers’ Frigate Club Contest and All-County Music Festival participants from all three elementary schools, the middle school and the high school.

Report from the SGO

SGO President Kaitlin Ho reported on events and activities at the high school.

Kaitlin congratulated the following fall student athletes and coaches for an incredible season: Gymnastics-Marco Gianola qualified for States in Pole Vault and Vault; the Varsity Girls Soccer Team advanced to the Nassau County finals; the Varsity Boys Soccer Team reached the Nassau County semifinals; the Varsity Girls Tennis Team competed in the Nassau County finals; the Varsity Volleyball Team emerged as League Champions; two of our coaches were honored as Nassau County Coaches of the Year: Michael Bishop for Varsity Boys Soccer and Danielle Bleiweiss for Varsity Girls Volleyball. Moving into the current winter season: the Cheerleading Team has qualified for Nationals and is preparing for the Nassau County Championship in February; the Girls Basketball Team is currently in 1st place, while the Boys Basketball Team is holding strong in 2nd; the Track teams recently competed at the prestigious NYC Armory Invitational, where they represented North Shore with excellence among over 3,000 athletes. Kaitlin noted that these accomplishments reflect not only the talent and determination of our student-athletes but also the dedication of our coaches and the support of the entire school community.

Kaitlin reported that some classrooms are still equipped with outdated SmartBoards that are over a decade old and are beginning to deteriorate. She said while many have been replaced, completing this upgrade across all classrooms would ensure every student and teacher has access to modern, effective teaching tools. She is working on getting a list of all the classrooms with these older SmartBoards and will keep the Board updated.

Kaitlin reported that the traffic congestion issue during drop-off and pick-up times continues to be a significant frustration for families. She is looking forward to the findings from the AP Capstone project that is exploring this issue and feels we must prioritize implementing practical solutions to improve daily operations.

Finally, she addressed the ongoing issue for student-athletes being able to attend extra help sessions and extracurricular activities until 3:30PM. She reported that while some progress has been made, further efforts are needed to ensure that these students can excel both academically and athletically.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Zublionis noted that in terms of the traffic situation, he is interested in forming a committee to look at the traffic issue and to come up with both a short term and long term solution. Opening the Todd Drive gate has been discussed with Mr. Contreras and Dr. Zublionis at the December SGO meeting which Dr. Zublionis attended. He and Mr. Contreras have spoken about possible solutions that are also mindful of the neighbors.

Dr. Zublionis thanked high school faculty members, Mr. Shea, Mr. Doherty, Mr. Blanchard, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Knight, Mr. Facchini, Ms. Rice, and Ms. Chimeri, who participated in the Parent University on high school programs – AP/IB and dual enrollment, which was held via Zoom and recorded. He said it was very well attended and having the faculty on the call was great.

UPK lottery registration will begin February 3 and will continue through March 3. Dr. Zublionis reported that the UPK grant is in the Governor's initial budget. Parents can contact Ms. Katherine Miller for information.

Dr. Zublionis reported that two meetings are scheduled with a focus on capital projects. The first is on February 3 and will be held virtually. The second will be held on February 12 and will be held in-person in the middle school library. These meetings are designed to get some input from community members on upcoming capital projects.

Dr. Zublionis reported that the Middle School Masquers will be presenting Matilda Jr. on January 31 and February 1 in the High School Theatre. Finally, he reported that both the JV and Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams have games this weekend.

Discussion

The Journey to 2030 - The Financial Strategic Plan for 2027 and Beyond – 8:45 p.m.

Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Pappas gave an overview of the financial challenges and possible opportunities looking forward to 2027 and beyond. Some of the challenges facing the District are the loss of PILOT and Direct Assessment Revenue from LIPA; loss of state aid; unfunded mandates and capital needs. Some possible opportunities for finding savings/additional revenue include keeping a critical eye on operations and staffing; exploring revenue independence; reexamining priorities and practices and opportunities to fine tune with intentionality. It was explained that revenue from all LIPA properties (Direct Assessment and PILOT properties) is \$13.6M, therefore the range of loss of revenue is between \$0-\$13.6M. NY state aid is unknown. Possible new revenue can come from many different sources such as the Engineers Country Club Housing Development; utility developments; tuition; fundraising; legislative grants. They reviewed different scenarios if the LIPA revenue is partially lost or totally lost. New expenses were reviewed, including ELL and special education costs (causing increased faculty and staff and increased cost of contract services); new graduation requirements (NY Inspires-design of new courses, curriculum writing, professional learning, new teaching positions); and infrastructure and capital expenses (some may be completed before major revenue loss). He reviewed enrollment trends, explaining that while enrollment had decreased over the years, it has remained flat over the last 5 years, contrary to the demographic report we currently have. Dr. Zublionis explained that taking into account new expenses, new revenue, and tax revenue, budget cuts will also need to increase. He further explained that cutting alone cannot solve this crisis and taxing alone cannot solve this crisis. Dr. Zublionis noted that North Shore's tax rate is still one of the lowest compared to many of the surrounding area school districts. He and Mr. Pappas shared an action plan framework. They will seek clarity to determine what the amount of the shortfall will be; how we can generate non-tax revenue; how to keep costs down while also innovating for our students; have a worst case scenario ready – what major changes would be necessary with rapid revenue loss over a short period of time (e.g. programs and class sizes, restructuring and use of reserves, transportation and other offerings). Specific steps they will take in 2025 include: seek clarity on development within North Shore; pursue legislative grants and advocacy, they will be going to Albany in February for Lobby Day; finalize a Capital Projects plan; begin future minded budgeting now; set up structures for grant writing and fundraising; and create an annual update to this report including estimates on possible solutions.

The Board discussed the presentation. Questions/comments raised were: Update the enrollment report with a better methodology and a study that looks at the development of properties in the area; prepare a longitudinal study of reserves, how they have been used over the years (five years out); advocate for answers on the LIPA properties going into 2027-28; continue pushing for legislative grants and get information on how a large grant can be used (reserves); continue the trend of 'changes student will notice vs. changes student will feel' and make sure the community is aware of what might be lost; proactively communicate to the community about the budget—the more people understand the more they support our schools; ensure each community group knows how things will impact them-keep it simple; prioritize the student experience; are the health insurance costs accurate; is it possible to get an aerial map of the LIPA properties.

Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Pappas responded to questions. The last demographic study was done by Western Suffolk BOCES – most districts use them. The last study was done in 2018 with an update in 2021; they will look for other options for the Board. There are reserves that a grant can be placed in legally. The Rockefeller Institute did suggest a change to the unrestricted fund balance; however the Governor did not include it in her budget packet. The health insurance figures are estimated for six months, they bill on a calendar year basis, but they have remained flat. Dr.

Zublionis and Mr. Pappas have been trying to identify the LIPA properties by tax parcel and will continue to pursue that.

Comments from the Public

James Versocki, Sea Cliff, thanked the Board for all they do and Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Pappas for the effort they put in every day to educate the future of our country and our community. He said few organizations the size of our district face such difficult scenarios that we are presented with and we should be thankful every day that we have Dr. Z and the team that has been put together. As the Chair of LAC, he appreciates all of the support that Dr. Z and the Board gives. He noted that running a 9 figure operation with unknowns such as how utilities have been treating us is a daunting task. He appreciates having the added support of a lobbyist, the counsel of Ingerman Smith along with the LAC Committee working on solutions. He is looking forward to heading up to Albany at the end of February and asked the Board if there are any questions they have to bring back to LAC. He reported that the Legislative Breakfast earlier today was very good. They will set up meetings with the county legislators that are essential to assessment. They are looking to identify the 31 properties owned by LIPA or National Grid and are still trying to identify each of those properties, what their assessed value is and how they will be taxed. He said as a community we are entitled to know this information. President Macari thanked Mr. Versocki, and all involved, for their efforts in setting up the Legislative Breakfast today. Trustee Mosca added that they are thankful to Mr. Versocki for his leadership of the LAC committee.

Personnel

Prior to voting, Mr. Pappas recognized Mr. John Hall on his retirement from the District. He noted that Mr. Hall will be celebrated at a later date as his retirement is not effective until the summer but recognized his contributions to the District as North Shore has been a part of his life from the time he entered kindergarten until the present time. He praised Mr. Hall for being an all-around great person.

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

Resignation for Retirement Purposes

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes of John Hall, Director of Facilities III, effective July 31, 2025

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 Clifford Sinenberg, Assistant Bus Dispatcher, effective January 15, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes of Alfredo Montero, Custodian, effective February 20, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes of Marjorie A. Marshall, Part-time Bus Driver, effective February 28, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes of Susan Hall, Part-time Bus Driver, effective June 27, 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 Olivia Walsh, School Psychologist from Step 1 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 1 of the PHD salary schedule, effective February 1, 2025

Appointment - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Eric LePetit, World Languages (French), on Step 10 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025

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 Caroline Stevenson, Social Studies, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule, effective January 18, 2025 through June 30, 2025

Appointment - Nurse

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the probationary appointment of Barbara Wesch, School Nurse, on Step 7 of the Registered Nurse salary schedule, effective January 31, 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, Lisa Miller, Teacher, that includes the period January 13, 2025 through April 11, 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 period of twelve (12) weeks that will run concurrently with any available paid leave, for employee, Dalia Rodriguez, Director of Fine and Performing Arts , that includes the period January 13, 2025 through April 11, 2025.

Civil Service Provisional Promotion Appointment/Leave of Absence

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a civil service provisional promotion appointment for Lenore Kornfeld, Senior Typist Clerk, North Shore Middle School, on Step 10 of the Senior Typist Clerk salary schedule, effective January 23, 2025 with a 26 week probationary period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a leave of absence for Lenore Kornfeld, Typist Clerk, for the sole purpose of accepting a provisional promotion appointment, Senior Typist Clerk position, effective January 23, 2025

Teacher Overages

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

Name	Subject	Overage	School	Effective
Kristen Panariello	Math	.3	High School	1/27/25-6/27/25
Brooke Hope	Math	.2	High School	1/27/25-6/27/25
Kathleen Festa	Math	.2	High School	1/27/25-6/27/25
Christine Considine	Math	.2	High School	1/27/25-6/27/25
Madel Soriano	World Languages	.4	High School	2/26/25-3/25/25
Jenny Maldonado	World Languages	.4	High School	2/26/25-3/25/25
Diana Garone	World Languages	.2	High School	2/26/25-3/25/25

Establishment of Hourly Rate for Teacher Aide and Monitor Substitutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the hourly rate for teacher aide substitutes shall be established at Step 1 of the teacher aide pay schedule; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the hourly rate of compensation for substitute monitors shall be established at Step 1 of the monitor pay schedule.

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
Sydney Mick	Teacher Substitute
Zachary Monette	Physical Education Substitute
Sigal Shmulevich	School Monitor Substitute
Kayla Bonasera	Teacher 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 advisor and coaches:

Advisor	Name	Step
<u>High School - Dramatics</u>		
Piano Accompanist/HS Musical	Steven Dahlke	Step 1
Coach		
Intramurals	Ariel Yang	Step 1
Intramurals	Raymond Ryan	Step 1

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo 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 International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 237, L.I. Division, AFL-CIO Paraprofessional 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 December 30, 2024 and signed by the negotiating committees representing the Board and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 237, Long Island Division, AFL-CIO Paraprofessional 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.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 13, 14, 15a-b, and 16

Prior to voting, Trustee Ludmar asked about the agreement with Collaboration Station and whether the special education department knows which provider they will be working with given that the company seems quite large. Dr. Zublionis explained that according to the specific need in the IEP there would be a discussion with the supervisor of the agency to make sure a match is found, which might mean moving individuals around.

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

Appointment of Petty Cash Custodian

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby appoints Danielle Granelli as the petty cash custodian for the Glenwood Landing Elementary School effective January 23, 2025

Approval of Pit Musician for High School Musical

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves Justin Wheeler as a Pit Musician for the high school musical at a rate of \$100/rehearsal and \$150/performance

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Dragonfly Applied Behavior Analysis, P.C.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Agreement between the School District and Dragonfly Applied Behavior Analysis, P.C., to provide behavior intervention services, during the period January 1, 2025 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 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 Collaboration Station, 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 Collaboration Station, Inc. to provide behavior intervention services, during the period January 1, 2025 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 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-9:50 p.m.

President Macari apologized that she did not give Trustees an opportunity to speak during the recognition of Former Trustee Galati. Trustees felt President Macari spoke for all of them and included their sentiments in her remarks.

Trustee Ludmar attended the advanced programs presentation. He said it brought everything to life, was comprehensive, at a high level and gave parents a clear picture of what students are getting into. He said the presentation was very well attended and it was so important to hear from the faculty. He thanked the administration for translating what is discussed at the Board meetings into practice. Trustee Mosca agreed with Trustee Ludmar's assessment of the meeting. She noted that both she and Trustee Ludmar had some concerns about the programs after hearing comments at back-to-school night, but they were all put to rest after the presentation. Dr. Zublionis noted that the presentation was recorded, and he will have it posted to our website for anyone who was not able to attend it live.

Trustee Cashman commented on the traffic congestion and encouraged people to ride the bus as an easy solution to this ongoing problem.

New Business

Trustee Ludmar explained that during the construction steering committee meeting they discussed using unspent bond funds for the long postponed work at the Central Administration building. He requested that the Board have a brief discussion of how leftover bond funds can be used, how we got to this point, and the recommendation for using the funds for the administration work to go forward. Dr. Zublionis responded that after the construction steering committee meeting, he and Mr. Pappas started speaking about a plan, they can discuss it at the February 6 meeting. He added that these projects for the administration building were on the bond list in 2018.

Adjournment

At 10:00 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk