

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 9, 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, Ludmar, and Mosca. Trustee Svendsen 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 Ludmar and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the faculty lounge to consider matters leading to the appointment or employment of a particular person or persons and proposed, pending or current litigation.

At 7:45 p.m. on motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Cashman and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the cafeteria. There were 5 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Macari led the public in the pledge of allegiance along with high school ASL students who signed the pledge.

President Macari explained that on November 21, 2024 Trustee Galati submitted his resignation from the Board of Education. On December 12, 2024 the Board held a public discussion on how best to fill the vacant seat. At that time, they put a call out to the community for anyone interested in filling the seat to reach out to them. On December 17, 2024 the Board held a special meeting in executive session and deliberated for 3 hours and 45 minutes and decided to appoint Dr. Jessica Dillon to the vacant seat.

President Macari gave the following background on Dr. Dillon:

Since 2013, Dr. Jessica Dillon has served as a dedicated member of the North Shore community. As a resident of Glen Head, she resides with her husband and two children, first and fourth graders, who attend Glenwood Landing School. Jessica is an active member of the Legislative Action Committee where she has gained insight into the fiscal issues currently impacting our District and community.

Jessica is joining this Board with 17 years of experience in higher education. She holds a Doctor of Education degree in Instructional Leadership from St. Johns University and has served in various administrative roles at both Nassau Community College and Suffolk Community College. In these roles, she has worked to enhance educational access and support for children and families in the community.

Appointment of Board Member to Fill Vacant Seat

On motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Ludmar, and all in favor, it was: WHEREAS, Due to the resignation of Trustee Richard Galati, effective November 21, 2024, a seat on the North Shore Central School District Board of Education has become vacant; WHEREAS, as per §§1709(17), 1804(1), 2502(6) of the Education Law, school boards may choose to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy until the next regular school district election;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District appoints Jessica Dillon as a member of the North Shore Central School District Board of Education, effective January 9, 2025 through May 20, 2025

Swearing in of New Board Member

Jessica Dillon was sworn in by the District Clerk.

All Trustees welcomed Dr. Dillon to the Board.

Approval of Minutes

The reading of the draft minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2024 and December 17, 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 December 12, 2024 and December 17, 2024 were approved.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 6 & 7

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo 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 November 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024

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 \$100,000 for legal expenses, effective January 9, 2025

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.

Report from the SGO

SGO President, Kaitlin Ho, reported on events and activities at the high school. Kaitlin congratulated the Girls Track Coach Mr. Neal Levy for being named the National Federation of High Schools Coach of the Year. She reported that Eli Wesely Jones and herself have been named Top 300 Regeneron Semi-Finalists; the Cheerleaders have qualified for Nationals and are preparing for the Nassau County Championship in February. She congratulated the Girls' Basketball Team for winning First Place, and the Boys' Basketball Team for their 2nd Place finish. She reported that the track teams recently competed with over 3000 athletes at the Invitational at The Armory. She invited everyone to the Asian Student Alliance Lunar New Year Celebration on February 4th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the HS Cafeteria. There will be performances, traditional food and cultural displays.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Zublionis reported on the impressive winter concert series and thanked Ms. Rodriguez and the music teachers for their hard work and for livestreaming the concerts so everyone could enjoy them. He reported that he and Dr. Smyth, along with Mr. Doherty, will be holding a Parent University on the AP/IB program on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. through Zoom and several faculty members will be available to answer questions. The Middle School Musical "Matilda" will

be presented on January 31 and February 1. The Alumni Survey has yielded over 300 alumni email addresses, and he thanked the Alumni Coordinator, Mr. Schachter for his efforts. They are brainstorming the first alumni event which is coming shortly. The Middle School National History Day was held today, a project for all 8th graders. This year's theme is "Rights and Responsibilities". He was very impressed with the student projects. Dr. Zublionis congratulated Kaitlin Ho and Eli Wesely Jones on being name Regeneron Semi-Finalists; they will be recognized by the Board at a future meeting. Finally, Dr. Zublionis reported that they have received a lot of feedback on the construction improvement survey. They will be planning some in person meetings to get more information on the next phase of capital improvement.

Regular Business

Universal Pre-K (UPK) – 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Seth Gordon, UPK Coordinator, gave a presentation on the North Shore Universal Pre-K Program. The UPK program is based on the NYS UPK grant and began mid-year in the 2022-23 school year. Each year it has expanded, beginning with 54 students and currently there are 124 students enrolled with 2 classes at each elementary school and one class at the YMCA UPK Center. Two outside providers support the program – SCOPE Education Services and the YMCA. The introduction of the UPK program has led to successful transitions to kindergarten and has saved residents over \$2 million collectively. The program runs from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm daily. Lunch, recess and snack time is provided, and students participate in school events. Mr. Gordon explained that to help parents acclimate to school life, an Orientation is scheduled prior to the beginning of school with a "Meet & Greet" to meet the teacher, visit the classroom and deliver school supplies. Parents connect with email, "Remind app" and phone. Parent-teacher conferences are held. Literacy Training for Pre-K teachers includes introduction to Science of Reading and Heggerty teacher guides. There are future plans for coaching, intervisitations to kindergarten classrooms and articulation with kindergarten teachers. Students enjoy group storytelling, literacy and math and playtime, and crafts during their day, as well as recess and free play. Some of the benefits of Pre-K at North Shore include familiarity of school; more students have a common curriculum and starting point for kindergarten; alignment to Science of Reading in Pre-K to provide strong start in literacy; earlier identification of special needs, disabilities and get services sooner; socialize with other North Shore students and make friends for life. Some challenges and needs include outside vendors and community pressure; need for outdoor play equipment; program based on grant; multiple providers. Possible next steps include purchasing additional outdoor play equipment; survey parents; additional professional learning of UPK teachers; single provider; coordination of assessment data. Finally, they discussed what possible data to examine.

The Board discussed the presentation. Questions raised/comments include: how much outdoor play do children get on a daily basis; what are the children using to build their core strength if they do not have playground equipment; are they getting enough free play; is the estimate of \$25,000 needed for playground equipment for one school or all schools; is there an alternative to assigning schools by lottery; the District is dependent on the grant from NYS, however it seems the District is providing additional services outside of the grant; how is the curriculum incorporated into the day – how do you allocate the composition of the day; how much influence does North Shore have on the curriculum; do the children receive the benefits of SWES; there is much uncertainty from year to year with the program being dependent on the state, what is the sense for the future; there is a shortage of Pre-K programs for kids with special needs, would there be a revenue generation possibility through a special needs program we may create.

Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Gordon addressed the questions. Children receive at least 30 minutes of outdoor recess every day and there are outdoor toys for fine motor skills. In addition, they receive time in the gymnasium for free play when it is not being used where they can do other activities. There is not a lot of “seat time”. Children do not realize they are having literacy time, they are enjoying puzzles or playing a board game, there are many choices for them. To purchase outdoor playground equipment for each school the cost would be approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 per school. They are searching for grant opportunities for that. Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Gordon are discussing alternate options for selecting school choice. Currently, the additional services being provided to UPK students and teachers are within our budget. NYSSBA is lobbying to allow districts the flexibility in using the funds, not used directly for tuition, which would be helpful. Currently, the grant can only be used for seats and not for things such as outdoor equipment or professional development. New York State sets the curriculum. The Pre-K providers each have different programs which they share and are flexibly designed. The kindergarten teachers have expressed that simple things like having the children learn to “line up” or where to go if they are sick are things they now do not have to spend time on and they have more time engaging with students. Pre-K students do not get SWES but the influence of the North Shore curriculum has grown more each year and having one provider (YMCA) will make it easier. There is a good sense the grant will run next year (2025-2026). The fear is eventually the state will decide now that schools have this program, they should fund it. We are going into our 4th year, and the state has not raised the per pupil funding of \$5,400/year. This is the same amount every school district in New York State receives, whether up-state or on Long Island. They have not discussed a tuition paying Pre-K program for special needs students. The biggest problem is finding enough space.

Comments from the Public—9:25 p.m.

There was no public present at this point of the meeting.

Prior to voting, Trustee Mosca asked for an overview of the Hofstra intern program. Dr. Zublionis explained that during the first part of the school year, the interns act as student teachers. During the second part of the year they receive a small stipend and are used as substitute teachers and teaching assistants. They receive valuable in-classroom experience and in years past, we have hired a few of the interns because we have been able to observe them in our classrooms over a period of time.

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

Personnel

Granting of Tenure - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby grants tenure to Monica Leitao, Teaching Assistant, effective January 12, 2025

Modification of Probationary Period - Certified

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That in accordance with Education Law 3012, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District approves the modification of the probationary period of the following teacher:

Jillian McKenna, ENL, appointed July 26, 2024

Probationary Period: September 1, 2024 through September 1, 2027

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Emily Whelan, Social Studies, effective January 21, 2025 through June 30, 2025

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 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, Luis Torre, Teacher Aide, that includes the period December 9, 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 period of twelve (12) weeks that will run concurrently with any available paid leave, for employee, Nathalie Woods, Teacher Assistant, that includes the period December 16, 2024 through March 28, 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, Stacy Miranda, Teacher, that includes the period December 19, 2024 through April 4, 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, Nicole Larkin, Teacher, that includes the period January 2, 2025 through April 4, 2025.

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment of Colin Dunn, Social Studies, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 8, 2025 through February 27, 2025

Amendment to Appointment - Nurse

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby amends the December 12, 2024 appointment of Kathleen Fitzmaurice-Keane, School Nurse, as follows:

Kathleen Fitzmaurice-Keane is hereby appointed through February 14, 2025

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Nurse

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a part-time (.6) regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Paige Barwick, School Nurse, on Step 1 of the Registered School Nurse salary schedule, effective December 18, 2024 through February 14, 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 from Cecilia Pachon, Part-time Cleaner, effective January 15, 2025

Appointments - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Heather Arena, Part-time Bus Driver (Class C), effective January 2, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Hugo Perez, Part-time Cleaner at North Shore High School, effective January 2, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Maria Coronato, Food Service Helper at Sea Cliff Elementary School, effective January 2, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of John Mendes, Part-time Cleaner at Sea Cliff Elementary School, effective January 10, 2025

Appointment of Hofstra Interns

BE IT RESOLVED, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby appoints Taylor Baumann, Intern from Hofstra University, effective February 3, 2025 through May 31, 2025, as per the terms and conditions of a Memorandum of Understanding between the School District and Hofstra University.

BE IT RESOLVED, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby appoints Gerlande Reveil, Intern from Hofstra University, effective February 3, 2025 through May 31, 2025, as per the terms and conditions of a Memorandum of Understanding between the School District and Hofstra University.

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
Mariah Musto	Teacher Substitute*
Nicole Hugelmeyer	Teacher Substitute**
John Alexander	Teacher Substitute
Kalek Emile	Cleaner P/T Substitute
Alexandra Farinaccio	Teacher Aide Substitute
Arjeta Saljaj Gjenashi	Teacher Substitute
Bibi Kahn	School Monitor P/T Sub
Lea Kleinman	Teacher Aide Substitute
Alexander Lynn	Teacher Substitute
Rasa Mokhoff	Teacher Aide Substitute
Meredith Papiro	Teacher Aide Substitute
Mia Perciballi	Teacher Aide Substitute
Jose Yanes	Cleaner P/T Substitute
Joseph Ackerman	Cleaner P/T Substitute

*effective 12/18/2024

**effective 1/2/2025

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:

Hailey Heller	Co-Curricular Intramurals (MS)	Step 1
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On motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Cashman and all in favor, it was:

Adoption of Policy 1511

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby adopts policy #1511 (Advertising in the Schools), as discussed at their meeting of December 12, 2024 and January 9, 2025, effective January 9, 2025

Prior to voting, Dr. Zublionis explained that at prior meetings the Board had discussed this issue. Dr. Zublionis noted we do collaborate with other districts and believe in local control. He further explained that all districts are opting out of the plan because of the unknown. Dr. Zublionis also explained that due to the unique financial situation that our District is going through at this time, this was the right decision.

Trustee Cashman noted there is a link on our website where the community can get information, and all of the communication on this issue.

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

Approval of a Resolution to Opt-out of Participation in the Regionalization Planning Process and Regionalization Plan

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Education notified boards of education on November 26, 2024 of their option to elect not to participate in the regionalization planning process by submitting written notification by January 15, 2025 to the State Education Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District elects not to participate in the regionalization planning process or a regionalization plan and directs the Superintendent of Schools to submit a written notification to the State Education Department by January 15, 2025 of the Board of Education's election not to participate in the regionalization planning process and not to participate in a regionalization plan

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

Prior to voting, Trustee Cashman expressed her gratitude for the new Chromebook cases and said they are a great investment in protecting the longevity of our technology.

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

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

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

Quantity	Description	School
28	Chromebooks	Middle School
42	Chromebooks	High School
5	Computers	High School

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Julia Houk

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the agreement between the School District and Julia Houk, to provide two days of professional development on vocabulary development as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement, effective January 14, 2025 through February 24, 2025; 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 Amendment to the Agreement Between the North Shore CSD and Kimya Sakhai-Kreinik

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Amendment to the Agreement between the School District and Dr. Kimya Sakhai-Kreinik, to provide educational evaluations during the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached amended agreement; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Prior to voting, Dr. Zublionis thanked Assemblymember Charles Lavine for sponsoring this grant. On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, it was:

Approval of a Resolution regarding a DASNY Grant Disbursement Agreement

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District accepts a grant administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (“DASNY”) in the amount of \$150,000, awarded to the District under the State and Municipal Facilities Program, to be used towards the Renovation of the High School Press Box previously authorized by the Board ("Project"); and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the execution of the Grant Disbursement Agreement (“GDA”) between the District and DASNY in connection with said grant; authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute said GDA on behalf of the District; and ratifies and confirms any and all actions heretofore taken by said District officials in furtherance of said GDA and Project.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 19 & 20

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

Approval an Agreement between the North Shore Central School District and Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Agreement with the Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD to provide individualized instruction to resident students in accordance with the IEP at the tuition rate set by the New York State Commissioner of Education, effective July 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.

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)

Board Committee Reports

Trustee Ludmar reported on the Construction Steering Committee. There were no updates, the committee discussed the Buildings and Grounds Improvement Survey.

Trustee Mosca reported on the Community Budget Forum and Revenue Generation Committee Meetings. She encouraged members of the community to attend these meetings where Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Pappas give in depth presentations explaining the District's financial operations and how decisions are made. She said the Revenue Generation Committee has been full of exploratory ideas. Trustee Ludmar added over the last two years the Revenue Generation Committee has produced high level ideas and the openness with the community has been great.

Trustee Mosca reported that the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) has not met. She thanked Dr. Zublionis for his vision statement for LAC which includes direction and a plan of events.

Trustee Colacioppo reported on the Wellness Committee. The focus at their meeting was on nutrition. Mr. Alan Levin reported to them on his trip to Syracuse where he attended a Farm to School Summit. He is researching a grant for a "grow tower" for Sea Cliff, he is trying to expand seafood options and is always adding new things to the menu. President Macari added the high school café is now staying open later as a result of their discussion.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business-9:38 p.m.

Trustee Mosca asked that the Regionalization link be kept open and updated with changes coming from the state, even though we are opting out.

Trustee Ludmar commended Dr. Zublionis on the document included in his backup of his vision for the North Shore Journey and the North Shore Learner. He said it is reflective of the type of education this community wants, and where we want to go. He hopes there will be a presentation on it this year and he looks forward to that.

Dr. Zublionis said this will be included in the end of year report, along with feedback from the Tri-State visit.

Trustee Cashman commended the work done for our ELL students. Dr. Smyth thanked Ms. Aguiar for all the work she did on the report. She was sorry she was unable to come and present it to the Board in person.

President Macari noted that across Long Island 100% of our students demonstrated proficiency on the NYS ELA Regents.

Adjournment

At 9:45 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk