

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
February 26, 2026

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, Hanley, 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 Hanley and seconded by Trustee Colacioppo and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the library 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 Dillon and seconded by Trustee Svendsen and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the cafeteria. There were 2 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 February 12, 2026 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 February 12, 2026 were approved.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 4 & 5  
On motion of Trustee Cashman and seconded by Trustee Mosca and all in favor, it was:

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Treasurer's Report for the period December 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

**Approval of Budget Transfer**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves budget transfers in the amount of \$29,000 to cover the cost of transportation repair

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Zublionis reported that the Ex-Officio Student Board Members will not be in attendance tonight as they will be attending Sports Night. He reported that the Music tour of Central Europe was a great success and thanked Mr. Domingo and all of the teachers who went on the trip. He said the kids had a life changing time and this is just another example of "What Makes Us, Us." As reported, Sports Night is tonight and he wished all of the students a great night. Dr. Zublionis reported that he received a beautiful photograph of the high school field covered in snow from the recent snowstorm, which he plans to post, but spring sports start in a week. The High School Masquers will present "The Drowsy Chaperone" on March 13 and 14. Dr. Zublionis will be sending

out an announcement with implications from the snowstorm on the school calendar. Currently, it looks as though school will be in session on the Friday before Memorial Day (May 22, 2026), we should not lose another day unless another snow day is needed. The District will apply for a waiver for the Monday that school was closed, as there was a state of emergency declared for that day.

### **2026-2027 Budget Presentation**

Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Pappas presented the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget. They reviewed the effects of the LIPA settlement, budget pressures and district efforts to mitigate those pressures, overall cuts that have been made over the last two budget cycles (23/24 and 24/25), and highlights of what has been accomplished over the last several years, both financial and strategic as well as in the areas of academic, arts and for the community. Dr. Zublionis reviewed the mission that drives the budget process; What Makes Us, Us: The North Shore Journey/Learner and SVOs. He explained the budget development process, beginning with a zero based proposal based on alignment to the SVOs and North Shore Learner/Journey and tied to prior year's plans showing student progression; considering staffing and course offerings; and writing narratives to support the budget. Mr. Pappas reviewed the tax class share between 2025 v 2026, the adjusted base proportion over time, district enrollment trends, and the major budget drivers for 2026-2027. He reviewed the budget increases over the last 10 years which indicate an average budget-to-budget increase of 2.67%. Estimated revenue was also reviewed. This year, North Shore's maximum levy is actually 2.388%, however, the proposed tax levy increase is 2.382% which is under the tax cap limit by \$5,568.05. The total proposed budget-budget increase is \$3,761,053.27 or a 2.994% increase. The tax cap was explained and reviewed as well as the tax levy and the difference between the two. Dr. Zublionis explained that although the school district determines the tax levy, this alone does not determine a household's tax bill. Dr. Zublionis gave examples of how each household's tax bill can fluctuate depending on the assessed value determined by Nassau County. Finally, he reviewed the key enhancements in the budget, what would be lost if the budget fails, and dates for budget information meetings.

The Board discussed the presentation and the following sections of the budget: Superintendent's Overview, Enrollment, Fund Balance, Revenue Projections, Tax Levy. Trustees thanked Dr. Zublionis and Mr. Pappas for a complete and detailed presentation. It was noted that by looking at the historical data, it is evident that by not going to the tax cap over several years, we are sharing the burden with the community. Enrollment projections from our last demographic report were discussed. The projection from a year ago was 2506 while we are at 2592 and the new demographic report shows enrollment will keep growing. A question was raised regarding class sizes for grade 5 at GH; Dr. Zublionis will speak with Mr. Sheehan on that. A question was raised regarding the consequences for using reserves, or not, for offsetting the tax levy. Mr. Pappas explained that with the loss of the bullet grants and exhausting the LIPA settlement funds, a little more of the reserves are being proposed than in previous years. However, those reserves have been replenished, and the hope is to do the same going forward. It was also noted that it is important to have healthy reserves, and due to our healthy reserves, we were able to preserve our program during the pandemic. In addition, if our reserves are too low, it will affect our Moody's rating when we go out to borrow. Mr. Pappas explained the difference between a restricted reserve; a reserve having specific parameters and therefore can only be used for a specific reason, and an unrestricted reserve, one that can be used at the Board's discretion. The unrestricted reserve has a much lower balance and is capped at a percentage set by the state. Reserves are limited to what they are set up for, not unlimited cash on hand. It was noted that health insurance is going up significantly. Mr. Pappas explained that the district is part of a large group of other districts, and other municipalities, that belong to NYSHIP. Budgeting is projected because we are billed on a

calendar year basis (January-December) and therefore actual costs are for only half of the year. LIPA Pilot payments were also discussed.

President Macari thanked the administration for presenting the Board with the budget and a strong narrative that guides the community and the voter. She noted that each year this has made them more transparent.

**Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 9, 10 and 11  
Prior to voting, the Board thanked the Women’s Club for their generous donation.  
On motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Cashman and all in favor, it was:

Personnel

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, Meredith Cherry, Psychologist, that includes the period March 5, 2026 through June 5, 2026

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 Ruth Peets-Butcher, Elementary, on Step 4 of the MA salary schedule, effective March 2, 2026 through March 31, 2026

Resignation - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Victoria Dilgard, Part-time School Monitor, effective February 4, 2026

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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Substitute Type</b>
Andre Bryant	Cleaner Substitute
Jillian Darne	Teacher Aide/Teacher Substitute
Mitchell Weinz	Cleaner 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:

Co-Curricular Intramurals - Step 1

Thomas Pfingst  
Stacy Hosemann  
Veronica Otero

Approval of Pit Musicians for High School Musical

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following pit musicians for the high school musical "The Drowsy Chaperone" at a rate of \$100/rehearsal and \$150/performance:

<b>Pit Musicians:</b>
Sophie Brandimarte
Abbie Yaeger

Acceptance of Donation from the North Shore Women's Club to the North Shore High School

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts a donation of \$358 from the North Shore Women's Club to be used for optional AP exam fees for students in need

Prior to voting, Trustee Cashman thanked Dr. Zublionis for his efforts in implementing all of the committee's and Board's suggestions into the policy. She noted that they had ended up in a very good place.

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

Adoption of Policy #5152-Residency and School Zoning Accommodations (formerly Non-Resident Students)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby adopts policy #5152-Residency and School Zoning Accommodations (formerly Non-Resident Students) discussed at their meeting of January 15, 2026 and February 26, 2026, effective February 26, 2026

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

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and Stony Brook University

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Affiliation Agreement between the School District and Stony Brook University to provide a student teaching program; and

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

Approval of MOA between the North Shore CSD and the Nassau County Board of Elections

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 Nassau County Board of Elections to provide optical scan voting system and Automark ballot marking device to the School District, in connection with the May 19, 2026 Budget Vote and Election of Trustees, 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.

Prior to voting, Trustee Mosca asked what the cost is for each district. Mr. Pappas explained that Port Washington has hired the bus for the competition and North Shore will pay only for the number of seats used (students/chaperones) that attend the competition.

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and Port Washington UFSD

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Agreement between the School District and the Port Washington Union Free School District to share transportation services to and from the DECA competition, during the period March 4-6, 2026, 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.

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

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and Woods Services, 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 Woods Services, Inc. to provide instruction and related services to students from the School District during the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year as set forth in each individual student's IEP effective March 4, 2026 through June 30, 2026, subject to final review and approval of its terms by counsel; 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

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

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**

Trustee Colacioppo addressed a public comment from the previous meeting regarding the new grading policy in the middle school. She is raising it as a concern because the new policy of adding the grades from some language courses to the high school GPA was decided mid-year. Dr. Zublionis explained that this mostly impacts the rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders and is something the state does permit for language sequences. He further explained that the majority of students have their GPA increased when these grades are included. He also explained that most high schools in the area have similar policies. Dr. Zublionis explained that the credit received from these courses is high school credit which is why the grades are included in the GPA. He does understand the concern and realizes this information should have been communicated to the Board. He will provide information and the letter that was sent home to parents to the Board in his next update.

The Board had a brief discussion. Trustee Mosca noted that grading is different between middle and high school with the middle school using letter grades and the high school using number grades. President Macari wondered if the decision can be rolled back as the change was made after parents and students made decisions on classes. She expressed concern that this will put added pressure on 12 and 13 year old kids. She also asked if the bump in the GPA is significant enough to make a difference and whether the curve is shifting for everyone or making a greater gap from the top to the bottom. Trustee Cashman asked for some meaningful data to inform the conversation and to help understand how this decision was reached. She also suggested a "do not

harm” safety net if possible. Trustee Svendsen also expressed concern about making the decision in the middle of the year.

**Adjournment**

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

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk