

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 29, 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, Dillon, Hanley, and Mosca. Trustees Colacioppo and Svendsen were 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 Mosca and seconded by Trustee Cashman 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 collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 7:45 p.m. on motion of Trustee Dillon and seconded by Trustee Hanley and all in favor, the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the cafeteria. There were approximately 60 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Macari led the public in the pledge of allegiance. ASL students signed the pledge.

Approval of Minutes

The reading of the draft minutes of the meeting of January 15, 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 January 15, 2026 were approved.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 4 and 5
Prior to voting Trustee Hanley commended Mr. Pappas for putting more funds into the money market account where the district earned more in interest.

On motion of Trustee Mosca and seconded by Trustee Cashman 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 November 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025

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 \$103,000 for ABA Provider, \$95,000 for speech therapy pathologist, and \$17,600 for insurance coverage for underground storage tanks for a total of \$215,600

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Zublionis reported that many students would be recognized this evening for their selection to the All-County Music Festival. The Middle School Masquers will be presenting *Beetlejuice* tomorrow evening and Saturday in the high school theatre. Funds from New York State for UPK have been secured again and registration for the UPK lottery will begin on February 6 and

continue through March 6 with the actual lottery taking place on March 13. The Girls Varsity Basketball Team will honor local veterans at a home game with a ceremony before the game. Dr. Zublionis reminded the public that the capital projects Bond and Capital Reserve Vote is scheduled for February 10. He said the projects are very important for our students today and for future students. There are 2 propositions on the ballot; the first for a bond to borrow funds to fund large space air conditioning replacement of the high school ceiling in the auditorium, upgrades to the Glen Head School gathering room, reconstruction of music classrooms, athletic and recreation improvements to the high school softball & baseball infields, backstops & dugouts, high school and middle school drainage and field leveling, new fencing replacement of bleachers (which are so old replacement bolts are no longer available) and new walkways and pathway lighting. The capital reserve proposition will replace the track and add stadium lighting using existing funds. Dr. Zublionis explained holding a bond vote now makes the most sense so work can be done over the summer. Polls are open from 7:00 am until 10:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium and he and President Macari encouraged all to come out and vote.

Report from the Ex-Officio Student Board Members

Ex-Officio Student Board Member Luna Espinosa De Rozas reported on events, activities, issues and concerns at the high school. Student member Genevieve Hudin was absent from the meeting. Ms. Espinosa De Rozas reported that the senior play last weekend was a great success and the senior class thanked Glenwood Landing for use of their theatre. She reported that the Lunar New Year celebration will be held on February 10. The Middle School Masquers will present *Beetlejuice* tomorrow night, and the High School Masquers will attend to support the younger masquers.

President Macari explained to the public that Ms. Espinosa De Rozas is a great new addition to the Board based upon a mandate from the Governor. She further explained that Ms. Espinosa De Rozas will stay for the duration of the meeting and give comments to the Board from the students' perspective regarding their discussion item.

Recognition of Students

On behalf of the Board, President Macari, Dr. Zublionis, Dr. Smyth, building principals and music teachers recognized students who were selected to the All-County Music Festival.

Discussion - Responsible Technology Use That Preserves Student Wellness – 8:20 p.m.

Dr. Smyth, elementary principals Ms. Megan McCormack, Ms. Bridget Finder and Mr. Tom Sheehan, Director of Counseling Mr. Dan Doherty, Director of Technology Mr. Elliot Kaye and Dr. Zublionis gave a presentation on responsible technology use that preserves student wellness in the elementary grades. The presentation summarized North Shore's K-5 approach to responsible technology use as a learning-centered, developmentally responsive, and wellness-informed model. The presentation framed technology as a support for instructional goals rather than a driver of instruction and explained that research indicates that impact is influenced less by total screen time and more by purpose, context, timing, design features, and adult mediation. Across student, teacher, and administrator perspectives, it was clear that technology works best when it is purposeful, balanced, and guided. Students in grades 4-5 describe technology as helpful for writing, research, and engagement, especially when paired with teacher instruction, collaboration, and screen breaks; they also recognize distractions, technical barriers, and the need for clear rules, including careful adult guidance around AI. Educators describe a clear developmental progression: primarily teacher-directed shared tools in K-1; short, structured Chromebook use in grades 2-3; and more integrated but still variable use in grades 4-5 for research, writing, differentiation, and

assessment readiness, with ongoing attention to logistics and self-regulation. The presentation also outlined district safeguards for safety, privacy, and filtering, and emphasized wellness and parent partnership through aligned K–5 instruction in digital citizenship and mental health, plus family education efforts. Recommendations reinforced developmentally appropriate boundaries, “purpose over presence” decision-making, inclusive accessibility supports, sustained professional learning, and continued collaboration with families to keep student well-being at the center.

The Board discussed the report. All Trustees thanked the administrators for the comprehensive and informative presentation. Some questions/comments raised were: how the Board can continue to support the work already being done; whether every K-5 student has a Chromebook; they welcomed the custodial app (custodial restrictions); it was noted that parents have a lot of stress about the changes in technology, addiction and mental health; support for parent partnership was encouraged; whether commercials are blocked when using YouTube; is technology used in the pre-k program; how often kids get counseling; what standards are required as it relates to students using AI and/or surrounding inappropriate activities.

Administrators addressed some of the questions. Every student K-5 is assigned a Chromebook, however only students in grades 3-5 take them home. Counselors rotate between all three buildings; 10 lessons in grades 3-5 and 6 lessons in K-2. AI integrates with all of the platforms used and if a student uses something inappropriate it does get flagged. Teachers are able to get ad-free YouTube videos, however because they are educational in nature, there are no inappropriate ads.

On behalf of the Board President Macari thanked all of the administrators for the work that went into the presentation and their efforts every day to stay ahead of the ever changing technology and keeping our students’ well-being at the forefront of everything they do.

Comments from the Public – 9:55 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

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

Personnel

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 Rachel Samlin Guidance Counselor, from Step 1 of the MA salary schedule to Step 1 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2026

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, Danielle Oppido, Teacher, that includes the period February 23, 2026 through May 22, 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 January 31, 2026 through February 27, 2026

Teacher Overages

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

Name	Overage	School	Effective
Neal Levy	.2	High School	1/26/26-6/26/26
Marnie Schleifman-Zidel	.15	Sea Cliff School	1/26/26-6/26/26

Rescind Appointment - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby rescinds the January 15, 2026 appointment of Marianthi Bletsas

Provisional Appointments - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the provisional appointment of Michele Anzalone, Typist Clerk, North Shore High School, on Step 9 of the Typist Clerk salary schedule (10 month), effective February 2, 2026 with a 26-week probation period

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the provisional appointment of Emely Mazarakis, Typist Clerk, North Shore High School, on Step 6 of the Typist Clerk salary schedule (10 month), effective February 2, 2026 with a 26-week probation period

Part-time Appointments - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Melissa Geraci, Part-time Teacher Aide at Glen Head Elementary School, effective January 30, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Ashley Hu, Part-time School Monitor at Sea Cliff Elementary School, effective January 30, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Louis Franchino, Part-time Bus Driver, effective February 2, 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:

Name	Substitute Type
Deborah Schettino	Teacher Aide/Monitor Substitute
Maureen Worth	Teacher Aide/Monitor Substitute
Casey Neilly	Part-time Cleaner Substitute
Charles Strecker	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 advisors:

Sport	Advisor	Step
<i>Middle School</i>		
Boys & Girls Bowling	Gabriella Stein	1

Advisor	Name	Step
<i>High School-Dramatics</i>		
Piano Accompanist/HS Musical	Steven Dahlke	1

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

Approval of a Resolution Pursuant to Education Law Section 913

WHEREAS in order to safeguard the health and welfare of the children at the North Shore Central School District, the Superintendent of Schools has called the Board of Education’s attention to issues which have called into question the capacity of an Employee to perform the essential functions of his/her duties; and

WHEREAS the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education agree that it is desirable to assess such employee’s physical and/or mental condition insofar as such condition may bear on his/her fitness for duty; now, therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Employee is hereby required to undergo a full medical examination of his/her physical and/or mental condition pursuant to Section 913 of the New York State Education Law before a doctor to be scheduled by the District, at a time and place to be arranged by the Superintendent or his designee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such employee shall be notified of this resolution and of his/her rights and obligations in connection herewith; and be it further

RESOLVED that the findings upon such examination shall be referred to the Board of Education for such additional action as may be appropriate.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 13 & 14

Prior to voting, Trustee Cashman noted that the quality of community education classes is very interesting, and she hopes the community takes advantage of them. She also questioned whether it would be better for the information to go out digitally as she observed many of the flyers in the recycle bin at the post office. Dr. Zublionis explained that they had scaled back from a large brochure to a one page flyer just announcing sign-ups. He will investigate options for next fall.

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

Approval of Spring 2026 Community Education Instructors

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following Spring 2026 Community Education Instructors:

Course	Instructor
Northwinds Symphonic Band	Helen Bauer
North Shore Community Chorus	Stephen Goldstein
Yoga	JamieLee (Iolani) Rizzo
Tai Chi	Theo Kyrkostas
Residential Landscape Design	Steve Dougherty
Watercolor Painting	Charles Van Horn
Pastel Drawing	Leonard Antinori
Ceramics	Marc Isaacs
Advanced Volleyball	Kenny Liu & Angie Lam
Basketball	Sacha Jean-Louis & Luke McAuliffe
Beginner/Intermediate Tennis	J. Jerome Vivona
Intermediate/Advanced Pickleball	J. Jerome Vivona

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 23, 2026 through May 6, 2026; 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 Central School District and Skyline Cruises

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Agreement between the School District and Skyline Cruises to provide a day trip for 8th grade students on May 29, 2026, 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

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

Approval of an Agreement between the North Shore CSD and Speak2Me Speech Pathologist

BE IT RESOLVED. That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Agreement between the School District and Speak2Me Speech Therapy Pathologist, to provide Speech Language Therapy Services, as set forth in the attached agreement effective January 15, 2026 through June 30, 2026; and

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

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

Trustee Hanley reported that during a policy committee meeting they spoke about the possibility of creating fillable PDF forms in the policy manual. He also asked for a link on each school calendar to include Day A & B or 1-6 schedules to assist parents in knowing what “day” it is. President Macari added this information is on Infinite Campus. Trustee Cashman noted that there are different portals for each school and different platforms throughout the district. She wondered if the Board would be interested in investing in an analysis to determine if there is an opportunity to streamline the use of all of the electronic tools more effectively.

President Macari reminded all that there is a vote on February 10 and encouraged all to come out and vote.

Adjournment

At 10:01 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk