

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

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Macari at 6:00 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 6:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Dillon and seconded by Trustee Cashman and all in favor, the Board convened an executive session in the library to consider matters leading to the employment or appointment of a particular person or persons, and proposed, pending or current litigation.

At 8:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Svendsen 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 75 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 March 12, 2026, 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 March 12, 2026 were approved.

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 4 and 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 February 1, 2026 through February 28, 2026

**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 \$24,836.53 to cover the cost of a transportation repair

**Student Recognition**

On behalf of the Board, President Macari, Dr. Zublionis, and Dr. Smyth recognized the following students: Sea Cliff Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind Team, joined by Principal Megan McCormack; 2026 NYS 4x800 Relay Championship, Tula Belle Gumm, Joanna Kenney, Chloe Connolly and Sloane Bonvincino, joined by Coach Neal Levy; Fine and Performing Arts Awards: All-County Art Festival, "Go APE" Advanced Placement Art Exhibit Awards-Award of Excellence Claire Gochna; NYS Band Directors Assn. Symposium, and LI String Festival, joined by Director of Fine and Perform Arts Dalia Rodriguez; Secondary ELA Awards: Scholastic Writing Awards, Vocabulary Bowl, and The Young Writers Stranger Sagas Contest joined by Director of ELA, Library and Literacy Julie Ritter.

### **Report of 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. Ms. Genevieve Hudin was not in attendance.

Ms. De Rozas reported that the District Choral Festival was held yesterday and all choir students from the middle school, and some elementary school 5th graders, visited the high school to make some beautiful music. The event continues to be fun for all involved and keeps students engaged with the choral program as they transition between schools in the District.

A repeated concern that the student members are still getting in their concerns form are issues with traffic, WI-FI and certain websites being blocked, such as YouTube. Traffic concerns occur both in the morning and after school with a large number of the student body expressing concern about being late for school in the morning because of traffic. Regarding Wi-Fi, the issue is the time it takes for personal devices to connect to the Wi-Fi once a laptop is open. Also, students are still expressing that being able to use YouTube in classrooms would be very beneficial for learning.

Culture night is next Tuesday, March 31st. The World Language Department Honor Society and students are getting ready and are excited to be celebrating cultures around the world through crafts, food, performances, and learning experiences.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Zublionis reported that Middle School sports begin on Monday and JV and Varsity games have already begun. Snow on the fields has proved that the bond projects were sorely needed and they are getting vendors in to deal with the damage left to the fields. Currently they are working on installing electricity, the press box has already been installed, the track has been repaired, and the summer work will begin on phase one projects.

Dr. Zublionis reported that the National Arts Honor Society will hold their induction ceremony on April 14. He reported that students who advanced to Long Island History Day performed exceptionally well this past weekend. Several students earned awards, and some will now move on to the New York State History Day competition at SUNY Oneonta. 3 projects moving to the State competition for the first time in our history of competing are: Matthew Marulli placed in the top two documentaries; Frank Healy and Alexander Malcomson were recognized among the top exhibits; and Eliana Ecker, Noelle Doorman, Lulu Wienberger, Chrissy Leach, and Jill Accetta placed in the top two performances. Also recognized: Shaan Modi who placed in the top three for historical research papers on Long Island (unfortunately, this year only the top 2 advanced to states) and Boris Ilyabayev who won the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Award and received a \$250 prize.

Next Dr. Zublionis reported on the success of North Shore's DECA Club. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is a global non-profit organization that prepares high school and college students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. It enhances classroom learning through competitive events, leadership conferences, and business partnerships to develop entrepreneurs and leaders. North Shore had 35 students compete in the Regional Conference this past December 13th at Plainview Old Bethpage High School. Out of the 35 participants at North Shore, 2 students were selected to move onto the State Championships in Rochester, NY; Jonathan Versocki - Personal Finance and Sofia Tulumello- Principles of Entrepreneurship. These students were selected in Rochester to advance to The 2026 DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from April 25-28, 2026.

Dr. Zublionis noted that all students will be recognized at a future meeting.

### **Budget Review-8:35 p.m.**

The Board reviewed the following sections of the budget: Staffing; Commercial Insurance; Employee Benefits; Debt Service; and Revenue and Financing Sources. It was noted that staffing is neutral this year, no new teachers have been added and there are no cuts to staffing. The rising cost of health insurance was discussed. The District is in a plan with almost every other district, however Dr. Zublionis will continue to work with organization and lobbyist groups to advocate for assistance in this area. It was noted that the purchase of the bus lift was moved to capital projects due to the nature of the item. This new lift will cover electric buses once the mandate is in place and the district begins replacing diesel buses with electric buses. In addition, to receive building aid, the expenditure must come from the capital projects line in the budget and not the transportation equipment line. Mr. Pappas explained where our revenue comes from. It was noted that the narrative explains how the district has handled the LIPA issue; while our tax levy has increased steadily over the last decade at the same time the percentage of the budget that the tax levy makes up has decreased leaving the district to find additional sources of revenue so as not to burden the taxpayer or make drastic cuts to program. Dr. Zublionis noted they are always thinking of how to find other sources of revenue. It was also explained that a portion of fund balance is returned to the taxpayer each year.

### **Discussion - Elementary Literacy Year 1**

Dr. Smyth and Ms. Julie Ritter, Director of K-12 English Language Arts, Library and Literacy, presented an update on the elementary literacy journey. They reviewed the reason for revisiting the approach to elementary literacy, the background of the Science of Reading, the multi-year elementary literacy initiative, curriculum implementation vision and recommendation to adopt the CKLA and HMH programs in grades K-3 and 4/5. Next, they reviewed the feedback and formative information which came from DIBELS 8 data which gave both strengths and areas of focus. In kindergarten this indicated decoding as a strength and letter names and word reading fluency as areas of focus. In grade 1 phonemic awareness was indicated as an area of strength and reading accuracy as an area of focus. They also solicited feedback from teachers who noted the structured lessons of both programs are helping students build stronger foundational reading skills. Next steps include for 26/27 moving CKLA down to Pre-K, and for Grade 2, HMH for grades 4&5. Grade 3 will continue with their current program and for 27/28 CKLA will begin.

The Board discussed the report. Trustees thanked Dr. Smyth and Ms. Ritter for the comprehensive and informative presentation. Some questions and comments included how the 28% of students who scored below benchmark compared to previous years; have the new programs changed how AIS services are identified in K-8; will there be a bigger gap between general ed and special ed kids; is there an intervention program – are we using programs such as Wilson or Linda Mood Bell with these programs; what is the thought behind moving CKLA into Pre-K. Ms. Ritter and Dr. Smyth explained the program has only been in place for 6 months so it is premature to compare data, but they will definitely dig into it. This program focuses on word recognition; the intervention block has made a big difference and is designed to close the gap between general ed and special ed students. CKLA does not have an intervention program, and they do still use Wilson and Orton Gillingham. Students enter kindergarten at different reading levels, providing CKLA in Pre-K as a unifying program would give students a leg up and may close the gap for those kids that might need intervention in kindergarten.

**Comments from the Public-9:43 p.m.**

Jeanette Mercedes Kennedy, Glen Head read a statement to the Board regarding a teacher who is not returning to the District next year.

Prior to voting, Dr. Zublionis recognized Ms. Arlene Fern (Glen Head School Teacher) and Ms. Janice Wolin (Glenwood Landing Teacher) who are retiring in June. He explained that both teachers will be recognized more fully at the June BOE meeting.

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

Personnel

Resignation for Retirement Purposes - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes for Janice Wolin, Elementary, effective June 30, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes for Arlene Fern, Elementary, effective June 30, 2026

Resignation - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Olivia Walsh, School Psychologist, effective June 30, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Jessica McKinney, Elementary, effective June 30, 2026

Increment for Advanced Study - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District approves an increment for advanced study for LiHong Cai, Foreign Language, from Step 5 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2026

Extension of Probationary Period

BE IT RESOLVED That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and upon the request of employee #03632, the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby appoints employee #03632 to a one-year probationary term from September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 unless discontinued earlier by action of the Board of Education

Amendment to Leave of Absence - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby amends the April 10, 2025 resolution regarding Cynthia Li as follows:

Cynthia Li is hereby approved for a leave of absence effective through March 27, 2026 (previously through June 30, 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 April 1, 2026 through May 8, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Nicole Leonard, Elementary, on Step 5 of the MA salary schedule, effective March 30, 2026 through April 16, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Adam Barker, Special Education, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective April 15, 2026 through May 27, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Cynthia (Xinyuan) Li, World Languages (Mandarin), on Step 12 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective March 30, 2026 through June 30, 2026

Resignation - Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Richard Rybecky, Bus Dispatcher, effective March 27, 2026

Employment Agreement - Non-Affiliated

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an employment agreement between the School District and Richard Rybecky, Assistant Supervisor of Transportation, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the employment agreement, effective March 30, 2026 through June 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute said agreement.

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 Maribeth Graf, Information Technology Specialist I, that includes the period March 20, 2026 through June 19, 2026.

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 John Pace, Teacher, that includes the period March 27, 2026 through June 26, 2026.

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 David Schultz, Teacher, that includes the period March 30, 2026 through June 26, 2026.

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 March 11, 2026 through June 12, 2026

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 Tyler Lyons, Custodian, that includes the period March 23, 2026 through June 19, 2026.

Approval of Exam Review Instructors

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

IB/AP Review Instructors

<b>IB Course</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>AP Course</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
IB Biology HL2	Janice Chen	AP Biology	Maryalice Kelly
IB Business SL	Lauren Sandback	AP Calculus AB	Kathleen Festa
IB Computer Science SL2	Veronica Otero	AP Calculus BC	Alessia Davis
IB/AP French	Evelyne Pommateau	AP Chemistry	Seth Klein
IB/AP Italian	Diana Kesselman	AP Computer Sci	Veronica Otero
IB Mandarin SL2	LiHong Cai	AP English Lang & Comp	Josh Knight
IB/AP Spanish	Christina Margiore	AP English Lit	Josh Knight
IB Math Analysis SL	Taylor Geen	AP Gov/Politics	Carolyn Chimeri/ Jennifer Babb
IB Math Apps SL	Lauren DeLuca/ Christine Considine	AP Physics 1	Sara LeMar
IB Social, Cult, Ant SL	Melanie Grimshaw	AP Physics C	Stephen Peroni
IB WATCH HL2	Carolyn Chimeri	AP Statistics	Christine Considine
		AP US History	Brian Rodahan
		AP World History	Andrew Cross

Regents Review Instructors

Science

<u>Earth &amp; Space Science</u> Josh Timlin Laura DiLallo Chris Gish	<u>Chemistry</u> Samantha Nathan Tina Passanante Patrick Cassino Seth Klein
<u>Earth &amp; Space/Living Env.</u> Sarah Hogan	<u>Earth &amp; Space/Chemistry</u> Alex Acosta

<u>Biology (Middle School)</u> Christina Bianco Lauren Mistretta Brian Lang Melissa Verdone Alyssa Bacchioni	<u>Physics</u> Tyler Bianco Sara LeMar Stephen Peroni
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Teacher Overages

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a .1 overage for Tom Granieri, Physical Education, effective March 16, 2026 through June 26, 2026

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	Laini Silverstein	Step 1
MS Boys Lacrosse Coach	Kevin Wasp	Step 1
MS Gymnastics	Erin Carrol	Step 1
JV Boys Lacrosse	Graham Bockett	Step 1

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items 12, 13 a-b, and 14

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo and seconded by Trustee Cashman 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:

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Computer	High School
136	Chrome Books	High School
1	Lawn Mower	Glen Head

Approval of Health Services Contract between the North Shore CSD and Jericho UFSD

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby enters into a contract for Health Services with the Jericho UFSD for 8 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Jericho UFSD for the 2025-26 school year at a cost of \$1,631.44 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of Health Services Contract between the North Shore CSD and Plainview-Old Bethpage UFSD

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby enters into a contract for Health Services with the Plainview-Old Bethpage UFSD for 1 student residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Plainview-Old Bethpage UFSD for the 2025-26 school year at a cost of \$1,029.39 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

Approval of a Resolution to Participate in the Nassau County Transportation Cooperative

WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2026-27 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative”) for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the North Shore School District is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to participate in the Cooperative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement (Recitals) attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

On motion of Trustee Colacioppo 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)

Prior to voting, Dr. Zublionis explained that the District has been working with DHC as a lobbyist on the state level and this expands their services to the federal level. They are hopeful this will be of benefit in securing grants from Senator Gillibrand.

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

Approval of a Federal Lobbying Retainer Agreement with Davidoff Hutcher and Citron (DHC)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Federal Lobbying Retainer Agreement between the School District and Davidoff Hutcher & Citron, LLP (“DHC”) for DHC, to provide federal government relations and lobbying services, during the period February 13, 2026 through December 31, 2026, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached 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.

**Unfinished Business 10:00 p.m.**

President Macari asked for an update on the GPA discussion. Dr. Zublionis will include that information in his next update.

Trustee Cashman reported that at the last Construction Steering Committee meeting they discussed the potential screen cover for the mechanics at the high school. She explained there was not much support to spend a substantial amount of money to cover it when you would still be able to see the electronics above the cover. In addition, although there was some interest in a natural screen, there is the issue of needing multiple entry points as well as maintaining it. The committee feels it is a conversation piece, and something done to benefit our wood shop. There was a suggestion to put up a plaque to explain what it is which would be minimal in cost compared to the cost of a screen.

### **New Business**

Trustee Mosca participated in a Webinar through NYSSBA and reported there is much available online from last year's convention. She explained that the convention next October will be held in Buffalo and there is also information online regarding that.

President Macari reminded all that the Board's retreat will be held on Sunday in the Victorian Studio.

### **Adjournment**

At 10:04 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk