

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Town Meeting/Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Antoinette Labbate at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library. Present were Trustees Berliner, Gonzalez, Jones, Ludmar and Russo. Trustee Commander was absent. Also present Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick, and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi & Rob Chlebicki.

At 7:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session in room H4 to discuss matters leading to the appointment or employment of a particular person or corporation.

At 7:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the town/regular meeting in the library. There were approximately 50 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Labbate led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Recognition

Students who participated in All County Band, Chorus, and Orchestra , All State String Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, Long Island Strings Festival, and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Young Musicians Long Island Region Concert were recognized by the Board and Dr. Melnick.

2017-2018 Budget Presentation

Dr. Melnick presented the 2017-2018 initial Budget Proposal. The budget stands at \$102,113,514.86, a 2.633% increase over the 2016-2017 budget. The board will discuss the budget line by line over the next 4 meetings with budget adoption scheduled for April 6. Dr. Melnick highlighted the overall sections of the budget. He noted 80% of the budget is salary and benefits and employee benefits have increased significantly. During the budget review he will bring a proposal for reducing transportation to 1 mile for grades 7 & 8; this would bring all students at the middle school to the same distance at no additional cost to the district. He will also present other scenarios for changing transportation limits, but he noted the other proposals will result in additional costs. Dr. Melnick also explained that any proposed change to distance limits, regardless of cost, would require voter approval. Also included in this budget proposal are funds to assist with the establishment of a drug coalition. In regard to positions, this proposal includes 1.0 FTE guidance counselor, a .5 music teacher at the elementary schools, increase of .5 social worker to the middle school (currently a .5 will increase to 1.0), a .5 clerical position in the athletics office (as per the recommendation from the athletic review) and the addition of a .5 maintainer. Dr. Melnick also explained that if the board wishes to remain under the tax levy limit, any budget-to-budget increase which exceeds that limit will need to come from reserve funds; using this budget proposal his best estimate at the moment is that about \$500,000 would need to be moved from reserves to revenue. At the present time, he does not know what the tax levy limit will be; full year CPI figures are not out yet, the number through November 2016 is at 1.19%. He cautioned the public that a 2% tax levy limit does not mean the budget can be increased by 2%. Dr. Melnick will send a schedule to the board of which portion of the budget will be reviewed at each meeting. Finally, Dr.

Melnick acknowledged Assistant Superintendent for Business Olivia Buatsi for her many hours of work on the budget and for formulating the best possible budget given the circumstances.

Trustee Russo recently attended a seminar which included a panel discussion about drug, alcohol and opioid use. She reported that there is an innovative approach being used by the William Floyd School District wherein they have brought 2 full time drug counselors to the school through OASIS. She suggested this may be something to look into as it would make it easier for kids to get drug counseling on campus and would be cost effective as well.

Trustee Berliner asked that the budget be put into context to student population and how it is changing from this year to the new budget year. Dr. Melnick responded, there is not a big difference in enrollment although there has been a very large increase in the number of students needing English as a New Language (ENL) because of new regulations. This year four new ENL teachers needed to be hired. Also contained in the budget are the additional classes formed from splitting two large classes in Glenwood Landing; these positions will come from current positions at Glen Head that will not be needed.

Trustee Ludmar asked how we address benefits with half time employees. Dr. Melnick responded, if an employee works more than 17 hours a week they are entitled to benefits. Trustee Ludmar also asked if there is a way to break out recurring expenses from discretionary expenses in the budget. Dr. Melnick suggested Trustees inform him where they believe cuts can be made and he and Ms. Buatsi will identify areas that can be decreased with the least amount of impact within that section. He also suggested that Trustees email questions to him ahead of time so he and Ms. Buatsi are able to collect the necessary information needed to answer questions at the public meeting.

Trustee Jones asked if the budget increase could be put in the context of where we are on the revenue side; what would the 1.19% CPI equal in a budget increase percentage. Dr. Melnick explained that any additional revenue used from fund balance this year will need to continue to keep the budget stable the following year. He further stated it would not be prudent to pull so much out of fund balance in one year and not be able to do that again the following year; this would lead to massive cuts. He noted we are beginning to see the impact of the tax levy limit law where it will become impossible to sustain what we already have. He will give a report to the board on reserves and what the impact will be on fund balance depending on what is used this year, and a projection for future years.

Town Meeting

SGO co-presidents Frankie Conklin and Megan Tornatore, reported on events and activities at the high school including: the coat drive will be completed at the end of the week, a Valentine's Day fundraiser is being planned; benefits to go to Rift Valley Home in Africa. The SGO will form a team to support Relay for Life. Ideas are being gathered for Sports Night; students will vote on their choice of a theme.

President Labbate then opened the floor for questions or comments from the public.

Tim Madden, Sea Cliff, asked if the projected revenues can be included in the budget book. He also requested that the 5 year budget plan be shared with the public. Ms. Buatsi explained that it is difficult to project this year's revenues as the Governor's budget and the CPI are not available. She will get information together on the last five years of revenue. Dr. Melnick added we should have something in 2-3 weeks once the official state aid figures and the Governor's budget have been received. In regard to the 5 year budget plan, Ms. Buatsi stated this is already on the district's website.

Mr. Madden asked how teachers' salaries were projected when there is no settlement of a new contract. Dr. Melnick explained they budgeted at Triborough which is approximately 2.4% increase. Mr. Madden also asked if the 12% increase in health insurance was planned for in advance of formulating this budget. Ms. Buatsi responded, health insurance costs are calculated by each individual employee.

Dr. Melnick added, we must budget for those employees who opt not to take the insurance as they do have the right at any time to opt into the insurance plan.

With no further questions or comments from the public, the town meeting ended and the board resumed the regular meeting.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, the minutes of December 15, 2016 and January 6-8, 2017 were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

On motion of Trustee Ludmar and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, the treasurer's report of November 1, 2016 through November 30, 2016 was approved.

Regular Business

Superintendent Search Update

Trustee Jones updated the community on the search for a new superintendent. She reported that the board read approximately 50 resumes for the position. These were all screened by Leadership Advantage. The Superintendent Profile was used to narrow the field down to 15 candidates. The full board interviewed all 15 candidates. She stressed the importance of the process remaining confidential, both for the candidates and to ensure the integrity of the process. The board is on track for naming a new superintendent in the spring. Finally Trustee Jones and President Labbate thanked the entire board for their many hours of work throughout the process. They also thanked the many members of the community who have supported them throughout the process so far.

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez and all in favor, it was:

Personnel

Resignation – Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Shari Collins, Special Education, effective December 23, 2016

Appointment – Certified

Resolved: To approve a probationary appointment of Helene Stein, Special Education, on Step 6 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 3, 2017

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) – Certified

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Elisabeth Raeihle, Special Education, on Step 5 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 3, 2017 through February 3, 2017

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Kristen Taylor, Art, on Step 8 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective December 24, 2016 through January 20, 2017

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Molly Singleton-Coyne, Speech, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 9, 2017 through February 3, 2017

Change of Status – Certified

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Edward McCabe, Teaching Assistant, from a probationary position to a regular substitute (leave replacement) position, effective September 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Approval of Teacher Overages

Resolved: To approve the following teacher overages:

Brook Rogala	Math	.4	effective January 17-23, 2017
Amanda Haleiko	Math	.2	effective December 6, 2016 through June 9, 2017

Appointments – Non-Certified

Resolved: To approve the probationary appointment of Ashley Baker, Senior Clerk Typist (Guidance), on Step 12 of the Senior Clerk Typist salary schedule, effective January 17, 2017

Resolved: To approve the probationary appointment of Beth Boehm, Senior Clerk Typist (Curriculum), on Step 12 of the Senior Clerk Typist salary schedule, effective January 17, 2017

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Rosemarie Inzerillo, Teacher Aide Glenwood Landing, effective January 3, 2017

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Ingrid Sheehan, Teacher Aide Glenwood Landing, effective January 3, 2017

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Carol Graham, Bus Monitor (Transportation), effective January 3, 2017

Resolved: To approve the appointment of William Hussey, as a Class B part-time Bus Driver, effective January 9, 2017

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

Resolved: To approve the addition of the following names to the per diem substitute list:

Kristen Nersesian	Teacher Substitute
Heather Sutz	Teacher Substitute

Approval of Extra-Curricular Activity Coaches

Resolved: To approve extra-curricular activity coaches as follows:

Middle School

Wrestling	Ryan DiPaolo	Step 1
Boys Volleyball	Tom Granieri	Step II
Supervision	Ryan DiPaolo	

On motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Budget Transfers

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$60,000 to cover students placed out of district, effective January 12, 2017

Prior to approval the board had a brief discussion on the plan for continuing with Learner Centered Initiatives (LCI). Mr. Chlebicki explained that the contract in the beginning of the year was for LCI to work with our teachers and principals to further the work of the SVOs in their respective buildings. This additional contract is for cataloging student work in order to establish exemplars of teacher and student work in each of the SVOs and to create benchmarks for each grade level/indicator of the SVOs. There will be a district-wide committee made up of teachers, administrators, board members and community members to review teacher and student work related to the SVOs and to identify exemplars from

among the work submitted for review. Trustee Russo said she would like to see how programs, like the work we are doing on SVOs, tie into specific parts of the strategic plan and how they are being measured. The board also discussed how the company handles ownership of the rights to the material produced at North Shore. Dr. Melnick explained that LCI owns the rights to the work they bring to us, however anything created here is owned by North Shore.

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

Approval of Agreement With Learner-Centered Initiatives

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Learner Centered Initiatives (LCI), to provide a program plan in the use of SVOs to include 3 onsite days at a cost of \$10,490

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Change Order

Resolved: To approve change order #2 from Hirsch & Company, LLC for Bond Referendum Projects Phase 2 at the Middle School, in the amount of \$9,778.62 (additional)

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Gonzalez and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Special Education Services Contracts

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Mineola UFSD for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Mineola UFSD and residing within the North Shore School District during the 2016-2017 school year

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Port Washington UFSD for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Port Washington UFSD and residing within the North Shore School District during the 2016-2017 school year

On motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Agreement With Abilities, Inc.

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Abilities, Inc. for Level II vocational transition services, assessments and functional behavioral assessments effective September 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

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

Approval of Special Education Consultant Agreement

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Ilene Solomon, PhD, to provide neuropsychological & autism evaluation with written report during the 2016-2017 school year

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

Approval of Agreement With Mill Neck Interpreter Services

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Mill Neck Interpreter Services to provide sign language interpreter services on an as needed basis during the 2016-2017 school year

On motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Settlement & Release Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves a Settlement Agreement and Release in connection with student number 363623877, a copy of which has been provided to and reviewed by the members of the Board of Education

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

Old Business

Trustee Russo would like the board to view the panel discussion she attended on the drug prevention program being used by William Floyd. Dr. Melnick will get in touch with Ingerman Smith about obtaining this.

President Labbate asked if the board will get an update on the Athletic & Guidance Review. Dr. Melnick said both are on the schedule for an upcoming board meeting.

New Business

Dr. Melnick explained that there is new headgear for women's lacrosse which the district may need to purchase. He explained that most of the Athletic Directors in the county feel the new headgear, which is made of soft foam and has an eyepiece, is dangerous. Great Neck is the only district so far who has purchased the headgear and they are being asked to hold off using them until all other districts can determine if they are adequate. It is felt that all districts in the county will need to purchase this new headgear, if any district adopts its use, in order to protect all students. Dr. Melnick is informing the board as this may be an expense that was not planned for.

Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., on motion of Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk