

North Shore Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
January 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Antoinette Labbate at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Cafetorium. Present were Trustees Berliner, Commander, Gonzalez, Jones, Ludmar and Russo. Also present Superintendent Dr. Edward Melnick, and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi & Rob Chlebicki.

At 6:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Russo seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session in the Middle School Faculty Room to discuss matters leading to the appointment or employment of a particular person or persons and proposed, pending, or current litigation.

At 7:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Gonzalez and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting in the cafetorium. There were approximately 10 people in the audience.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Labbate led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, the agenda was amended to add a discussion on a policy for district issued credit/debit cards.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, the minutes of January 12, 2017 were approved.

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Melnick turned his time over to Trustee Commander so she could speak about the CASA meeting held the night before. Trustee Commander reported that the meeting was well attended by many constituencies. She explained that the North Shore CASA will use the blueprint from Manhasset's coalition. The group focused on setting up four pillars of representatives from school, community, youth and parents. From these groups a board of directors will be formed led by a paid executive director. She reported that the Manhasset coalition has been able to bring binge drinking down by 50% in their community. Anthony Rizzutto, an alcohol and substance abuse counselor, addressed the group and offered his assistance to guide them toward resources. On behalf of the community, Trustee Commander thanked Dr. Melnick for taking charge of this effort.

**Report from the SGO**

SGO co-presidents Frankie Conklin and Megan Tornatore, reported on events and activities at the high school including: students are completing mid-term exams; the sports night theme will be "cities" (Seniors will highlight New York, Juniors Los Angeles, Sophomores Miami and Freshman Chicago). The Valentine's Day fundraiser has been approved and the SGO has set a goal of raising \$5,000 for their Relay for Life team.

### **Regular Business**

#### **Budget Review**

Before beginning the budget review, Dr. Melnick reviewed projected revenues for 2017-2018. He explained that the estimate for 2017-18 is approximately \$1 million more than the 2016-17 estimate. He further stated that the district was advised by counsel to remain conservative in the revenue projection last year pending the outcome of a litigation with LIPA for removing 23 properties formerly owned by LILCO from the district's tax roll; the case was settled and LIPA paid the District \$1 million more than was projected. Counsel has advised the district to remain conservative in their projections for 2017-2018 as well by using the same amount received from LIPA PILOTS for calendar year 2016. Dr. Melnick also reviewed other sources of revenue including from a small "Bus PILOT", interest on investments, rental of property, state aid, and grants from the state legislature. He also noted that the projection includes utilizing funds from the ERS reserve. At this time with projected revenues of \$17,624,940.03 that would leave a tax levy of \$84,488,574.83; approximately \$9,516.77 under last year's levy limit. The board discussed the different scenarios for estimating revenue from the LIPA PILOTS as well as how much of reserves to use.

The board then discussed the following sections of the budget: Board of Education, Central Administration, Central Services, Commercial Insurance/BOCES Administration, Supervision, Regular Instruction. The board made no changes to those sections of the budget. The remainder of the proposed budget for 2017-2018 will be discussed at their next meeting of February 9.

#### **Update: Goal 1, Task 2: Shared Valued Outcomes**

Dr. Ferris, Middle School Principal, along with Seth Gordon, 6-8 Humanities Teacher Leader and Amy DiMeola, 6-8 STEM Teacher Leader, reviewed the progress of implementing the Shared Valued Outcomes (SVOs) at the middle school. In the area of humanities the work of SVOs are evident in the Reader's Workshop and research project "Impact of Innovation". In the area of Math and Science, Ms. DiMeola explained that the SVOs have been implemented through a "growth notebook" and through opportunities to "revise & grow" where students look back at unit exams to think about their mistakes. Through STEAM electives students find ways that they are innovators and collaborators. Dr. Melnick commended the middle school administrators for the phenomenal job they are doing in challenging students at levels never before seen at the middle school.

#### **Policy Discussion**

The board discussed proposed policy #8334, District Issued Credit/Debit Cards. Ms. Buatsi explained this would be used for international travel only to eliminate the practice of issuing advances to chaperones who then use their personal credit/debit cards when traveling with students. She further stated the district treasurer will be the only person able to issue the cards and at the end of each trip the cards would be deactivated. The policy will be placed on the February 9<sup>th</sup> agenda for approval.

#### **Superintendent Search Update**

Vice-president Jones updated the community on the search for a new superintendent. The board will interview finalists this week and are on track with timing. They have been able to attract very qualified candidates by keeping the process confidential. They appreciate the community's confidence and patience and will have more information at their next meeting.

#### **Comments from the Public**

Cheryl Brown Glen Head, asked if the district can anticipate what the amount of the LIPA PILOT will be in future years. Ms. Buatsi responded it is very difficult to project into the future. LIPA is fighting

law 1803 which allows only a 1% shift in the tax base per year. In addition, we still do not have clarity on the remaining plant.

Rob Mazzella, Glen Head, asked what budget line was used for the budget transfer related to the playground mulch. Ms. Buatsi explained that it came from the special education budget; she was able to utilize funds budgeted for special education students who did not end up attending the program which was budgeted for.

Dana Baron, Glen Head, commented that technology teachers need to be more knowledgeable and she would like to see more opportunities for professional development and training for them.

Tim Madden, Sea Cliff, asked if the new ENL teachers discussed during the budget review were hired this year or will be hired for next year. Dr. Melnick responded they were hired this year and there will be no new ENL teachers hired next year; this brings the total number of ENL teacher to 7 district wide. Mr. Madden also asked if monies projected to be used from reserves would stay in the reserves if it is found that they are not needed on the revenue side. Dr. Melnick explained that would be decided after the final audit is completed.

Dan O'Connor, Glen Head, thanked the board for their service. He noted that landscaping and outside maintenance does not seem to be up to par. He said a tree came down recently at Glenwood Landing School which had been dead for a long time. He had made several calls to alert the school of the problem and wondered why this had not been taken care of. Dr. Melnick responded the county had responsibility for that tree and the district had contacted the county several times about it before it fell. Mr. O'Connor said he feels even though it is the county's responsibility, the school should make sure that these things are taken care of. Mr. O'Connor asked that the board always keep in mind where the money they are spending is coming from. He also asked if the transportation facility is generating revenue. Ms. Buatsi responded we have contracts with Locust Valley, East Williston, and Roslyn school districts which does generate revenue.

Greg Perles, NSSFE President, read a statement in opposition to the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as Secretary to Education. He asked that the board support the teachers' union by taking a public stand against her confirmation.

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

Personnel

Increments for Advanced Study – Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Samara Chorowski, Special Education, from Step 8 of the MA+45 salary schedule to Step 8 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2017

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Laura Green, Technology, from Step 20 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 20 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2017

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Sarah Hogan, Biology, from Step 15 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 15 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2017

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Sara LeMar, Physics, from Step 4 of the MA salary schedule to Step 4 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2017

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Deborah Novick, Elementary, from Step 13 of the MA+45 salary schedule to Step 13 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2017

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Jennifer Scatturo, Special Education, from Step 5 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2017

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Jacqueline Stevens, Special Education, from Step 11 of the MA+30 salary schedule, to Step 11 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2017

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointments - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Ken Mady, Science, on Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective February 15, 2017 through May 4, 2017

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Kristen Taylor, Art, on Step 8 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective January 23, 2017 through February 10, 2017

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Molly Singleton-Coyne, Speech, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective February 4, 2017 through March 15, 2017

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

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

Sara Webb                      Teacher Substitute

Approval of Extra-Curricular Activity Advisors

Resolved: To approve the following extra-curricular activity advisors:

High School

Advocates for Human Rights      Emily Whelan                      Step 1

Karate Club                              Marylou Iuvara                      Step 1

Musical Accompanist              Sandra Baskin                      Step 1

Elementary

Ted Club (Sea Cliff)                      Lindsay Defeo                      Step 1

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

Approval of Rate Increases for Community Education Instructors

Resolved: To approve rate increases for community education instructors as follows:

Outside Instructors with 5+ years                      \$40 (increase of \$5/hr.)

North Shore Staff with 5+ years                      \$47 (increase of \$5/hr.)

Salary for Director of Band & Chorus(30+ years) \$750 (increase of \$250)

The board decided to act simultaneously on action items F & G

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

Acceptance of Donations to the North Shore Middle School

Resolved: To accept 2 anonymous donations of \$100 each to the North Shore Middle School to offset the cost of the 7th grade Philadelphia trip for 2 students

Acceptance of Donation from the First National Bank of Long Island to the Fine And Performing Arts Department

Resolved: To accept a donation of \$500 from the First National Bank of Long Island to the Fine and Performing Arts Department

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

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

Resolved: To approve of the disposal of the following inventory items:

2 Optiplex Computers @Middle School

1 Burnisher Model Charger @ High School

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

Approval of Change Orders

Resolved: To approve change order #1 from Total Construction Corp., for Bond Referendum Projects, Phase 2 @Glen Head Elementary School in the amount of \$15,648.01 (additional)

Resolved: To approve change order #2 from Total Construction Corp., for Bond Referendum Projects, Phase 2 @Glen Head Elementary School in the amount of \$21,644.05 (additional)

Resolved: To approve change order #3 from Total Construction Corp., for Bond Referendum Projects, Phase 2 @Glen Head Elementary School in the amount of \$10,273.03 (additional)

Resolved: To approve change order #3 from Hirsch & Co., LLC, for Bond Referendum Projects, Phase 2 @Middle School, in the amount of \$5,638.77 (additional)

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

Approval of Contract with 3r Consulting Services, Inc.

Resolved: To approve a contract with 3R Consulting Services, Inc., to provide two days of professional development on Singapore Mathematics and to include a video recording of the two-day session, at a cost of \$16,000

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

Approval of Agreement with New York Speech Coaching

Resolved: To approve an agreement with New York Speech Coaching to provide five (5) speech coaching seminars at a total cost of \$2,650

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

Approval of Health Services Contract

Resolved: That the Board of Education enter into a contract for Health Services with Hempstead Public Schools for 6 students residing within the North Shore School District and attending non-public schools within the Hempstead Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year at a cost of \$586.85 per student as provided under the Education Law of the State of New York

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

Approval of Agreement with Science Museum of Long Island

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Science Museum of Long Island to provide a Starlab Program at the Glen Head School at a cost of \$525

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

Approval of Special Education Tuition Agreement

Resolved: To approve a special education tuition agreement with Mountain Lake Academy, to provide instructional services for one resident student during the 2016-2017 school year at the current rate established by the NYSED

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

Approval of Special Education Service Provider

Resolved: To approve an agreement with Achieve Beyond, to provide ABA, OT, PT, Speech and Transition services during the 2016-2017 school year

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

Approval of Special Education Services Contracts

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

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

Approval of Settlement and Release Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board herewith authorizes the Board President to execute an Agreement and Stipulation of Settlement and Release between the Board and a certain Civil Service employee. The Board has previously reviewed said Agreement in Executive Session

**Comments from the Public**

Darlene Galati, Glen Head, asked how the board budgeted for teacher salaries when the contract has not yet been settled. Dr. Melnick responded they budgeted for Triborough and step and lane changes as those provisions remain from the previous contract. Mrs. Galati also asked for more information on the superintendent search and whether the community would be able to meet finalists. President Labbate explained that the community was given an opportunity for input when the board was formulating the superintendent profile. At this point in the process, only the board will be conducting interviews and they will make the final decision on the next superintendent. President Labbate explained that this is to ensure confidentiality of all candidates. Mrs. Galati, being a former board member and part of the last superintendent search, recommended the board make site visits & conduct background checks on the finalists. She also shared her opinion that it is important for the candidate to have had previous central office experience. Finally she suggested that if the board is unable to come to a unanimous decision on a candidate they consider an interim while continuing to look for a candidate they can agree on 100%.

Tim Madden, Sea Cliff, asked if the process has changed since beginning the superintendent search. He recalled that the community was told they would be able to participate in interviewing finalists. President Labbate responded the board never committed to hold public forums with finalists. She further stated that to keep the attraction of candidates in sitting jobs, they realized they must keep the process confidential.

**Old Business**

There was no old business discussed.

**New Business**

The board discussed the statement read by Mr. Perles and his request that they take a public stand against Education Secretary Nominee Betsy DeVos. President Labbate noted that they had received similar letters from the community. While all of the Trustees expressed reservation about Ms. DeVos candidacy, they were hesitant to take a stand as a group. It was noted that both New York Senators have publicly stated that they will be opposing her confirmation and therefore a statement by the board would have little effect. President Labbate suggested Trustees send letters individually if they were so inclined. Trustee Commander made a motion to schedule a special meeting for the purpose of drafting a letter opposing the confirmation of Betsy DeVos. Trustee Gonzalez seconded the motion.

With Trustees Commander, Gonzalez and Jones for and Trustees Berliner, Ludmar, Russo and Labbate against, the motion was defeated.

Adjournment

At 11:00 p.m. on motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi  
District Clerk