

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Town/Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Antoinette Labbate at 6:30 p.m. in the North Shore High School Library. Present were Trustees Commander, Galati, Jones, and Ludmar. Trustee Berliner & Russo was absent. Also present Superintendent Dr. Peter Giarrizzo, and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi & Rob Chlebicki.

At 6:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session to consider collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

At 7:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Ludmar seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the meeting in the library. There were approximately 25 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Labbate led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of Trustee Commander

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Labbate and Dr. Giarrizzo recognized Trustee Joanna Commander for being named the Sea Cliff/Glen Head Herald Gazette's *Herald Person of the Year*.

General Discussion on 2018-2019 Budget Process & Status

Dr. Giarrizzo gave an overview of the budget process which started in October. All principals, directors and teacher leaders, in addition to submitting their individual budgets, were asked to present a narrative explaining why each request is important. From those original requests, Dr. Giarrizzo and Ms. Buatsi analyzed each line and have taken out \$1.5 million. Currently, the budget-to-budget increase is at 3.85%, however there is still work to be done. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that due to several unknowns, including the governor's state aid runs which will be released on January 18, the CPI, which should be out at the end of January, and most importantly staffing numbers, which should be known once enrollment in course offerings are completed, the presentation of the proposed budget will take place on February 8. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that in addition to state aid, he anticipates using reserves to offset the levy. He reviewed the major drivers in the budget which comes from very few areas, the major portion from instruction or contract salaries and benefits. This represents a \$1.75 million increase in contract salaries for teachers, a \$175,000 increase in supervision, health insurance is increasing by \$835,000 and retirement benefits by \$436,000. To keep what we already have amounts to a 3.8% increase, most of which there is no control over. He explained that the numbers may change many times and he wants the board to adopt the most accurate budget which is why he is waiting until the February 8th meeting to present the proposed budget after enrollment projections are in. The subsequent meetings will be spent reviewing program including transportation, facilities, professional development, technology, special education, athletics, benefits, debt services and finally revenue, financing sources and fund balance.

Trustee Galati asked for the status of developing the course catalog and if it is readily available. Dr. Giarrizzo responded it is essentially done. He explained that the changes that will come may have to do with additional AP courses.

Trustee Ludmar asked if the increase in health benefits includes retirees. He also asked if the initial \$1.5 million cuts to the budget were easy ones and how close the budget is now to what the proposed budget will be. Dr. Giarrizzo responded health insurance costs do include retirees. The easy cuts are done but the next steps can't be done independently without sitting down with administrators to break it down. This will be done in the next week or two. Trustee Ludmar asked if there is anything that will affect the revenue picture such as the PILOTS. Ms. Buatsi responded, there are 3 separate PILOTS, we have a good estimate but we are still waiting to receive something from Nassau County. That is still being calculated.

Trustee Jones asked at what point the tax reform bill will affect municipalities. Ms. Buatsi responded, all of our bonds have been refinanced and none are coming up for 6 years.

Town Meeting – Open Format

President Labbate welcomed the audience and opened the floor for comments or questions.

Lisa Colacioppo, Sea Cliff, she is a kindergarten parent. She has attended Dr. Giarrizzo's "coffee & conversations" and commended him for hosting these forums. She feels kindergarten has become very academic and is advocating for more play time. She feels learning through play is more beneficial. She said students are missing out on the social emotional piece. She explained that her kindergarten child gets 3 worksheets per night, while her understanding is that Glen Head kindergarteners have eliminated worksheets. She feels all three elementary schools should have a consistent process.

Amy Goldstein Glen Head, also a parent of a kindergarten child, as well as 2 older children. She said her younger child is only sent home with reading while the older children had lots of homework in kindergarten. She can now see the benefit of having the younger student read rather than do sheets. She asked for extra recess time; even if just 5 minutes more.

Ruth Nicholas, Greenvale, asked if the district ever puts out bids for other health insurance carriers to try and lower health plan costs. She also asked if the employees contribute and if so how much. Dr. Giarrizzo responded the district is part of the New York State insurance program which covers all New York State municipalities. The district is told what the rate is from year to year, there is no control as to how much the district must contribute. He went on to say employees contribute 20% of the premium and this is always part of negotiations.

William Schiraldi, Glen Head, asked if there is a reason Nassau County does not give a sales tax rebate to the district similar to what Westchester County does. Dr. Giarrizzo responded, this is determined by the County and Nassau has decided not to give any source of revenue from sales tax to their districts. Mr. Schiraldi suggested consolidating classes, increasing class sizes, and reducing staffing to cut down on expenses. He asked that the district take into consideration the senior citizen and their inability to continue to pay increases in their taxes.

Agatha Nadal, Glen Head, read a statement regarding New York American Water & school taxes. She also gave examples of where she feels the school is lacking. She asked for a flat budget and asked that the district consider consolidating services or possibly merging with another district. Trustee Ludmar thanked her for her advocacy with the water issue. He said he sees the LIPA plant a little differently than a tax break that benefited the district. He said the district made an agreement with the State and the Power Authority by giving away our water front which has now been polluted and can't be developed. He went on to say our district has been trying to stay on top of that, we are not a part of it.

He said what is most outrageous is how the land has been left. It is the State's responsibility to remediate it so it can be developed again to generate taxes.

Bill Mozer, Glen Head, asked that all board of education meetings be held in the same location. He also noted that the sound system in Glenwood Landing was very poor and the video tape from the meeting held there is inaudible. He said the technology issues need to be addressed.

Carolyn Mazzu Genovesi, Glen Head, was the former school board president during the time of the decommissioning of the LIPA plant. She traveled to Albany and testified before the Commission during this time. Ms. Genovesi laid out all of the steps the board has taken regarding the LIPA decommissioning and the funds received from the state for the purpose of offsetting the taxes lost from the decommissioning. She explained these funds were not given as a grant nor considered a glide-path. She suggested the Board consider an open forum, with district counsel and the lobbying firm, to fully explain to the community all that has been done regarding the LIPA issue from the time they first found out about the decommissioning, and in regard to the funds received from the state.

Steve Warshaw, Glen Head, Vice-President Glen Head/Glenwood Business Assn. and a local realtor, spoke about property values. He said one of the reasons people move into this area is due to small class size. He went on to say some clients have asked why taxes are so high in this district while grade point averages are lower than in surrounding districts where taxes are lower. He wondered if anyone has ever calculated the impact of property value.

With no further questions the town meeting was closed.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Giarrizzo reported that the 2018-2019 calendar is currently being developed however, with the new requirements at the state level for calculating days for state aid he is waiting for the 25-day comment period before finalizing it. He reported on a meeting of the North Shore/Village of Sea Cliff Joint Committee on Littleworth Lane. There are 15 people on the committee, they broke down to sub-committees to work on signage, short/long term solutions, and communication/education. They will meet again next week with the hope that work will be done sometime in the spring. He reported that the Bach Harrison Survey, centered around drugs and alcohol use, will be administered to all 7-12 grade students next week. Dr. Giarrizzo further reported that the "Snow Day Challenge" was very successful; he received over 70 submissions. He reminded everyone three snow days are built into the calendar and 2 have been used so far leaving one more before having to take back days from school holidays. He reported that the strategic planning process will begin with a survey that will go out within the next couple of weeks with the core planning in March and adoption in June. Information will go out to the community. Finally, he congratulated Audrey O'Brien for becoming a Regeneron Semi-Finalist (formerly Intel). He explained she is one of 300 students in the nation to go forward. He also thanked Dr. Mordecai and the science department for their exceptional work.

Report from the SGO

Lindsey Golden & Emilie Biolsi, SGO Co-presidents, reported on events and activities at the high school, including: Audrey O'Brien has been named a Regeneron semi-finalist; Sports Night is scheduled for February; a canned food drive is being organized to benefit Island Harvest – they will try and top last year's drive which was the biggest so far. Acoustic Cafe is moving to February 2nd due to the snow days. This is a student run event with all student performances (Emilie Biolsi will be performing). The Senior Play will take place next Friday and Saturday at Glenwood Landing School. The musical Legally Blonde has been cast and should be a great show – dates to be announced soon. Finally they reported that students enjoyed the "snow day challenge"!

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Ludmar and all in favor, the minutes of December 7, 2017 and December 14, 2017 were approved.

Regular Business

Superintendent's Report on Entry Plan

Dr. Giarrizzo reviewed the components of his entry plan, beginning with his appointment on February 15, 2017. His general goals were to enhance his knowledge of our schools, community, and the faculty/staff, develop protocols and systems for communication with the Board of Education, build relationships, develop understandings of district finances, and establish trust and confidence. Specific goals were to establish procedures for supervision and collaboration with administrators, study operational procedures, meet with collective bargaining unit leadership, visit schools and classrooms, study student achievement and study the financial condition and facility operations of the District. To meet these goals, he set out to conduct 100 interviews in 100 days asking questions "what are the unique strengths about North Shore and your school that make you the most proud"; "what are the unique issues that we face as a learning community that prevent us from being all that can be and how can I assist in their resolution"; "what advice do you have for me as the new guy in town as I begin to shape my goals and priorities". During the last few months he visited all 5 schools and participated in "Learning Walks" with each principal, visiting classrooms and observing the culture of each school. He held over 100 meetings with civic/government leaders, local organizations and program leaders, school related organizations, school based groups, community meetings (coffee/conversations with the Superintendent, evening conversations with the Superintendent) and State/County Level Meetings. What he found was Pride for our schools, a collegial staff, expansive opportunities for students, a balancing of academic pressures with infusing curriculum to address social-emotional needs of children, a desire to balance autonomy with programmatic cohesion, curriculum alignment towards assured experiences, development of academic supports for all children, preserving the teacher's voice in decision-making, addressing issues related to substances use/abuse and the work of the district is focused, balanced and committed. Looking forward he will be working on developing the budget, building the 2018-2023 strategic plan, strengthening relationships, building trust, establishing connections with students, and the formation of a student advisory at the high school and middle school levels.

Trustee Ludmar noted that School Boards have the responsibility of hiring and evaluating the Superintendent of Schools. He has heard from many parents that they feel at the heart of this Superintendent is an educator as evidenced from the "Snow Day Challenge". Dr. Giarrizzo responded, he sees himself as the "Chief Teacher". Trustee Jones agreed with Trustee Ludmar, she has also heard many positive comments from parents who enjoyed the "Snow Day Challenge" and she was particularly impressed with the personal and specific responses to each child who had a submission. President Labbate added we are all very happy to have the Superintendent here. She went on to say it is impressive actually see all that has been done already. She thanked Dr. Giarrizzo for the great work he is doing.

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

Personnel

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes – Certified

Resolved: To approve a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Michelle Lempenski, Mathematics, effective February 17, 2018 through June 30, 2018

Increment for Advanced Study – Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Erika Arlistico, Special Education, from Step 6 of the MA+45 salary schedule to Step 6 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Victoria Bader, ESL, from Step 7 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Danielle Bernstein, Special Education, from Step 5 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Samara Chorowski, Special Education, from Step 9 of the MA+60 salary schedule, to Step 9 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Kerri Giorgianni, Elementary, from Step 13 of the MA+60 salary schedule, to Step 13 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Michelle Maclellan, Special Education, from Step 11 of the MA+60 salary schedule, to step 11 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Jean Merz, Physical Education, from Step 20 of the MA+60 salary schedule, to Step 20 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Melissa Mulvey, Elementary, from Step 7 of the MA+30 salary schedule, to Step 7 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Tina Passanante, Science, from Step 7 of the MA+60 salary schedule, to Step 7 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Rachel Viola, Music, from Step 8 of the MA salary schedule, to Step 8 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective February 1, 2018.

Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) Appointment - Certified

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Maria Anteri, School Psychologist, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 12, 2018 through March 6, 2018

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Elizabeth Hume, Mathematics, on Step 1 of the BA salary schedule, effective January 10, 2018 through June 30, 2018

Resolved: To approve a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Alex Slobodskoy, Elementary, on Step 10 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 9, 2018 through February 2, 2018

Approval of Teacher Overage

Resolved: To approve the following overage effective September 1, 2017 through June 29, 2018:
Stephanie Donnelly Physical Education .1

Resignation of Hofstra Intern

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Melanie Holguin, Hofstra Intern, effective January 2, 2018

Resolved: To accept the resignation of Sidney Romano, Hofstra Intern, effective January 2, 2018

Approval of the Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

Resolved: To approve the additions of the following names to the per diem substitute list:
Paige Mangione Teacher Substitute

Brooke Pennington Teacher Aide Substitute
Judith Rivera Schneider Teacher Substitute
Joshua Schmidt Teacher Substitute
Elizabeth Shields Food Service Substitute

Approval of Extra-Curricular Activity Coach & Advisor

Resolved: To approve the follow extra-curricular activity coach & advisor:

Middle School

Girls Basketball Caroline Abbate Step 1

High School

Mock Trial Lisa Golden Step 1

Approval of Side Letter of Agreement Concerning Extra Curricular Clubs

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a side letter of agreement between the North Shore Central School District and the North Shore Schools Federated Employees concerning Extra-Curricular Clubs dated January 3, 2018

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

Prior to approving the budget transfers, it was noted that the district's water bills have increased approximately 300% from last year

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

Approval of Budget Transfer

Resolved: To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$50,000 to cover water costs for 2017-2018 and teachers' college staff development (from Title II federal grant) effective January 11, 2018

The board decided to act simultaneously on action items D & E

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

Acceptance of Donation from The North Shore Community Youth Organization to The North Shore High School

Resolved: To accept the donation of a used ping pong table from the North Shore Community Youth Organization to the North Shore High School for use in the courtyard, at a value of \$100

Acceptance of Donation from The Athletic Booster Club to The North Shore High School

Resolved: To accept the donation of artwork to create a Viking Logo on the Concession Building adjacent to the stadium from the Athletic Booster Club at a cost of \$2,700

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

Approval of Special Education Services Contracts

Resolved: To approve an agreement with the Mineola Public Schools for Special Education Services for parentally-placed students with disabilities attending non-public schools located within the Mineola Public Schools and residing within the North Shore School District during the 2017-2018 school year

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

Approval of an Agreement with The Chamberlain International School

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 Chamberlain International School to provide instruction, related services and/or a facility to students from the School District enrolled at

Chamberlain International School during the period November 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, pending review by counsel

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 Jones and seconded by Trustee Galati and all in favor, it was:

Approval of Amendment to Agreement with All About Kids

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an Amendment to the Agreement between the School District and All About Kids to provide specialized instruction services during the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, pending review by counsel

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

Comments from the Public

Denise Reiner, Glen Head, said she does not want the district to consider co-seating AP & IB courses. She said she feels this is too difficult for students as the curriculum is different with two different methods of gathering information. She also noted it is difficult for students to get tutoring in such a setting. Ms. Reiner also advocated for adding an honors chemistry and honors pre-calculus section for those students who are not prepared for the IB courses in these areas. Finally, Ms. Reiner suggested a process be put in place for students who are self-selecting for courses they have not been recommended for. She feels this would help students and families to understand why they are not prepared for the course and how they might become prepared over the summer. She noted this may ease some of the anxiety felt by many students who are over-whelmed by the intensity of their programs.

Old Business

Trustee Jones updated the public on the status with New York American Water (NYAW). She reminded the public that the district's water bills have been impacted as well. She explained that at a special meeting the Board acted to join the Sea Cliff Village on a law suit on the basis that NYAW have charged us taxes and we are tax exempt. She went on to say it is important to make the argument that we are being charged improperly and these lawsuits have caused enough disruption to have the Public Service Commission review and discover errors filed with the state that date back to 2012. This will result in a decrease in our bills sooner rather than later.

Trustee Ludmar would like to task the LAC committee with researching the new tax legislation. President Labbate noted that LAC will give an update at the next meeting and this can be recommended at that time. President Labbate also reminded everyone that next Thursday, January 18 is Legislative Night.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment

At 9:40 p.m., on motion of Trustee Galati and seconded by Trustee Commander and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk