

North Shore Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes
October 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President David Ludmar at 6:30 p.m. in the North Shore High School Theatre. The meeting was simultaneously livestreamed. Present were Trustees Jones, Macari, Madden, Russo and Vizza. Trustee Galati participated via videoconference. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Peter Giarrizzo and Assistant Superintendents Olivia Buatsi and Christopher Zublionis.

At 6:30 p.m. on motion of Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Russo and all in favor, the Board moved to convene an executive session to discuss the appointment or employment of a particular person or persons and pending litigation.

At 7:45 p.m. on motion of Trustee Macari 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 theatre. There was 1 person in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Ludmar led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Vizza and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the minutes of October 8, 2020 were approved.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Giarrizzo reported that the Chromebook distribution is almost complete, they are finalizing the interviews for the position of Assistant Special Education Director, and he went over the schedule for Superintendent Conference Day on November 3rd. He reported that Sophie Blumenthal has been named Valedictorian and Kate Wesley-Jones the Salutatorian of the Class of 2020; both girls are Sea Cliff residents. Dr. Giarrizzo reported that the Viking Foundation HEPA fundraising is about \$5,000 from meeting its goal. The Board will accept a donation from the Foundation this evening and Dr. Giarrizzo recommends that the Board fund the remaining \$5,000 out of COVID funds in order begin the process for procuring the filters which takes approximately 7 weeks. Dr. Giarrizzo reported that Phase I of the Bond, Middle School safety and security projects, has been submitted to State Ed on Friday with a sum value of \$18.4 M; \$15.2 is planned to be expended through the Bond, \$2.3 through the capital reserve and \$822,000 through general fund. He plans to have the architects update the Board in November. Dr. Giarrizzo reported that surveys regarding the reopening of schools were sent to parents last night. Teachers will receive a link to the survey tomorrow and students in grades 2-12 will get the survey next week. He and Mr. Contreras have discussed the concerns regarding asynchronous days. He reported that the policy sub-committee will be meeting on October 29; the Athletic Advisory Committee will be meeting within the next week or two; the teaching and learning committee will be meeting during the week of November 2, the equity and social/emotional learning committees plan to meet in mid-November. Dr. Giarrizzo reported that Intramurals are getting off the ground and Unity Day was held yesterday. He also reported that the incident with the car chase remains an open investigation but

expressed that no one ever entered our building. Finally, he welcomed the principals to the meeting; they will be presenting on the reopening of schools.

Report from the SGO

SGO co-presidents Ariadna Pavilidas-Sanchez and Michael Gimonda, reported on events and activities at the high school. On Monday classes will be voting on Spirit week. There is good school spirit. They are looking to hold COVID fundraisers. Their goal this year is to make regular North Shore traditions COVID safe. They are trying to make things as normal as possible especially for seniors. The yearbook staff is working hard. Overall they are trying to make this school year the best it can be.

Regular Business (8:15 p.m.)

Status of the Physical Reopening of School

Each Principal gave an update on the reopening of their school reviewing areas of success, areas of challenge and continued focus and next steps. They presented a video highlighting some student interactions inside and outside school grounds on typical school days. All principals reported that students are happy to be back in school. The three elementary principals and middle school principal all list outdoor learning as an area of challenge and continued focus as we approach the winter months as well as current concerns surrounding safety & security of students and staff and accessibility of technology. This will be a focus of next steps. The high school also considers managing outdoor activities as the weather gets colder a challenge. Other areas of challenge and continued focus on the elementary level include staffing, enhancing a student-centered learning environment and lack of school-wide community. On the middle school level, additional challenges and areas for focus include engagement and schedule changes surrounding remote learners, adapting curriculum to meet the schedule change to 30 minutes and daily operational challenges. For the high school some of the challenges include covering 100% of the curriculum with 60% of live instruction, balancing coverage with screen time on two asynchronous days, supporting adolescents during an emotionally difficult time, supporting the sports programs, planning for end of year activities, teacher fatigues, applying to college without live visits and students not able to leave campus for lunch.

The Board thanked the principals for the presentation. They expressed how emotional it was to see students in school getting instruction, adapting, and looking happy to be back in school. They expressed their appreciation to the principals for the hard work and long hours that it took to reopen schools and said they were proud and impressed with how smooth it went and how well things are going. Some of the questions and concerns that were raised were the challenge of maintaining the 6 feet apart distance and keeping students masked; use of outdoor learning moving into the winter months; how the teachers are holding up; adjustments to the synchronous/asynchronous days in the high school; state exams and possible curriculum adjustments if those exams are canceled; ensuring that our students are getting the delivery of instruction that we expect a North Shore graduate to get. Principals thanked the Board and Dr. Giarrizzo and Dr. Zublionis for the support and commitment to professional development. They explained that students are very good about wearing their masks in all grades. In the upper grades it is sometimes hard for teachers to collaborate while 6 feet apart but they are finding creative ways. Daily reminders, monitors, lunch outdoors all help with mask wearing/mask breaks. Principals reported that kids are resilient and follow safety procedures. They reported that it is a testament to teachers for using their own creativity to adapt. They reported that the faculty is collaborative in nature and support one another. The principals all agreed they would like to continue outdoor learning after the pandemic has ended. Regarding outdoor learning in the winter months, discussions when the temperature would prohibit outdoor learning was raised; whether even if students were bundled up, would the cold and discomfort from it be detrimental to their learning. Suggestions offered were, installing wind screens to block the wind and raise temperatures, repurpose the tents to

bring in the sun and purchase outdoor heaters. Regarding the asynchronous days at the high school, Mr. Contreras explained that most students have adjusted well but there is screen exhaustion and he is looking into slowing things down on Fridays. He said the mental health of our students is more important than the outcome of a test this year. He further explained that teachers have adjusted well and have been amazing with integrating technology. He said if we were to close teachers would be ready to go. Mr. Dennis added that teachers are working very hard to prioritize and making sure student wellness is at the center. They are already thinking about regressions of learning and a recovery plan for next year. The elementary principals are thinking about what changes might need to be made in the first grade curriculum to bring the current remote kindergarten students to where they will need to be in reading. Regarding the possibility of cancelation of state exams, Dr. Giarrizzo reported that the superintendents are advocating for the grades 3-8 state exams to be canceled and the New York State has put in a waiver for this at the federal level. Dr. Giarrizzo has heard that the January Regents exams will be canceled and that is on the agenda for the Board of Regents to consider. There is no word on the June Regents exam. Dr. Giarrizzo went on to explain that teachers who teach a Regents level class know the areas that will be on the test and we need to give the teachers freedom to let the rest go. All principals agreed that the faculty is outstanding, they conveyed that the teachers are working harder than ever before and they are very proud of their staff. Dr. Giarrizzo and Dr. Zublionis thanked the principals for all they have done and are doing.

Comments from the Public (9:55 p.m.)

Maria Mosca, Sea Cliff, said she was very impressed with the presentation by the principals on the reopening of school. She thanked the Board and principals for what is being accomplished and said she is so proud and happy to be living in this district. She said she was glad to hear that the principals want to continue outdoor learning and outdoor time even post-COVID and hopes that her statement will be taken in that spirit. She read a statement on behalf of a group of parents called "Think Outside". The group brainstorms ideas and explores aspects for outdoor learning. They believe that all students and teachers should have equal access to outside and they notice this is not happening across the district. They are concerned about the approach of winter and the effect the cold weather may have on the outdoor learning program. They are requesting the District establish a Task Force to identify obstacles to achieving the goal of a full day, year-round outdoor learning environment. Ms. Mosca gave potential solutions and suggestions for achieving this goal. She filed her statement with the District Clerk.

The following residents emailed the Board prior to the meeting:

Joanne Liou, Sea Cliff, requested that curriculum be expanded to include alternate narratives and perspectives to help students better understand issues of racial justice and equity as they relate to current events and to expand outdoor learning that is developmentally appropriate and beneficial to students while mitigating risks of infection and the spread of COVID-19.

Rebecca Marcus, Glen Head, wrote to follow-up on her previous letters to the Board regarding the high school hybrid experience. She asked that the recorded lesson time be reduced and the amount of homework assigned on remote days be reduced or discontinued.

President Ludmar noted that the District's strategic plan was re-written and includes an equity component so students could have a sense of a safe environment, cultural connection, and an open exchange of ideas for all learners.

Prior to approval, Ms. Buatsi congratulated Janet Bates Wilkins on her retirement and thanked her for her hard work and dedication to the District. Ms. Buatsi went on to say she has given so much to the District, including working on the weekends to get the work done and she will miss her very much.

President Ludmar echoed those sentiments and said the Board agrees that Ms. Bates Wilkins has been a real asset to the District and wishes her well in her retirement.

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

Personnel

Resignation – Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of Angela Torrance, Teaching Assistant, effective October 30, 2020

Leave of Absence for Child Rearing Purposes – Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a leave of absence for child rearing purposes for Samara Chorowski, Special Education, effective February 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

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 Jessica Donovan, English, from Step 24 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 24 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an increment for advanced study for Amy Gilroy, Speech, from Step 13 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 13 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2020.

Amendment to Appointment - Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board resolution of October 8, 2020 regarding the appointment of Margaret DeLima is hereby amended as follows:

Margaret DeLima is hereby appointed on Step 2 of the MA+60 salary schedule effective October 6, 2020 through September 1, 2023

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board resolution of October 8, 2020, regarding the appointment of Jane Launer is hereby amended as follows:

Jane Launer is hereby appointed to Step 1 of the Level 2 Teaching Assistant salary schedule, effective October 9, 2020 through June 30, 2021

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 of Brooke Foltmann, Elementary, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective October 21, 2020 through June 30, 2021

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a regular substitute (leave replacement) appointment for Lige Zhaomu, Foreign Language (Mandarin), on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective October 21, 2020 through October 30, 2020

Resignation for Retirement Purposes– Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts the resignation for retirement purposes from Janet Bates-Wilkins, Assistant Business Manager, effective December 31, 2020

Appointments – Non-Certified

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Frank Giordano, part-time cleaner at the Middle School, effective October 19, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Lucretia Russo, School Monitor, effective October 13, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Grace Thill, School Monitor, effective October 19, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the appointment of Alessia Tocco, School Monitor, effective October 19, 2020

Approval of Teacher Overage

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves a .1 overage for Neal Levy, Chief Negotiator, effective September 1, 2020

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the following names to the per diem substitute list:

Kristen Fiorenti	Teacher Substitute
Oscar Rincon	Food Service Substitute
Abigail Tenecela	Teacher Substitute
Kimberly Nickel	Teacher Substitute
Peter McCormack	Teacher Substitute

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 October 19, 2020

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

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Security Personnel

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the District and John Galowski and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute said MOU on behalf of the Board

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the District and Vincent Marchese and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute said MOU on behalf of the Board

Appointment of 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:

High School

Intramurals	Adrian Berry	Step 1
Intramurals	Keith Scott	Step 1

Clubs Level 3

Pulse II Gabriella Palmieri Step 2

Dramatics

Director (Play) Michael Kleba Step 2

Set Designer Ben Benfield Step 2

Publications

Yearbook Howard Bloom Step 2

Middle School

Dramatics

Production Advisor Diane Vestuto Step 1

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

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 \$103,380 to cover special education tuition per IEP, and stipulation settlement, effective October 22, 2020

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

Approval to Dispose of Inventory

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore CSD approves of the disposal of the following inventory items:

8-Computer Servers at the High School

1-Printer at the High School

On motion of Trustee Madden and seconded by Trustee Macari and all in favor, it was:

Approval of a Change Order

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves change order #01-GC from Preferred Construction, Inc. for 2018-2019 Capital Project at North Shore High School –General Construction, in the amount of \$30,830 (additional)

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

Approval of an Agreement Between the North Shore Central School District and Greg Ahlquist

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves an agreement between the School District and Greg Ahlquist to provide two days of professional development working with social studies teachers, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement, effective October 26, 2020 through December 30, 2020; and

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 Russo and seconded by Trustee Macari and all in favor, it was:

Approval of an Agreement Between the North Shore Central School District and The Hagedorn Little Village School

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and The Hagedorn Little Village School, to provide educational instruction and services required by the IEP to resident children, as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement during the period September 10, 2020 through June 23, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

On motion of Trustee Madden and seconded by Trustee Macari and all in favor, it was:

Approval of an Agreement Between the North Shore Central School District and Building Bridges Educational Consultants

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and Building Bridges Educational Consultants to provide educational instruction and/or academic tutoring services as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement during the period October 9, 2020 through June 30, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

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

Approval of an Agreement Between the North Shore Central School District and Tri-Boro Driver Rehabilitation & Mobility Services, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and Tri-Boro Driver Rehabilitation & Mobility Services, Inc. to provide adaptive driver education services as per the terms and conditions set forth in the attached agreement, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Prior to approval, Trustee Vizza thanked Mr. Chris Marino for the work he and his department puts in. She said he is a committed individual who speaks with great honesty and she truly appreciates it.

On motion of Trustee Vizza and seconded by Trustee Macari 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 (IEP) as per the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education (CSE)

Prior to approval, the Board thanked the Viking Foundation for the huge effort of raising the funds in just 2-3 weeks. They especially thanked Doug Wefer, Maureen Denley and Lisa Cashman who facilitated the effort and the generosity of the overall community which they called inspiring.

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

Acceptance of a Donation from The Viking Foundation to The North Shore Central School District

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the North Shore Central School District hereby accepts a donation from the Viking Foundation in the amount of \$110,000 to be used for the purchase of HEPA Filters

Old Business (10:10 p.m.)

Dr. Giarrizzo sent information to the Board regarding those Districts from around Nassau County who have budget or finance committees and asked for questions and/or direction for proceeding. Trustee Vizza said she doesn't feel the Board should form a committee just to form it; it needs to be purposeful. She said while the budget blasts were very helpful she would like to see a mechanism to engage the community in the budget process so they understand the process and possibly reduce the negative feedback at budget time. Ms. Buatsi said it is important to think about this carefully so the District's values are conveyed; she suggested that all decisions need to be funneled through the Board. Trustee Russo said she feels it is an ideal time to form this committee and it should not just be focused on the budget but also on long term strategic planning. She said she believes there are long term problems and it would be prudent to gather expertise in the District. She went on to say she feels with public engagement there will be less resistance. President Ludmar noted only about half of the districts responding to the survey did have this type of committee, and of those some have disbanded. He went on to say we would need to make sure how we would utilize such a committee and that it aligns with our District values. Trustees have the fiduciary responsibility for the District and he would want to know how outside knowledge would be reflected in the Board's decision making. He went on to say getting information is helpful, but he would like to see exactly how the committees work and how it adds to what the Board is doing. He further stated that our budgets have been passed by very good margins. He would like the community to have more information and more input and he would like to find a way to bring more people into the process. He added that the Board has tried in the past to bring in more voices from the community. Trustee Macari said it is important that the information is brought to the Board and if there is a committee they should not inform the public. She said it is important how the information is disseminated. Dr. Giarrizzo and Ms. Buatsi will put together a set of general parameters for each of the Districts that have this type of committee.

Trustee Madden noted that the June 18, 2020 minutes were never approved and he suggested they be put back on an agenda for approval at which point any suggested changes can be dealt with. Trustee Russo suggested they speak with counsel about whether they can be voted on again. James Pyun, District Counsel, said there is no legal requirement to approve minutes, he suggested the minutes be marked as Draft Minutes. Trustee Madden said there was important action taken at that meeting, including the granting of tenure, and feels the minutes should become official minutes. Mr. Pyun said the minutes would still be an official record of the action taken, even if they are marked as Draft. President Ludmar agreed that the minutes should move forward for approval. Trustee Galati said based upon what counsel said the minutes would be an official record therefore he does not feel there is a need for further discussion.

New Business (11:00 p.m.)

Trustee Russo said in a Construction Steering Committee Meeting it was discovered that due to the addition of air conditioning there will need to be new electrical service, a bigger transformer and switch gear. She went on to say that the proposal is for that money to be taken out of the capital reserve. She said when the EPC was bid out it included air conditioning and that should have been recognized by the bidders. She feels counsel should look at the bid documents and do an analysis to determine if any of this should be captured by the EPC and if so, would it affect the 18-year payback. She asked if the money is to come from the capital reserve, what would need to be done to move the money out of that reserve. Dr. Giarrizzo said he will follow up, but his understanding is the funding source is in phase 1 of the bond. President Ludmar said he had similar questions at the meeting. It was explained that because of the open space there would be more of an electrical draw. Questions were raised at the meeting as to why they were only finding this out now. Regarding the 18-year payback, President Ludmar did ask if that would change and was assured it would not. Ms. Buatsi will check on

the resolution for the capital reserve. Trustee Russo said the architects knew there was a big space when the EPC was bid and she does not understand how they would not know they could potentially need more electrical service. She expressed concern that this information came from SED, and said there should have been an analysis done by the architects. She asked that the issue be examined, that someone go back to the RFP documents and find out how this was missed and whose responsibility it is to pay for it. Ms. Buatsi will speak with MEMASI and get those questions answered.

Trustee Macari asked that the suggestion by Ms. Mosca for fence wind shields be looked into sooner rather than later. She said they can also serve as a safety tool as they obscure people looking into the fields.

Trustee Vizza asked if the Department of Health flow chart can be posted on our website. Dr. Giarrizzo will see that it is posted. Trustee Vizza asked about the life expectancy and replacement cost for the HEPA filters. Dr. Giarrizzo explained that the filters last about 5 years and the cost to replace is \$275 each. He suggested they start to build a replacement capacity now and possibly build a line in the budget, but that will need to be discussed.

Adjournment

At 11:25 p.m. on motion of Trustee Russo and seconded by Trustee Jones and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk