

Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, March 22, 2010, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Auditorium at Northport High School, 154 Laurel Hill Road, Northport, New York, with Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Chairperson, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mr. Joe Gannon, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Tim Madden, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: Mrs. Liz Dragone
One board seat vacant

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent
Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services
Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Public attendance: There were approximately 150 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- 4.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

- 4.1.1 Ms. Peter Falotico, District Chairperson of Art K-12, introduced the Art Department Student of the Month, Emily Green. Mr. Falotico stated that Emily is an extraordinary creative thinker and that her artwork is large, ambitious, complex and intelligent. Emily has taken Studio in Art, Fashion Design & Illustration I, Drawing & Painting I & II, Sculpture I & III, IB Visual Arts and AP Art Drawing. Mr. Falotico noted that in tenth grade Emily was honored with an art award from Congressman Steve Israel. Her work has been featured in the United States Capital Building, annual Educator's Conference in Albany and at C.W. Post College. Mr. Falotico stated that Emily produced a sculpture that was a focal point of the Bellport Scholarship Competition, receiving one of the three most coveted scholarship awards. In addition, this year Emily won a South Bay Art Association Student Art Exhibition Scholarship. Emily is the District's second Scholar Arts selected by the Long Island Arts Alliance and Newsday. Mr. Falotico stated that Emily is an active member of the National Art Honor Society and would like to become an art administrator.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Emily on her fine accomplishments and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

- 4.1.2 Mrs. Joanne Kroon, East Northport Middle School Principal, introduced VFW essay winner, Cathryn Spears.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Cathryn on her achievement and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

4.2 Review of Instructional Initiatives in the following area:

4.2.1 The Art Education Instructional Initiatives were postponed to a future meeting.

5. DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED 2010-2011 BUDGET

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, stated that the Teacher Aide Association has decided to take a pay freeze for the 2010-2011 school year. Dr. McDermott noted that every teacher aide will return next year and that 170 employees have agreed to a pay freeze for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Matt Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, stated that the technology initiatives to digital communications will provide a more reliable learning environment for students and teachers. The phone system will save administrative dollars which will be put towards instruction.

In response to a question, Ms. Irene McLaughlin, High School Principal, stated that the high school has been lacking in the technology area and with the proposed upgrades the instructional program, student data management system, security and camera systems can be used more effectively.

Trustee Ingraham asked Mr. Peter Falotico, Art Director, what the impact would be on the Art Department with the projected loss of 4.3 teaching assignments and one retiree.

Mr. Falotico stated that two secondary art teachers will be transferred to the elementary art programs at Fifth Avenue and Dickinson Avenue schools. The department will eliminate some art classes, increase class size. Mr. Falotico noted that high school students depend upon art for their sequences.

5.1 Budget Programs to be reviewed:

2200 Computer Studies
2300 High School Program Options
2301 The Environment Team

It was noted that the proposed reduction in the program would not impact the existence of the program but the manner in which it is delivered. The team teaching model used will be one teacher per period for periods one, two and three, and the team teachers for period four. Principal McLaughlin noted that the District provides buses to the BOCES programs because BOCES does not allow students to drive to campus.

2302 Commons Program
2304 BOCES Vocational Education
2305 Cultural Arts

Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, stated that there is enough money budgeted to anticipate enrollment and that there has been increasing enrollment due to the popularity and respect of the program

2400 Academic Summer School

It was noted that Western Suffolk BOCES has three campuses for academic summer school based on the logistics of serving students. Ms. Molander noted that the District receives state aide for the BOCES summer school.

2600 Community Services
2601 Continuing Education

2602 Recreation

It was noted that the actual revenue received was lower than estimated therefore the projection was lowered accordingly.

2603 Driver Education

Trustee Ingraham stated that the projected deficits should be addressed to make sure all the programs are self sustaining.

- 2604 Public Information
- 2605 Community Support
- 2700 Staff Development
 - 2701 UTN PDC
 - 2702 NASA PDC

Mr. Matt Nelson stated that there are contractual obligations for a mandatory 15-20 hours of professional development. There was a discussion regarding the technology plan, purchase of white boards, installation of the white boards, and consideration of delaying some of the technology improvements. Mr. Nelson also noted that there has been a lot of consolidation of codes in this proposed 2010-2011 budget and funds have been reallocated and combined into single codes.

Ms. Kathleen Molander noted that any expenditure from the capital reserve fund would have to be for what was mentioned in the original resolution and would have to be approved by the voters.

Dr. McDermott noted that the corrections to the budget book and consolidation of codes will be posted on the District's website.

- 2703 Professional Achievement
- 2704 In-Service Education
- 2800 Instructional Leadership
 - 2801 Elementary Instructional Leadership
 - 2802 Middle School Instructional Leadership
 - 2803 High School Instructional Leadership
 - 2804 Districtwide Instructional Leadership
- 2900 Instructional Support
 - 2901 Elementary Instructional Support
 - 2902 Middle School Instructional Support
 - 2903 High School Instructional Support

There was discussion regarding field trips, use of District buses for field trips and substitute teachers. It was noted that the District buses are utilized for field trips during the school day.

There was a discussion regarding the four unallocated positions, why there are no allocated positions in the budget and the staffing process.

2904 Districtwide Instructional Support

Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, noted that the amount budgeted in the 2009-2010 budget for column advancement was spent by October and another \$500,000 was added just for salary transfers. Dr. Bouton stated that the teachers can only move two times a year in September and February. Dr. Bouton also noted that even though the number of teaching assistants is being reduced there still needs to be money available for substitutes.

- 3000 Non-Public Education
 - 3001 Non-Public Textbook Expense
 - 3002 Non-Public Health Services

Mr. John Lynch noted that New York State Education Law states that districts are required to provide health services for students attending private schools

- 3100 Special Education
 - 3101 Special Education/In-District

Mr. John Lynch stated that the early intervention preschool program began over 25 years ago and the enrollment has declined dramatically. Mr. Lynch stated that the program is supposed to be funded by state and county monies but the District has not received any funding. Mr. Lynch stated that he reluctantly is making the recommendation to close the program. Mr. Lynch noted that the Committee on PreSchool Special Education will place the students in Suffolk County approved schools.

In response to a question on the post grad vocational program, Mr. Lynch stated the District continues to support special education students who have not earned a diploma with an IEP until age 21, and that the Office of Vocational Education Services for Individual with Disabilities extends services to these students.

- 3102 Tuition – Private Schools
- 3103 Tuition & Services – BOCES

There was a brief discussion regarding the BOCES budget, shared services, and tuition costs.

- 3104 Tuition – Public Schools
- 3200 Student Support Services
 - 3201 Elementary Counseling
 - 3202 Secondary Counseling

In response to a question, Ms. Cynthia Lore, Chairperson of Student Support Services, stated that the reduction in staff of the college liaison counselor at the high school would have a significant impact but there is a very talented counseling staff and with additional professional development they will be assume those responsibilities.

- 3203 Psychological Services
- 3204 Social Work Services
- 3205 Health Services

Ms. Molander stated that there is 14.5 fte budgeted for the 2010-2011 school year.

- 3206 Medical Services
- 3207 Attendance/Census

There was a brief discussion regarding the attendance team at the high school, its effectiveness and the possibility of reducing the number of attendance runners. Ms. McLaughlin noted that there has been up to a 45% decrease in student absences since its formation.

- 3208 Home Instruction
- 3209 Student Assistance Program
- 3210 Speech Therapy
- 3211 Safe Schools
- 3300 Pupil Services Management
- 6001 Employee Benefits

In response to a question, Ms. Molander stated that the instructional vacation payout code is a new code. This code is to pay twelve month employees who retire or resign and have accrued vacation in their bank. Ms. Molander noted that this was previously paid out of a sick pay code.

There was a discussion regarding the Employee Retirement System and Teacher Retirement System which the District is required to pay, and the increase in the health and dental insurance premiums.

At 11:00 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to extend the meeting.

Unanimously carried by those present.

7000 Legislative

Dr. McDermott noted that the increase in legal fees was due to unanticipated legal actions.

There was a brief discussion regarding the MTA tax.

7100 Central Administrative

7200 Human Resources

There was a discussion regarding salary codes and how to make them more understandable in the budget.

7300 Business Administration

7301 Accounting

7400 Management Information Center

7401 Data Processing

7402 Word Processing

7500 Central Duplicating

Ms. Molander noted that previously duplicating was charged to ten or twelve different codes and now they are consolidated into one code.

7600 Purchasing

7700 Insurance

7800 Operations & Maintenance

7801 Custodial Services

Dr. Bouton noted that the open maintenance position will be filled, two positions will not be filled, and two custodial workers will be excessed.

7802 Grounds Care

7803 Maintenance of Plant

There was a discussion regarding the reduction in maintenance and ability to maintain the buildings.

7804 Utilities

7805 Security Services

Mr. Nelson noted that the security code represents the unification of the district security systems and expansion of security cameras.

7806 Vandalism Repair

7807 Telephone Communications

7808 Mailroom
7809 Warehouse
7900 Transportation

There was a discussion regarding the transportation contracts, ridership on late buses, and the purchase of a new bus.

8000 BOCES Administration
8001 Administrative Charge

Ms. Molander noted that all BOCES component districts pay a share of the administrative and debt charges.

8100 Debt Service

Ms. Molander noted that there is a bond expiring with the last payment in June 2010 and there are two other bonds on the books.

8300 Interfund Transfers

Ms. Molander noted that the Governor's proposed budget is recommending that the state reimburse the Districts 18.5% in the special aid fund.

Total General Fund Appropriation

5.2 Communications received regarding 2010-2011 proposed budget:

5.2.1 Email from Ms. April Nellis, received March 10, 2010 (The Board received 29 duplicate copies of this letter on March 15, 2010)

Ms. Nellis addressed the Board stating that it is devastating to hear that the Northport High School Preschool Program is under consideration for cancellation. Ms. Nellis stated that the program educates and fosters our future educators. Ms. Nellis urged the Board to exhaust all other possible options and not cancel the high school preschool program.

- 5.2.2 Email from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Howard, received March 11, 2010
- 5.2.3 Email from Ms. Elizabeth Klonowski, received March 11, 2010
- 5.2.4 Email from Mr. and Mrs. James Stockman, received March 11, 2010
- 5.2.5 Email from Ms. Jenna Rugile, received March 15, 2010
- 5.2.6 Email from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crafa, received March 15, 2010
- 5.2.7 Email from Mr. and Mrs. Dan Miles, received March 15, 2010
- 5.2.8 Email from Mr. Dennis Szymanski, received March 15, 2010
- 5.2.9 Email from Ms. Erica Romano, received March 15, 2010
- 5.2.10 Letter from Ms. Rita Smyth, received March 15, 2010
- 5.2.11 Email from Ms. Cynthia Vissicchio, received March 15, 2010
- 5.2.12 Email from Ms. Donna Martino, received March 15, 2010

Due to the late hour and there being no one else present to address their letter, President Waldenburg requested that the remaining letters, 5.2.2 through 5.2.12, be added to the agenda for the Preliminary Public Hearing on April 14, 2010.

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 6. and 7., including supplemental item 7.4, and excluding withdrawn item 6.2.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

6.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated March 22, 2010, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 6.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff
- 6.1.2 Schedule C - Salary Transfers
- 6.1.3 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 6.1.4 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

6.2 Withdrawn

6.3 Approving the time and place of Board Meetings for the 2010-2011 school year

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, FINANCIAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

7.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

EDUCATIONAL

7.1.1 Rescind – Athletic Supplies and Equipment

7.2 Receiving the following donations to the District:

7.2.1 \$325.00 from various donors to the Robert Krueger Scholarship Fund

7.3 Approving a 2009-2010 Instructional Service Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Harmony Heights

7.4 Approving the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the appropriation A5510.4650.00.7900 (Equipment Maintenance and Repair – Transportation) of the 2009-2010 budget by \$6,936.28 with the understanding that this increase in appropriations is the result of unanticipated expenses associated with the repair of District property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2680 (Insurance Recovery) of the 2009-2010 budget by \$6,936.28 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of insurance proceeds”

Vote on Trustee Ingraham’s motion to approve all items under 6. and 7., including supplemental item 7.4, and excluding withdrawn item 6.2 was unanimously carried by those present.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business to discuss at this time, motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to adjourn the special meeting.

At 12:00 a.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk