

Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, July 28, 2008, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Library at Northport High School, 154 Laurel Hill Road, Northport, New York, with Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, President, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mr. Warren S. Arthur, Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Steven A. Meyerowitz, Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: Mr. Joe Gannon

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools

1. President Munson called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Arthur, to convene in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:50 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to reconvene in public session in the library at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 70 persons present.

2. Mrs. Munson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. TREASURER'S AND CASH FLOW REPORTS

Motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 4.:

- 4.1 Treasurer's Reports and Cash Flow Reports
 - 4.1.1 Treasurer's Report for the period May, 2008
 - 4.1.2 Cash Flow Report for the Month of May, 2008

4.1.3 For Information: Claims Auditor's Reports and Schedule of Claims for periods ending April 15, April 30, May 15 and May 30, 2008.

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 The President of the Board announced the following upcoming meetings: On Monday, August 25th the Board receives the Elementary Class Size Report. The next meeting is Monday, September 8th with a review of the opening day class size and overview of instructional initiatives for 2008-2009, and on Monday, September 22nd the Board receives the report on summer programs.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no letters of communication.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Frank Doyle Teacher	Mr. Doyle read a letter to the Board concerning the Board's decision to remove the first reading of the revised attendance policy from tonight's meeting. Mr. Doyle commented that the issue of attendance for credit has been on the table for well over three years and the grade by grade data speaks volumes for the attendance for credit revision.

There was a long discussion among the Board members, teachers and community members regarding the proposed revisions to the attendance policy. Several Board members stated that they still had questions that needed to be answered including the role of the new attendance teacher and the role of the attendance review board. Several Board members were concerned that parents did not have the information regarding the policy change and that they would like to hear from them. In response to a question on whether it is the intention of the Board to move forward before September and get an agreement in place, Trustee Meyerowitz responded that if the committee can further agree on language and alleviate concerns expressed, the Board should be able to move forward. Trustee Meyerowitz stated that he does not want to go into a first reading of the policy with unanswered questions. The President of the Board asked Dr. McDermott to post the draft of the revised attendance policy on the District's website so parents can be made aware of the proposed changes.

The President of the Board stated that the entire Board now has the attendance data requested and they need to go through it. Mrs. Munson asked all Board members to compile all concerns and forward them to the Superintendent by August 15th.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to approve all items under 8.1, including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #24-27):

- 8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated July 28, 2008, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:
 - 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff (including Supplemental A)
 - 8.1.2 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff
 - 8.1.3 Schedule F - Change of Name

Unanimously carried by those present.

- 8.2 Withdrawn

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Waldenburg, to approve items 8.3.1 and 8.3.2.

- 8.3 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the revisions to the following policies:
 - 8.3.1 Policy #9501, "*Condition of Employment - Cabinet Members*"
 - 8.3.2 Policy #9502, "*Condition of Employment - Directors*"

Unanimously carried by those present.

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Arthur, to approve item 8.3.3, receiving for a second reading and adopting revisions to the following policy:

8.3.3 Policy #5131.7, "Lunch Leave"

There was a discussion by the Board as to whether the high school has enough time to prepare for the additional students if the campus were to be closed. The President of the Board stated that the costs of closing the campus and providing additional seating and modifications to the cafeteria to accommodate the approximately 300 additional students was not budgeted into the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Munson opened up the discussion to the community members.

Glen Meyerowitz
Student

Stated that he is opposed to closing the campus and presented the Board with a petition signed by 462 students. Mr. Meyerowitz stated that he believes lunch leave is a privilege and is crucial to the education of students. He also agreed that rules should be in place in order for students to earn the privilege.

Warren Arthur
Board Member

Stated that the students do not have enough experience driving and when that is combined with the distractions and speed the car becomes a lethal weapon. Mr. Arthur stated that he does not want to wait until next year to close the campus.

Elaina
Student

Stated that the school needs to look into the cost of closing the campus and there is not enough time to plan and have it in place for the start of school.

David Lieberman
Parent

Stated that he supports the lunch leave policy as it now stands where seniors can go out to lunch with permission of their parents.

Ben Kramer
Parent

Stated that the cafeteria is already overcrowded and that it is the parents responsibility to determine whether their child is allowed to go out for lunch.

Marybeth Tello
Community member

Stated she is a local small business owner and that closing the campus during lunch would have a serious effect on her business especially during the winter months. Ms. Tello stated that by closing the campus students lose the opportunity to make wise choices including time management, responsibility, independence and fiscal management.

Alex Woturski
2007 Graduate

Stated that he would like to see the campus stay open for the seniors and asked the Board to consider the benefits of lunch leave. Mr. Woturski stated that lunch leave was a privilege and an opportunity for students to take a mental break from the stress of school.

Joe Alicata
Parent

Stated that it is the parents choice to decide whether or not to give their child permission to go out for lunch. He asked the Board not to take that right away from the parents.

Trustee Meyerowitz stated that after hearing the comments tonight, he is not comfortable with closing the campus and given the rule about parent authorization being a necessity, he would vote to allow the campus to remain open.

President Munson stated that the 2008-2009 budget did not include the necessary funds to make alterations to the cafeteria to house and feed the students if the campus were closed.

Trustee Dragone stated that she has agonized over this and due to the logistical problems and budgetary concerns she would vote to keep the campus open for seniors and give them an opportunity to show responsibility.

Trustee Ingraham stated that the open campus was one factor that made Northport High School a different place. Mr. Ingraham stated that he would like to see the privilege being earned. Mr. Ingraham stated that he is standing by his earlier decision and does not want to close the campus for seniors.

Trustee Sato stated that she would vote to leave the campus open.

Trustee Wills stated that 42 minutes is not enough time for students to go out for lunch and she would vote to close the campus.

Trustee Arthur stated that his primary concern is for the safety of students and right now we have students that are not returning to class on time now.

Vice President Waldenburg stated that there is a problem with logistics and he will continue to vote to close the campus.

Vote on Trustee Waldenburg's motion, seconded by Trustee Arthur, to approve item 8.3.3, receiving for a second reading and adopting revisions to the Lunch Leave Policy was as follows:

YES: Mr. Arthur, Mr. Waldenburg, Mrs. Wills

NO: Mrs. Dragone, Mr. Ingraham, Mr. Meyerowitz, Mrs. Munson, Dr. Sato

Motion failed.

The President of the Board charged the superintendent and administration to come up with the appropriate budgetary implications and modifications to make a senior cafeteria including vendors with a time line to implement this in the 2009-2010 school year.

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items remaining under 8., and all items under 9.

8.4 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the following textbook:

8.4.1 Imaginez: le francais sans frontieres
Cherie Mitschke Vista Higher Learning 11th-12th Grades

8.5 Receiving for a first reading the following textbooks:

8.5.1 Java Software Solutions
John Lewis, et. al. Pearson Addison Wesley 11th - 12th Grades

8.5.2 Mathematics Course 3: Pre-Algebra
Jennie M. Bennett, et. al. Holt, Rinehart and Winston 8th Grade

8.5.3 Mathematics Course 2
Jennie M. Bennett, et. al. Holt, Rinehart and Winston 7th Grade

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

9.1 Taking specified action on the following BIDS:

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

9.1.1 Award - Floor Replacement at Northport Middle School

9.1.2 Reject - Ceiling Replacement and Lighting Replacement at Various Schools

9.2 Approving the attached resolution agreement for compensatory special education services for an elementary student.

9.3 Receiving a donation of a complete set of *New York Supplement 2d Series* from Sol Zepnick, PC, Attorney at Law, value estimated to be approximately \$3,000, and donation of the shipping charges from the New York State Bar Association, estimated to be approximately \$1,700.

Vote on the motion to approve the remaining items under 8., and all items under 9. was unanimously carried by those present.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Investment Report as of May, 2008

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

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

Unanimously carried.

At 10:35 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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