

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, October 6, 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. Joe Gannon, 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: None

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 issue.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:55 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Meyerowitz, to reconvene in public session in the library at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 45 persons present.

2. Mrs. Munson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 4.1.

- 4.1 Minutes
  - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, September 22, 2008
  - 4.1.2 Special Meeting, September 24, 2008

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Mr. Andrew Manzo, District Chairperson of Social Studies K-12, announced the Boys/Girls State Leadership Program Awards sponsored by the Northport American Legion Post 694. Past Commanders of the Post, Bob Grogan, Bob O'Hara and James Mahoney were introduced.

Girls State Program - Marissa DiGirolamo  
Boys State Program - Jordan Fernald, William Timlen

Mr. Manzo thanked the members of the American Legion Post #694 for their continued support of the District's students.

5.2 Discussion of the Use of Facilities policy.

The President of the Board stated that the Board asked the District's attorney, in conjunction with the grounds supervisor, to review the use of facilities policy that has been in place for some time and to offer recommendations on amending the policy.

Mr. Jonathan Heidelberger, district counsel, reviewed the existing board policy focusing on the use of outdoor facilities, fields and gyms. There was a discussion among the Board members with regards to the current use of facilities policy. It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to review the current policy and make appropriate recommendations to update it. A Board member stated that the current policy and application process needed more clarity.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to direct the superintendent to work with board members, administrators and district counsel to prepare a draft use of facilities policy including revised regulations and application forms for Board review by November 30, 2008.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion was unanimously carried.

5.3 The President of the Board announced the upcoming Board of Education meetings: October 20, November 3, November 17 and November 18th.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Email from Mr. Phil Fortuna, received September 29, 2008, re: health and pension benefits for greeters. Mr. Fortuna was not present at the meeting.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Stephen Waldenburg Board Member	Wanted to inform the community about Annual Hofstra Marching Band Festival being held on Thursday, October 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Rob Ingraham Board Member	Asked the Board to follow-up on correspondence from Mr. Joe Pokorny from the Suffolk County Water Authority asking if the district would be interested in leasing unused land for well fields. Mr. Ingraham asked that a meeting be set-up between Mr. Blake, Mr. Resca and Mr. Pokorny.
Dr. McDermott	stated that she would be in contact with Mr. Pokorny.
Steven Meyerowitz Board Member	Asked to get copies of the opening day class size report for the past five years.

Dr. McDermott stated that they would be provided in the next delivery to the Board.

Tyler Logigian,  
Rebecca Novick,  
David Shotwell,  
Max Smouha  
Students for 60,000

Thanked Dr. McDermott and Mrs. McLaughlin for their support and involvement in finding a coordinator for the club. They expressed some concern with regards to the Nicaragua project and with splitting activities in that they felt the club might lose its cohesiveness. The students also expressed concerns about the continuation of all the activities that the club participates in.

The President of the Board and the Superintendent both stated that they are very optimistic about finding the right person to fill the coordinator position. Dr. McDermott stated that every effort will be made to keep all of the clubs activities going and there will be teacher supervision for all activities.

Jean Baron  
United Taxpayers of  
Northport-East Northport

Asked if there was a by-laws committee who generates policies, if the food services program evaluation could be made public on the District's website, what assurances can the District give to the public regarding a district employee, what is the financial expertise of the board members on the audit committee, and what is being done about the potential conflict of interest of two board members.

The President of the Board stated that the Board is a committee of the whole and the policies are reviewed on a periodic basis. Mrs. Munson stated that the Board uses the New York State School Boards Association to take an objective look at current policies and give suggestions and revisions based on their experience. Mrs. Munson also stated that all policies are publicly available.

The Superintendent responded that information will be put on the District's website stating that the food services program evaluation is available in the district clerk's office. Dr. McDermott also stated that many changes have been made by the new food service director since that report.

In response to the question regarding the district employee, Mrs. Munson responded that it is a personnel matter and it is not appropriate to discuss in public.

Regarding the audit committee, Mrs. Munson responded that the audit committee works as an advisory committee to the Board. The committee could be composed of only board members, but it was decided to open it up to community expertise.

Trustee Arthur stated that the committee is composed of four outside members with expertise in financial affairs and two people from within the District with expertise in financial affairs.

In response to the question regarding conflict of interest, President Munson stated that the accusations are unfounded. The Board did get independent opinions from outside counsel and from the New York State School Boards Association.

Armand D'Accordo  
United Taxpayers of  
Northport-East Northport

Asked when a policy is reviewed if it could be marked reaffirmed at that time. Mr. D'Accordo also stated that the audit committee should be objective and that the members should have financial expertise.

Trustee Arthur stated that the committee consists of four outside members and two members from within the district who all have financial expertise. The role of the audit committee is to look at recommendations from the internal and external auditors and make recommendations to the Board.

Denise Mumm  
United Taxpayers of  
Northport-East Northport

Asked what does the audit committee vote on as a body, what economic fallout the district is anticipating and what cost saving measures are being implemented. Mrs. Mumm asked if the district received and discussed the bipartisan report from the Suffolk County Committee to Evaluate School District Expenses and Efficiencies. Mrs. Mumm also asked what the District is doing with the school aid bullet grant in the amount of \$45,000. Mrs. Mumm also inquired if the Board had discussed the memo from the Suffolk County Water Authority regarding the possibility of leasing unused District land for well fields.

The President of the Board stated that the audit committee works as an advisory committee to the Board. The committee reviews recommendations and findings of the hired auditors and makes recommendations to the Board.

In response to the question regarding the economic fallout, Mrs. Munson stated that the Board is monitoring state aid closely and has directed the Superintendent to plan for possible cuts whether they happen or not.

The Superintendent stated that the Suffolk County Superintendents do work closely together and talk about shared services and ways to cut costs. The District is holding a legislative breakfast on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 11:00 am with Senator Flanagan where all issues regarding state aid will be discussed at length. Dr. McDermott stated that the District is working very hard to anticipate what may be a very difficult year and is looking at ways to consolidate costs. Dr. McDermott stated that she will obtain a copy of the report Mrs. Mumm referenced.

In response to Mrs. Mumm's question about the \$45,000 school aid bullet grant, Dr. McDermott stated that unfortunately many of the grants the District had anticipated were drastically reduced this year and part of this grant was being used for the technology equipment for the Project Lead the Way program.

Trustee Ingraham responded to Mrs. Mumm's question regarding the Suffolk County Water Authority and stated that he has talked to Mr. Pokorny. Dr. McDermott stated that it is being pursued now and the District needs explore it and determine if it would be a good option.

Karen Wills  
Board Member

Stated that she did resign from FRIENNDS, is no longer on the board of directors, and has not been since June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Liz Dragone  
Board Member

Stated that FRIENNDS is an educational foundation formed to help defray the costs of education to taxpayers and to feed money into the school system to help the children. Mrs. Dragone stated that she attended a presentation from the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association dealing with the issues that would arise from a 4% tax cap and that the District could possibly lose \$2.3m.

In response to a question regarding a 4% tax cap, Dr. McDermott stated that a tax cap would put the district and every other district in a precarious position due to contractual obligations.

Mike Kucza  
Parent and PTA Council Rep.

Stated that he is interested in the food service report and asked if a progress report will be presented that shows the actions taken since the report was received.

Dr. McDermott stated that she will ask Andrew Bromm, the new food service director, to go over the food service report and what changes have been implemented and present this at a future board meeting.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 8., including Supplemental Schedule A (#66-81) and Supplemental Schedule B (#7-11), but excluding severed items 8.1.4 and 8.3:

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated October 6, 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 (including Supplemental B)
- 8.1.3 Schedule C - Salary Transfers
- 8.1.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.1.5 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education
- 8.1.6 Schedule K - PDC NASA

8.2 Approving the appointment of the following staff members to serve as chairpersons for the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) during the 2008-2009 school year: Caitlin Bisulca, Allyson Giaimo, Dr. Martha White

8.3 Approving the appointment of the following staff members to serve as chairpersons for the Committee on Special Education (CSE) Sub-Committees during the 2008-2009 school year: John J. Lynch, Christina Pulaski, Allyson Giaimo, Michael Comiskey, Noreen Digiose, Elizabeth Dragone, Melanie Fisher, Erin Girardin, Kristen Karkota, Mary Christine Moser, Lisa Quartararo, Corinne Scheidt, Martha White, Ph.D.

8.4 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board Policy and State Regulation, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Michael Lazan to serve as Impartial Hearing Officer for the purpose of conducting an impartial hearing in accord with Policy 4321, Program for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA.”

8.5 Receiving for a first reading revisions to the following policy:

- 8.5.1 Policy #9511, *“Pay Rates For: Continuing Education and Recreation Teachers and Temporary, Substitute and Student Non-Instructional Employees”*

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve severed items 8.1.4 and 8.3.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz’s motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Arthur, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Ingraham, Mr. Meyerowitz, Mrs. Munson, Dr. Sato, Mr. Waldenburg, Mrs. Wills  
ABSTAIN: Mrs. Dragone

Motion passed.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 9., including supplementals 9.3 and 9.4.

9.1 Approving the 2008-2009 Foreign Language Program agreement between SCOPE Education Services and the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District.

9.2 Authorizing a Service Provider Agreement with OMNI Financial Group to serve as a third party administrator of the District's 403(b) plan.

9.3 Authorizing the administration to apply for a Suffolk's Edge Teacher Center grant in the amount of \$1,000, which will allow 5<sup>th</sup> graders who receive instruction in Spanish, as an extracurricular activity in the LINGUAS program, to write in Spanish an autobiographical book.

9.4 Approving the loan of computer equipment to the District to provide an elementary student, who is unable to attend school, the ability to participate via computer. The equipment and installation is at no cost to the district. There will be a monthly fee of \$79 for the Verizon services.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz's motion was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Student Activity Reports for July and August 2008 from:

10.1.1 Northport High School

10.1.2 East Northport Middle School

10.1.3 Northport Middle School

10.2 Schedule H - Use of Facilities

10.3 Schedule I - Home Instruction

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. McDermott stated that in response to a question raised at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting regarding the surveying of property located at Elwood and Pulaski Roads, the Suffolk County Department of Public Works was contacted and they stated that this was normal procedure in confirming property lines on their records, and they were not aware of any work being started in the future.

12. NEW BUSINESS

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

Unanimously carried.

At 9:45 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk