

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, December 1, 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: 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: Mr. Warren S. Arthur

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools

1. President Munson called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to convene in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:45 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Sato, to reconvene in public session in the library at Northport High School.

Unanimously carried by those present.

Public attendance: There were approximately 35 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 Wills, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve all items under 4.:

- 4.1 Minutes
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, November 3, 2008

Unanimously carried by those present.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
 - 5.1 International Baccalaureate Program

Mr. David Storch, Coordinator of the International Baccalaureate Program, presented his report to the Board on the progress of the program. The IB Program is a comprehensive two year international curriculum which emphasizes critical and compassionate thinking, promotes global vision, and provides enhanced learning opportunities for students. It is an inclusive rather than an exclusive program of study and any student may enroll in either the Diploma or Certificate programs.

Mr. Storch stated that more than 40% of the combined Junior and Senior classes are taking at least one IB course prior to graduation at Northport High School. Mr. Storch discussed assessments, enrollment, scores and the history of the program. Mr. Storch noted that this year the program is undergoing a five year self-study and evaluation to review and assess the health of the program. In June of 2009 a report will be submitted to the Board of Education and to the International Baccalaureate North America.

During discussion, Mr. Storch stated that the class of 2005 will be graduating college this year and he has sent out questionnaires to receive input on how the IB program impacted students' college studies and that the data will be forthcoming.

The President of the Board and the Superintendent thanked Mr. Storch for his very fine presentation.

5.2 Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to receive the final recommendations for course catalog changes at the middle schools and high school for the 2009-2010 school year.

Unanimously carried by those present.

The Board President opened up discussion to the Board members. Vice President Waldenburg stated that there were additional changes to the course catalog involving 7th grade math and asked Mr. Dan Drance, Chairperson of Mathematics K-12, to explain the changes.

Mr. Drance stated that after discussions regarding the modifications to the middle school accelerated math program, he had a meeting with the honors, IB and middle school faculty to discuss common concerns. The group concluded that there was a need to maintain the two year acceleration to support the existing program. Mr. Drance noted that the two year acceleration will remain and a one year acceleration will also start in the 7th grade.

There was discussion regarding the world language classes proposed not to run at the middle school level. The Board discussed leaving German in the catalog for another year to see what kind of enrollment is generated.

Motion was made by Trustee Meyerowitz, seconded by Trustee Sato, to amend the course catalog changes as discussed in math and to retain the German classes currently offered at the middle schools for one year.

Unanimously carried by those present.

5.3 The President of the Board announced the upcoming Board of Education meetings: December 15th, January 12th (the Superintendent presents the financial projections), and January 26th (the Board will provide the 2009-2010 budget direction to the Superintendent).

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no letters of communication.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Jean Baron United Taxpayers of Northport-East Northport	Asked what the contractual obligations are in regards to the high school electives, who sets the number of students in electives, how many teachers teach electives and how many teachers teach core courses and electives.

Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, stated that the guidelines were developed back in the 1970's, have been modified over the years, and are referred to in the teacher's contract.

Armand D'Accordo
United Taxpayers of
Northport-East Northport

Asked Mr. Blake to explain what the \$11.8m in unexpended balance on page 37 of the independent auditor's report was, and if the plan recommended in the independent auditor's report from 2006 for the evaluation of internal controls of the district been implemented.

Mr. Blake, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that he did not have the information regarding the unexpended fund balance readily available but would provide it to Mr. D'Accordo. Mr. Blake noted that the plan recommended in 2006 was actually to hire an internal auditor to perform an ongoing review of internal controls and various aspects of the financial system including payroll, school lunch, and capital projects over a course of four to five years. Mr. Blake stated that the internal audit committee has reviewed the document and they continually refine and upgrade to comply with recommendations.

Denise Summers Mumm
United Taxpayers of

Stated that the Board should consider recording the meetings with a digital recorder which then can be posted to the website. Ms. Mumm also asked about the status of the SCWA well field, the status of the alternative school, and where the \$40,000 spent for the two elections is in the budget.

Mr. Blake stated that he and Mr. Resca met with representatives of SCWA and provided them with information they requested including aerial views of the high school property. SCWA will follow-up with the District once they complete their feasibility study.

Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, stated that the alternative school has had very solid success. It is in its second year running and services between five and fifteen students, depending upon high school suspensions.

Mr. Blake stated that the budget code for the cost of a vote is found under the 7000 series program for legislative expenses.

Chris Robinson
Northport Athletic Association

Asked if there is any available funding from prior budgets that can be used for field renovation in light of the failed bond vote and if there is a plan for the capital reserve fund approved by the voters in May of 2008.

Mr. Blake stated that the District cannot utilize borrowed funds for anything that has not been approved by the voters. Expenditures out of the capital reserve fund must also be approved by the voters. Mr. Blake also stated that the district does have written plans for the capital reserve fund.

In response to questions regarding the arrest of a District employee on theft charges, Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, stated that the District has been very aggressive in trying to determine any inappropriate actions and requested a desk audit of that particular desk. The clerical unit brought information forward that they were missing funds from their account and at that point it went to outside investigation. Dr. McDermott stated that the district has taken necessary steps to remedy the situation including segregation of duties and has implemented a system of checks and balances within the financial department. Dr. McDermott stated that it is of great concern that the District has the public's trust.

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

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

8.1 Personnel Schedules, each dated December 1, 2008, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.1.1 Schedule A - Certified Staff
- 8.1.2 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff
- 8.1.3 Schedule C - Salary Transfers
- 8.1.4 Schedule D - Extra Pay
- 8.1.5 Schedule J - Committee on Special Education

8.2 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board Policy and State Regulation, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Susan Lushing 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.”

8.3 Approving a request by Noreen B. Anderson-Digiuse, a school psychologist at Northport High School pursuing a Degree of Doctor of Psychology at St. John’s University, to create a Cyberbullying Prevention Program for high school students which will be presented to 9th grade students during the spring 2009 semester as a joint effort with the Social Studies Department.

8.4 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement, dated November 17, 2008, between the United Teachers of Northport (Teaching Assistants) and the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District.

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

9.1 Approving the following Board of Education Audit Committee recommended resolutions:

9.1.1 Appointing the External Auditor for the 2008-2009 fiscal year:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Coughlin, Foundotos, Cullen and Danowski, LLP as the External Auditors for the 2008-2009 fiscal year with an option to renew for the 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 fiscal years as per their Request for Proposal dated September 3, 2008.”

9.1.2 Appointing the Internal Auditor for the 2008-2009 fiscal year:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Sheehan & Co. as the Internal Auditors for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, with an option to renew for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 fiscal years as per their Request for Proposal dated September 26, 2008.”

9.2 Authorizing the administration to apply for the following Starbucks Grant:

9.2.1 \$1,000 to support the literacy program at Fifth Avenue Elementary School in collaboration with Starbucks.

9.3 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2008-2009 budget.

Vote on Trustee Meyerowitz’s motion to approve all items under 8. and 9. was unanimously carried by those present.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Student Activity Account Reports for September, 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

10.4 Monthly Revenue & Budget Status Report as of August, 2008

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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 by those present.

At 10:30 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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