

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 19, 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Board Conference Room at the William J. Brosnan School, 158 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, with Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Chairperson, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Tim Madden, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, 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 Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Ingraham, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to an individual employee and individual students.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:35 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Madden, seconded by Trustee Munson, to reconvene in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 45 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
2. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- 4.1 Minutes
  - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting, October 5, 2009

Trustee Ingraham asked that the minutes be corrected on page 5, paragraph 7, from March 2009 to May 2009.

Vote on Trustee Sato's motion to approve all items under 4.1 with revision to the minutes of October 5, 2009, page 5, paragraph 7 was unanimously carried.

4.2 For Information: Claim's Auditors Report for Warrants and Schedule of Claims for period ending August 7, August 15, August 21 and August 31, 2009.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the District-wide efficiencies and economies realized during the month of September. Dr. McDermott noted that the District will be receiving its annual BOCES refund in the amount of \$71,371. The District has saved over \$36,000 in

custodial, clerical and security overtime costs, and in a comparison of last year to this year has reduced substitute costs over \$13,000. Dr. McDermott stated that the total savings realized for the month of September was over \$121,000. In addition, the District is using electronic communications such as ConnectEd, email and District web pages as a way to inform parents and community members with savings realized in postage, paper, and maintenance and repair of machines.

The Superintendent announced that the District is in the process of undergoing an independent audit which will be completed on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The report will be presented at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting. Dr. McDermott also noted that there are two seats available on the audit committee and applications will be posted to the District's website.

Dr. McDermott urged parents of middle school students to attend the important drug and alcohol task force forums scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> at Northport Middle School and November 4<sup>th</sup> at East Northport Middle School.

The Superintendent announced that David Scott, High School Law Program Coordinator, has been asked to select six students to attend a special forum at the Supreme Court in Washington, DC where the students will meet with former Justice O'Connor and sitting Justices Breyer and Kennedy to discuss landmark cases.

## 5.1 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.1.1 Mr. Daniel Drance, District Chairperson of Mathematics K-12, introduced Max Curran, Mathematics Department Student of the Month. Mr. Drance stated that Max is a strong, well-rounded student who ranks in the top 3% of his Senior Class with a passion for the sciences, particularly mathematics and computer science. Max was part of Northport's County Championship team at the annual Suffolk County Mathematics Tournament. Mr. Drance also noted that Max was invited to represent Suffolk County for the prestigious New York State Mathematics League (NYSML) Championship's last spring, and was selected for the American Regents Mathematics League (ARML) where he competed with the top math students of the United States. Mr. Drance stated that Max has been Northport's top scorer for the nationally renowned American Mathematics Competition (AMC), American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) and the Suffolk County Mathematics Contest. Max's rich competitive and academic portfolio is highlighted by his perfect score of "800" on the SAT II Mathematics exam and a perfect "5" on last May's AP Computer Science Exam.

The President of the Board and the Superintendent congratulated Max on his fine accomplishments and presented him with a certificate of commendation.

5.1.2 Governor David Paterson has declared the week of October 19 – October 23, 2009 as School Board Recognition Week. The Governor designed this special week to commend school board members for their dedicated service to the children of New York State. Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, and Ms. Tish Warner, PTA Council President, presented the nine members of the Board with commendations from Western Suffolk BOCES, and the Northport-East Northport School District and PTA Council.

## 5.2 Review of mathematics instructional initiatives

5.2.1 Mr. Daniel Drance, District Chairperson of Mathematics K-12, presented his report reviewing the 2009 district-wide assessment data for grades 3-8, and results of the New York State Regents, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate examinations. Mr. Drance noted that the assessment data showed the District outperforming all other groups tested. Mr. Drance also noted that item analysis has been helpful in determining students' areas of strength and weakness and the curriculum is being streamlined and revised accordingly. Mr. Drance discussed the district-wide mathematics initiative of raising proficiency and mastery levels on State Assessments and Regents Exams. At the elementary level

initiatives are to incorporate regular computational drill and practice, include a math component with elementary summer school, update curricular resource materials and enroll teachers in SUNY Old Westbury Math/Technology Leadership Training. Middle school initiatives include revising the common assessment schedule, establishing and aligning common curriculum between buildings, creating middle level website and reassessing selection procedure for 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated classes. Mr. Drance stated that the high school initiatives include standardized common assessments, establishing 180-day curriculum for all courses with web interface (Moodle), developing the high school website, and devoting time at department meetings for data discussion/analysis.

There was a brief discussion regarding the validity of standardized tests, the rigor of the advanced academic program, Regents exams data on students with special needs, and the middle school bridge program.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott thanked Mr. Drance for his every informative report.

5.3 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming Board of Education Meetings of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Mr. Waldenburg noted that the presentation of the Annual Report from the Board Auditors has been moved to the November 16, 2009 meeting.

Motion was made by Trustee Munson, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all resolutions under 5.4 through 5.6.

5.4 Approving the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-j of the General Municipal Law, the Board of Education approves the funding of the Workers' Compensation Fund by a transfer of undesignated fund balance (and/or budgetary appropriation) from the 2008-2009 fiscal year in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

5.5 Approving the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-m of the General Municipal Law, the Board of Education approves the funding of the Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund by a transfer of undesignated fund balance (and/or budgetary appropriation) from the 2008-2009 fiscal year in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

5.6 Approving Appropriated Reserves, Budget Confirmation and Tax Levy

5.6.1 RESOLVED that, pursuant to voter approval on May 19, 2009 of Proposition No. 1, the 2009-2010 Budget Appropriations shall be,

Proposition 1	Annual School District Budget	\$146,268.851
	Total Budget Appropriations	\$146,268.851

5.6.2 RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 1318, Subdivision 1, of the Real Property Tax Law, the District shall retain \$5,850,754 of its 2008-2009 total unreserved fund balance, said amount being 4.0% of the voter approved budget and shall apply to the 2009-2010 tax levy the sum of \$3,160,000, the remainder of the 2008-2009 total unreserved fund balance.

5.6.3 RESOLVED that, pursuant to Subdivision 12 of Section 1604 of the Education Law, the estimated receipts, including the application of the remaining unreserved fund balance as determined above in 5.3.2 and the required levy of taxes for school district purposes, be established as follows:

Estimated Receipts	\$ 18,881,520
Tax Levy (includes estimated STAR Reimbursement of \$8,371,179)	\$127,387,331

5.6.4 RESOLVED that, pursuant to 259 and Subdivision 5(a), Section 1804 of the Education Law, the following additional tax levy also be established:

For the School District Library as requested by the Library Trustees \$ 8,604,000

5.6.5 RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 8 of the Suffolk County Tax Act and based upon the assessed valuation which has been certified to the District by the Town Assessor, the following computed tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuations be adopted and order certified to the Supervisor of the Town, together with the dollar amounts to be raised by the President of the Board:

	<u>Amount to be Levied</u>	<u>Estimated Tax Rate/\$100 AV</u>
For Regular School Purposes	\$127,387,745	\$156.87
For School District Public Library	\$ 8,604,000	\$ 10.60

Vote on Trustee Munson’s motion to approve all resolutions under 5.4 through 5.6 was unanimously carried.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Letter from Mr. and Mrs. Cusack, et al, to the Board of Education, received October 1, 2009, re: high school bus service mileage

Mrs. Cusack asked the Board to consider giving a variance to the area of Woodhull Place, Seaview Avenue, Woodhull Court, Seaview Terrace, Whispering Fields, and part of Scudder Avenue and making this area a Child Safety Zone. Mrs. Cusack noted that the children that live in this area have to cross the busy intersection 25A and Elwood Road to walk to the high school. The east side of Elwood Road has a sidewalk that is narrow and mostly without curbs and the west side does not have a sidewalk. Mrs. Cusack also stated that she researched surrounding districts and the transportation limit is 1.0 mile for high school students. Northport is the only district that has a mileage limit of 1.5 miles.

There was a long discussion among the Board and community members. President Waldenburg stated that the mileage is set by voter approval and cannot be changed unless presented to the community to vote on. Mr. Waldenburg also stated that certain criteria have to be met in order to establish an area as a child safety zone. Dr. McDermott noted that she is taking a comprehensive look at transportation and safety throughout the District. Several Board members discussed how the distance is measured from the school and making it uniform throughout the District by using the front entrance of each school as the point of measurement.

Dr. McDermott stated that she will have the current information regarding transportation measurement forwarded to the Board and information regarding the child safety zone application process.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Karen Wills Board Trustee	Stated that she attended the ALS Research Symposium sponsored by the A Midwinter Night’s Dream committee and commented on how phenomenal these students are in their investment to this cause. Trustee Wills also stated she, along with President Waldenburg and Trustees Ingraham and McNaughton attended the “We Work for

You” community forum hosted by County Executive Steve Levy where he discussed consolidation of services among the 69 schools districts in Suffolk County.

Liz Dragone  
Board Trustee

Noted that the high school marching band will be performing at the Newsday Marching Band Festival on Thursday evening.

Tim Madden  
Board Trustee

Stated that he thinks the going green initiative is great environmentally but has concerns about getting information out to parents in the District regarding programs available, in particular the LINGUAS program. Trustee Madden also stated his concern about losing instructional time by closing the elementary schools on May 4<sup>th</sup> to grade assessments.

Mr. Matt Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, stated that a ConnectEd message will be sent out to all elementary parents regarding the LINGUAS program.

Dr. McDermott stated that the District wanted to take a full look at grading the assessments and did not want to incur costs for substitutes as well.

Mary Gilmore  
Parent

Stated that there are wonderful things happening at the high school but what about implementing full day kindergarten. Ms. Gilmore stated that nearly every other school district on Long Island has implemented a full day kindergarten and there is scientifically based research on the educational benefits of a full day kindergarten. Ms. Gilmore asked the Board to consider a three to four year plan with the implementation of the program in year three or four with the infrastructure done in phases.

There was a discussion regarding the financial considerations in changing to a full day kindergarten and President Waldenburg noted that there has been a lot of debate on this subject. Trustee Madden suggested creating a committee to develop a three to four year strategic plan to examine the issue of a full day kindergarten program. After a brief discussion President Waldenburg asked Trustee Madden to formulate a proposal for the Board’s consideration defining the committee and its charge.

Dr. Nina Dorata  
Audit Committee  
Member

Stated that the Board should form a long term strategic planning committee and referenced Levittown School District’s long term strategic planning committee’s charter. Dr. Dorata stated her concerns regarding information being provided to some members of the Board and not to the Audit Committee. Dr. Dorata also stated that delaying the issuance of the financial statements sends a negative signal out. Dr. Dorata stated that she and several members of the Audit Committee spoke with the District’s external auditor as to why the financial statements were delayed.

Dr. McDermott noted that Warren Arthur is the Chairperson of the Audit Committee and that all communication from the Audit Committee should flow through the chairperson. Dr. McDermott also noted that the engagement partner should share his communications not only with the chairperson of the Audit Committee, but also with the Audit Committee, the Board of Education, Ms. Molander and herself. Dr. McDermott also stated that there is nothing to hide with the District’s financial statements and the auditors recommended using the grace period to show that there is a full accounting of the financial statements.

Vice President Munson informed Dr. Dorata that she did not receive any emails from Mr. Arthur or Mr. Rodriguez before the other members of the Audit Committee as Dr. Dorata suggested. Mrs. Munson noted that the Audit Committee is an advisory committee to the whole Board of Education.

Parent

Asked if there is a summer bridge program available in science

Dr. McDermott stated that there is not currently a summer bridge program in science but will look into it.

Jean Baron                      Read a letter to the Board stating that the “complaint of substance” clause in the  
UTNEN                              teacher’s contract does not fairly serve the children and parents of the district. Ms.  
Baron requested that the contract be amended to provide protection to students and  
parents by allowing a complainant’s name to remain confidential to all personnel  
including the UTN president.

President Waldenburg stated that all Board members will receive a copy of Ms. Baron’s letter and it will be considered when negotiations open up.

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #37-38) and Supplemental 9.2.3 (donation).

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

8.1     Personnel Schedules, each dated October 19, 2009, 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 C     -     Salary Transfers
- 8.1.4     Schedule D     -     Extra Pay
- 8.1.5     Schedule J     -     Committee on Special Education

President Waldenburg announced the retirement of Margaret Isenberg, Ocean Avenue School Teacher Aide, after 35 years of service to the District.

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

9.1     Authorizing the administration to apply for the following Suffolk’s Edge Teacher Center Grants:

9.1.1     \$507.00 to be used to form a parent/teacher collegial circle using the text, 7 Keys to Comprehension – How to Help your Kids Read It and Get It!

9.1.2     \$1,496.47 to be used to create a sustainable and environmentally-friendly vegetable garden and hands-on outdoor classroom starting with the spring 2010 growing season

9.1.3     \$1,500.00 to be used to institute a classroom library of books for students to check-out and read independently in order to have access to current high-interest titles that will capture their attention and inspire their love of reading

9.1.4     \$1,500.00 to be used to fund supplies for activities for the East Northport Middle School Environmental Team Club

9.2     Approving the following donations to the District:

9.2.1     \$2,529.00 from the Music Department for the Northport-East Northport School District for the purpose of establishing The Michael Kauffman Memorial Scholarship

9.2.2     \$100 from various donors to the Geraldine Wolf Welch Memorial Scholarship

9.2.3 \$4,100.64 to purchase a SMARTBoard for installation at Northport High School in Pam Geres' life skills program, and authorizing an increase in the 2009-10 budget (Code A2110.2030.00.2804 \$2,572.12 and A2110.5030.00.2804 \$1,528.52) for this purpose

9.3 Approving a 2009-2010 Tuition Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the Bethpage Union Free School District

9.4 Approving a 2009-2010 SEDCAR I Sub-Allocation Contract between Elwood Union Free School District (Local Education Agency – LEA) and the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District (Approved Special Education Program – ASEP)

9.5 Approving a 2009-2010 Service Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Cleary School for the Deaf

9.6 Approving a 2009-2010 Special Education Services Contract between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the South Huntington Union Free School District

9.7 Approving a 2009-2010 Special Education Services Contract between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the Commack Union Free School District

9.8 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2009-2010 budget

Vote on Trustee Ingraham's motion to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.1.1 (Schedule A #37-38) and Supplemental 9.2.3 (donation) was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.1 Schedule I – Home Instruction

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve a Memorandum of Agreement, dated October 2, 2009, between the United Public Service Employees Union and the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District

Vote on Trustee Ingraham's motion was unanimously carried.

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

At 10:25 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

bmn