

Special Meeting

A Preliminary Public Hearing of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday evening, April 14, 2010, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in Room A106 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: Mrs. Liz Dragone, 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: None
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.

Motion was made by Trustee Ingraham, seconded by Trustee Wills, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to contract negotiations

Unanimously carried.

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

Unanimously carried.

Public attendance: There were approximately 420 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, asked Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, to review the data corrections.

Ms. Molander stated that there were two changes to the budget. Code A2110.1300.30.1900, Business Program, the projection was \$406,206 it was revised to \$289,678, resulting in a reduction of \$116,528. The second code, A2110.4900.00.2804, BOCES Services, the projection was \$540,877 it was revised to \$520,877, resulting in a reduction of \$20,000.

5. BOARD AND COMMUNITY DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED 2010-2011 BUDGET

President Waldenburg stated that all the Board members have received the letters and read them as part of their budget review process.

- 5.1 Communications to the Board relating to the budget:

The following communications were received regarding the child education program:

- 5.1.1 Email from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Howard, received March 11, 2010
- 5.1.2 Email from Ms. Donna Martino, received March 15, 2010

The following communications were received regarding the music program:

- 5.1.3 Email from Ms. Elizabeth Klonowski, received March 11, 2010

Ms. Klonowski addressed the Board and urged them not to make cuts to the Marching Band and the Summer Music Program.

- 5.1.4 Email from Ms. Jenna Rugile, received March 15, 2010
- 5.1.5 Email from Mrs. Donna Regensburger, received March 16, 2010
- 5.1.6 Email from Ms. Isabel Stevens, received March 22, 2010
- 5.1.7 Email from Ms. Laura Fallon, received March 23, 2010
- 5.1.8 Email from Mr. Dennis Szymanski, received March 15, 2010

The following communications were received regarding the YDA:

- 5.1.9 Email from Ms. Christine Matis-Uzzo, received March 17, 2010

Ms. Matis-Uzzo asked the Board to reconsider the elimination of the YDA's Street Outreach Worker position.

- 5.1.10 Email from Ms. Barbara Senzel, received March 17, 2010
- 5.1.11 Email from Ms. Annemarie DiPasquale, received March 17, 2010
- 5.1.12 Email from Mr. Jim Matthews, received March 18, 2010
- 5.1.13 Letter from Mr. Rod Miller, received March 18, 2010, along with student

letters

Mr. Miller along with Kimberly Lahey, Street Outreach Worker, and several students urged the Board not to eliminate the funding for the YDA program. Several students spoke about how important and helpful the program is. Ms. Lahey spoke about her responsibilities as the street outreach worker.

- 5.1.14 Email from Ms. Rose Ingraldi, received March 19, 2010

Ms. Ingraldi addressed the Board and encouraged them to continue to support the YDA in the upcoming 2010-2011 school year.

- 5.1.15 Email from Mr. Peter Elkind, received March 22, 2010
- 5.1.16 Email from Mr. Bob Slingo, received March 22, 2010

Mr. Slingo read his letter to the Board requesting that the District put the \$32,000 funding for the YDA program back into the budget.

- 5.1.17 Email from Ms. Amy Connors-Buffone, received March 23, 2010
- 5.1.18 Letter from Mr. Peter Elkind, received March 23, 2010
- 5.1.19 Letter from Ms. Kathleen Francis, received March 25, 2010
- 5.1.20 Letter from Mr. Rod Miller, received March 29, 2010, along with student

letters

- 5.1.21 Email from Ms. Jane Reich, received April 7, 2010

Ms. Reich asked the Board to reconsider their decision of dropping the funding for the YDA street outreach worker from the school district budget.

The following communications were received regarding proposed budget cuts:

- 5.1.22 Email from Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stockman, received March 11, 2010
- 5.1.23 Email from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crafa, received March 15, 2010
- 5.1.24 Email from Mr. and Mrs. Dan Miles, et. al., received March 15, 2010
- 5.1.25 Email from Ms. Erica Romano, received March 15, 2010
- 5.1.26 Email from Ms. Rita Smyth, received March 15, 2010
- 5.1.27 Email from Ms. Cynthia Vissicchio, received March 15, 2010
- 5.1.28 Email from Ms. Lauren Regensburger, received March 16, 2010
- 5.1.29 Email from Ms. Krista Boland, received March 19, 2010
- 5.1.30 Email from Ms. Kristi Cornetta, received March 23, 2010
- 5.1.31 Email from Ms. Denise Curci Schwartz, received March 24, 2010
- 5.1.32 Email from Mr. Albert Prisco, received March 25, 2010
- 5.1.33 Email from Ms. Sheila Whitlow, received March 25, 2010

Ms. Whitlow addressed the Board and asked Dr. McDermott to explain the large budget time for the employee and teachers pension to the audience.

Ms. Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the ERS and TRS funds show significant increases for the 2010-2011 school year. The TRS is budgeted at 9% and the ERS has a very large increase of over 11%. Ms. Molander stated that the new 25/55 retirement will go into effect and that every school district will be required to contribute to the fund even if no employee is participating in it.

In response to a question, Dr. McDermott stated that if the teachers union agreed to take a salary freeze the excessed positions as well as cuts to proposed programs will be reinstated.

- 5.1.34 Email from Ms. Emily McNamara, received March 26, 2010
- 5.1.35 Email from Ms. Patricia Buckley, received March 26, 2010
- 5.1.36 Letter from Mr. Joseph Dragone, received April 5, 2010

Mr. Dragone urged the Board and the UTN to continue to listen to each other's proposals. Mr. Dragone stated that if the Board needed to present a budget levy increase higher than 2% in order to preserve the quality education for the children then they should give the public a chance to say yes or no to that budget.

5.1.37 Petition from Ms. Cathy Madden, et.al. (162 names), received April 7, 2010

5.1.38 Letter from Ms. Sally Herzog and the Northport-East Northport District Library Media Specialists, received April 7, 2010

5.2 Opportunity for public input regarding the school budget for 2010-2011

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
James Pryal Resident	Stated that his primary concern was the deleterious effect of a 1.94% budget to the quality education in the Northport schools through increased class size and loss of good teachers
Debbie Rimler Resident	Stated that she disagreed with the proposed cuts to staff, programs and the YDA. Ms. Rimler stated that it would have been helpful if the Board had presented a few different budgets and the community was able to evaluate each one and the effects of the corresponding cuts
Carl Litt Resident	Urged the Board to consider the recommendations made by the Operations and Maintenance Committee in the Five Year Capital Projects plan. Mr. Litt stated that the delay of one year in funding will age the facilities two to three years.

Lisa Michalek
Resident

Stated that the teachers are no longer working for minimal salaries and the taxpayers are required to make sure their pensions remain fully funded. Ms. Michalek stated that something needs to be done to reduce costs without taking advantage of taxpayers and the District can no longer afford luxuries. Ms. Michalek stated that salaries and benefits should be the first place to look at for cuts.

In response Ms. Michalek's question regarding if a vote was brought to the members of the UTN, Ms. Antoinette Blanck, UTN President, stated that the union constitution and bylaws call for a negotiating team to negotiate in good faith with the district's collective bargaining unit and once a memorandum of agreement is reached that is brought to the members for ratification.

Carolyn Dondero
Resident

Stated that she moved to the district primarily because of the school district's stellar education and the many opportunities the district offers its students to become well rounded individuals. Ms. Dondero stated that the future of the country is in the hands of the children we educate.

Andrew Rapiejko
Resident

Stated that he had many concerns regarding the proposed cuts in the budget and their impact upon the children and also the long term impact. Mr. Rapiejko stated that it is all about educating children.

Karlie Kohler
Student

Urged the Board not to take away the music program and to think of the students and how the cuts will affect them.

Melissa Kleynowski
Student

Stated that the Art, Music and Theater programs are part of the many great programs offered at Northport High School and they make Northport what it is. She asked the Board not to take away the teachers and the wonderful classes.

Chelsea Cirruzzo
Student

Stated that she is looking forward to be able to participate in the great programs offered at the high school and that many students will be hurt by taking these programs away.

Rebecca Panarello
Student

Stated that she wanted her younger brother to experience the programs offered at the high school and urged the Board to reconsider the cuts.

Kayla Darienzo
Student

Asked the Board to reconsider the cutting of electives and the music program at the high school.

Kathryn Geddes
Student

Spoke on behalf of the Academy of Finance and the uniqueness of the program. Ms. Geddes read a statement from Congressman Steve Israel in which he stated that the Academy of Finance Program is unique and useful to further financial literacy in schools.

Elizabeth Smith
Student

Stated that she had concerns about student safety if a band director is cut and concert and freshman band is combined with only one teacher in charge.

Benjamin Kramer
Student

Stated that the summer music program is vital and gives students the opportunity to learn an instrument in the third grade. Mr. Kramer also stated that the cuts to the marching band would be a drastic loss to the music program and the community.

Justin Riggs
Student

Stated that in the budget book the Art Department administrator was receiving an 80% raise and asked if the District was hiring another administrator

In response to Mr. Riggs question, Ms. Molander stated that it is not an increase in administrative salary and that the previous administrator's salary was split between two budget codes but now it is under the one code

Cassandra Dragone
Student

Suggested that the Board take an optimistic approach to the budget and consider starting at 4% and look at all programs and then water down those with the least impact.

Joseph Sabia
Resident

Stated that the department chairpersons and assistant principals should be put back into the classroom to teach. Mr. Sabia also stated that the District should take a closer look at the BOCES budget and consider pulling out of BOCES, and have parents pay for the District's summer programs. Mr. Sabia stated something needs to be done to stop the spending.

Stephen Hearn
Student

Asked if the Board received and reviewed the proposal he presented regarding raising money through advertising

James Kavanaugh
Student

Stated that the District has great teachers and asked the Board to think about the teachers before deciding on the budget.

Thomas Shortell
Resident

Stated that 76% of the budget is salaries and benefits and hoped that the teachers would take a salary freeze. Mr. Shortell stated that the District has taken good care of them and it is time for them to give back to the taxpayers and the community. Mr. Shortell also suggested that the District hold a general assembly for students to address the Board regarding the budget since they are not taxpayers.

Jen Montgomery
Resident

Thanked the Board for trying to present a budget that will be supported by most of the community. She also stated that the community would more than support the teachers if they demanded a chance to vote and if the community knew how they felt about the proposed pay freeze.

Noel J. Brereton
Resident

Stated that the District has more electives than any school in New York state and a critical evaluation of quality education is overdue. Mr. Brereton stated there should be a short, medium and long term plan to reduce electives offered and further cost reductions could be seen in contract negotiations.

Kristy Sileo
Resident

Asked the Board to reconsider the elimination of the early intervention preschool program. Ms. Sileo also asked the teachers to go to their union and let them know how they feel.

Carol Dannenberg
Resident

Stated that the high school is an amazing place and asked the Board not to take the competitive edge away from students by cutting the music program. Dr. Dannenberg stated that music is good for the mind, intellect and social skills and that if you take apart the program it will never be the same.

Fred Trudwig, Jr.
Resident

Asked why the District is spending \$109,000 on SmartBoards and if any investigation was done by the District to receive grants for the SmartBoards and technology improvement. Mr. Trudwig suggested pushing off the SmartBoard purchase for a year.

Mr. Matt Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, stated that the District is always looking at grant opportunities.

Denise Summers Mumm
Resident

Encouraged the Board to get involved in the BOCES budget process, to create a budget committee, to follow-up on the use of facilities to make sure the organizations are not making a profit and compensating the District for the use, to look at the pre-k program, and look at the undersubscribed clubs.

Jennifer Thompson
Resident

Asked the Board to reconsider the summer music program and try to find a way that it could be afforded. Ms. Thompson stated that many families would be willing to pay more for the summer music program to offset the costs.

Rachel Friedman
Resident

Stated her concerns about the budget cuts and asked if the Board could present different budgets using different percentages. Ms. Friedman also requested the Board not to minimize the jobs that the teachers do.

In response to a question regarding the SAT prep course, Mr. Patricia Schmitt, English Department Chairperson, stated that in the English Department there is only one elective which is the SAT prep course and that the other selectives fulfill the state's English requirement.

Mr. John Lynch, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, stated that the elementary health education program will be eliminated as it currently exists and will be replaced through the classroom teacher. The high school health infusion program for grade 9 and 10 will be eliminated.

Mr. Andrew Manzo, Social Studies Department Chairperson, stated that the Project Patch lead coordinator will be eliminated, not the lead classes, and the ombudsman mediation program will be eliminated. The coordinator of the patch programs at .2 fte will teach one class.

Rebecca Donders
Resident

Stated that the proposed budget calls for the loss of educators at all levels, and as a result class size will rise and property values will be challenged. Ms. Donders stated that she believed there were other areas where funding could be reduced and that a quality education is invaluable and should not be taken away.

Samuel Kessler
Student

Stated that he would rather have the teachers in the classroom and not see any SmartBoards.

Mike Kramer
Resident

Asked what savings would be realized in cuts of administrative staff, materials, infrastructure and other non-teaching personnel

Dr. McDermott stated that the administrators, teacher aides, security staff and confidential secretaries have taken a pay freeze. The administration has looked at all aspects of the budget to be equitable across the board and the District has streamlined administrative staff in many ways.

Nina Dorata
Resident

Stated that there has been chronic under spending of the budget, last year was \$6 million under budget and the years prior to that at least \$4m under budget. Dr. Dorata stated that in the private sector creating reserves is viewed very negatively. Dr. Dorata asked why the Board would approve a BOCES budget without first taking a hard look at it. Dr. Dorata asked the Board to put a budget committee together to help take a harder look at the numbers.

Jack Canfora
Resident

Stated that education is not a business and that parents entrust the teachers with their children. Mr. Canfora stated that compared to other districts Northport teachers are underpaid. Mr. Canfora stated that a zero percent increase is reasonable but steps cannot be taken away as they amount to a pay cut. Mr. Canfora stated that everything else should be cut before teachers' salaries and stated that value of teachers over technology

Paul Jepson
Resident

Urged the Board to reconsider the cuts to the summer music program, stating that the program serves a large number of students in the district and many parents would be willing to pay more for it.

At 11:00 pm motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Dragone, to extend the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

Steven Brown
Resident

Stated that instead of laying off teachers the District should ask for a percent reduction in salaries. Mr. Brown also asked the Board to look at District vehicles and fuel allowances. Mr. Brown stated that unions have to be powered down and asked the Board to do more negotiating with the unions.

Jean Baron
Resident

Stated that the community needs to make informed decisions about the budget. Ms. Baron asked where the cost of the IB program is in the budget and stated there should be a cost benefit analysis of the program. Ms. Baron also questioned why the high school needs 12 attendance runners when there are four assistant principals, pupil services personnel and the counseling department who could handle this.

Jill Krahel
Resident

Stated that it is hard to make an informed decision about the budget when you don't know where the specific cuts will be. Ms. Krahel also asked how much money would be restored to the budget if the tax rate was increased to 3%.

Ms. Kathleen Molander stated a tax rate increase to 3% would be approximately \$1.25 million.

Antoinette Blanck
UTN President

Stated that the union's counter proposal offered a salary freeze and also looked at the second year, but was met with unwillingness to move on from a one year proposal. Ms. Blanck stated that as union representatives they must negotiate in the best interests of the whole. Ms. Blanck stated that what the Northport-East Northport school district asked of their teachers is very different from the entire Long Island education community.

Jean Oblak
Resident

Asked if changes to the budget will still be possible after it is finalized and what happens if the budget does not pass. Ms. Oblak urged to Board to try and preclude a budget failure from happening.

President Waldenburg stated that the Board will decide upon the total spending package that will be presented to the community at the May vote. Mr. Waldenburg stated that if the budget fails the Board can choose to put up the same budget, choose to put up a different budget, or not have a second vote and have a contingency budget.

Amy Rizzutto
Resident Stated that the bottom line is that cuts have to be made and urged the Board to negotiate in good faith and come to an agreement with the teachers' union. Ms. Rizzutto stated that this is a community and everyone is here for the children.

Lori McCue
Resident Stated that she is in support of the middle school sport, clubs and extracurricular activities.

Jennifer Labruna
Resident Stated her concern about class size at the third grade level. Ms. Labruna stated that it is an important year where children move from learning to read toward reading to learn and with 26 kids in a class how can you make sure they are learning how to read. Ms. Labruna stated that the private sector is not giving raises and she has made to make sacrifices and hopes that the teachers understand that too.

Christine Matis-Uzzo
Resident Asked the Board to look at the Gifted and Talented program and assess how much it costs and how many students benefit from it.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Sato, to approve all items under 6. and 7., including supplemental item 6.1.5 (Schedule B - #1).

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

6.1 Approving Personnel Schedules, each dated April 14, 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
- 6.1.5 Schedule B - Non-Instructional Staff

6.2 Approving request for travel for students to countries outside of the United States during the 2009-2010 school year

- 6.2.1 Czech Republic, Poland, Germany – June/July 2010

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

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

7.1 Authorizing the administration to apply for a New York State Bar Association Grant in the amount of \$7,608.71 to be used to support the expenses related to the 2010 Law and Civic Education Summer Institute to be held at Northport High School June 28th through July 1st, 2010

7.2 Authorizing the administration to apply for a Suffolk's Edge Teacher Center Grant in the amount of \$642.00 to be used to form a parent/teacher collegial circle, 7 Keys to Comprehension – How to Help your Kids Read It and Get It!

7.3 Authorizing the Board President to sign a contract with the following districts to provide Health Services for Northport-East Northport students attending school in that district during the 2009-2010 school year:

7.3.1 South Huntington Union Free School District, ninety-four (94) students attending St. Anthony's High School, and fifteen (15) students attending Long Island School for the Gifted @ \$770.85, totaling \$84,022.65

7.3.2 Jericho Union Free School District, sixteen (16) students attending Long Island Lutheran, and two (2) students attending Solomon Schechter @ \$918.51, totaling \$16,533.18

7.3.3 Westbury Union Free School District, one (1) student attending Holy Child Academy @ \$830.08, totaling \$830.08

7.4 Approving 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Special Education Contracts between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Harborfields Central School District

7.5 Receiving the following donations to the District:

7.5.1 \$865.00 from various donors to the following scholarship funds: Garland Butts Scholarship (\$85.00), Robert Padgett Scholarship (\$85.00), James J. Cassara Scholarship (\$85.00), Dora Clarke Scholarship (\$310.00), Robert Krueger Scholarship (\$300.00)

7.5.2 \$100.00 from Sonia Padgett to the Robert Padgett Scholarship Fund

7.5.3 \$50.00 from Christine McClay and \$100.00 from Donna McNaughton to the Michael C. Kauffman Scholarship Fund

7.5.4 \$25.00 from Maurine T. Failey and \$25.00 from Mary Ann Beatty to the Robert Krueger Scholarship Fund

7.5.5 \$100.00 from Linda Gruhn to the Happy School Bus Scholarship

7.5.6 \$100.00 from Mrs. Anna Hernandez to the Lt. Commander Christopher Tragna Memorial Fund

7.6 Approving the following change orders:

7.6.1 Change Order #1, dated November 13, 2009, SED Project #58-04-04-03-0-002-015, Dickinson Avenue Elementary School, increase in the amount of \$3,033.60

7.6.2 Change Order #2, dated November 17, 2009, SED Project #58-04-04-03-0-004-018, Fifth Avenue Elementary School, increase in the amount of \$2,685.00

7.6.3 Change Order #1, dated September 30, 2009, SED Project #58-04-04-03-0-005-017, Norwood Avenue Elementary School, decrease in the amount of \$1,000.00

7.6.4 Change Order #1, dated November 17, 2009, SED Project #58-04-04-03-0-005-017, Norwood Avenue Elementary School, decrease in the amount of \$2,000.00

7.6.5 Change Order #1, dated September 30, 2009, SED Project #58-04-04-03-0-008-018, Northport Middle School, decrease in the amount of \$5,121.14

7.6.6 Change Order No. 3, dated January 6, 2010, SED Project #58-04-04-03-7-999-003, Pulaski Road Elementary School and Norwood Avenue Elementary School, increase in the amount of \$8,851.23

7.7 Approving a License Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and SCOPE Education Services for the After School Child Care Program for the 2010-2011 school year

7.8 Approving and Engagement Letter between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Company, P.C., for Accounting Services

7.9 Receiving the Districtwide Five Year Capital Projects Improvement Plan, and authorizing the administration to continue planning for a separate proposition seeking authorization to expend funds from the 2010-2011 proposed Capital Fund budgetary transfer and the Capital Reserve Fund

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

Vote on Trustee McNaughton's motion to approve all items under 6. and 7., including supplemental item 6.1.5 (Schedule B - #1) was unanimously carried.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

8.1 Schedule H – Use of Facilities

8.2 Schedule I – Home Instruction

9. NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Trustee Dragone, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to appoint Mr. Warren Arthur, Mr. Lawrence Beck, Ms. Danielle Buell and Mr. Andrew Rapiejko to the Audit Committee to serve a term of two years beginning April 15, 2010

Vote on Trustee Dragone's motion was as follows:

YES: Mrs. Dragone, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Ingraham, Mrs. McNaughton, Dr. Sato, Mrs. Wills, Mr. Waldenburg

NO: Mr. Madden

Motion passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Madden, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to appoint Trustee Joe Gannon to serve on the Audit Committee.

Unanimously carried.

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

At 11:55 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn