

Special Meeting to Finalize Budget

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday evening, April 13, 2011, beginning at 6:00 p.m., in the Faculty Dining Room 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: Ms. Julia Binger, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Mr. Andrew Rapiejko, Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: None
One board seat vacant

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools
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 Gannon, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the proposed sale or lease of real property and the employment history of individual employees.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:35 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the large cafeteria at the Northport High School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 75 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and

3. Pointed out the emergency exits.

4. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

5. COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING BUDGET AND CONVENE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

President Waldenburg stated that the Superintendent was directed by the Board to prepare a proposed 2011-2012 budget with a tax rate increase of less than 2%. Mr. Waldenburg stated that the proposed 2011-2012 budget represents a 1.98% tax rate increase. There have been several meetings reviewing the proposed budget line-by-line and last week the Board heard input, concerns and questions from the public. Mr. Waldenburg noted that the Board received additional letters and emails from the community and will address them prior to entering into committee-of-the-whole.

- 5.01 Communications received regarding the proposed 2011-2012 Budget

5.01.1 Email from Ms. Karin Stucchio, received April 8, 2011. Ms. Stucchio supported the proposed budget.

5.01.2 Email from Ms. Laura Petronella, received April 8, 2011. Ms. Petronella supported the proposed budget.

5.01.3 Email from Mr. Michael P. Gilmore, received April 8, 2011. Mr. Gilmore was vehemently opposed to any increases in school district taxes or any taxes.

5.01.4 Email from Ms. Amy Connor, received April 8, 2011. Ms. Connor thanked the board and Superintendent for working to keep tax increases as low as possible and maintaining quality schools.

5.01.5 Email from Lisa and Daniel Karopoulos, received April 8, 2011. Lisa and Daniel Karopoulos supported the proposed budget.

5.01.6 Email from Ms. Sheila Whitlow, received April 8, 2011. Ms. Whitlow addressed the board and stated she spoke to Dr. McDermott regarding her letter. Ms. Whitlow asked what a contingency budget would look like.

President Waldenburg stated that a contingency budget will be addressed at a future meeting.

5.01.7 Email from Ms. Lisa Leonick, received April 11, 2011. Ms. Leonick supported the proposed budget.

5.01.8 Email from Ms. Cindy Hunter, received April 11, 2011. Ms. Hunter supported the proposed budget.

5.01.9 Email from Ms. Kelly Clark, received April 11, 2011. Ms. Clark requested the Board explain what a 0% tax rate increase budget would look like.

5.01.10 Email from Ms. Amanda Torres, received April 11, 2011. Ms. Torres supported the proposed budget.

5.01.11 Email from Ms. Sheila Whitlow, received April 11, 2011

In response to Ms. Whitlow, Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that the \$600,000 is the jobs money from the Federal Government and \$187,927 in State Aid was restored to the District.

5.01.12 Email from Ms. Jen Montgomery, received April 11, 2011. Ms. Montgomery supported the proposed budget.

5.01.13 Email from Mr. Michael Amendola, received April 11, 2011. Mr. Amendola supported the proposed budget.

5.01.14 Email from Ms. Carrie Pearlman, received April 11, 2011. Ms. Pearlman supported the proposed budget.

5.01.15 Email from Ms. Anne Kroon, received April 12, 2011. Ms. Kroon supported the proposed budget.

5.01.16 Email from Ellen and Jonathan Hatch, received April 12, 2011. Mr. and Mrs. Hatch supported the proposed budget and stated that the problems needs to be addressed at the state and federal levels.

President Waldenburg asked if the District could create a list of the mandates that affect education for the community to understand, and contact information for the elected officials.

5.01.17 Email from Ms. Ellen Francis, received April 12, 2011. Ms. Francis supported the proposed budget.

5.01.18 Email from Ms. Joann Stolls, received April 12, 2011. Ms. Stolls supported the proposed budget.

5.01.19 Email from Diana and Jerry Macholz, received April 13, 2011. Diana and Jerry Macholz supported the proposed budget.

5.01.20 Email from Ms. Grace Dwyer-Mauro, received April 13, 2011. Ms. Dwyer-Mauro supported the proposed budget.

5.01.21 Email from Ms. Jane Fenton, received April 13, 2011. Ms. Fenton supported the proposed budget.

5.01.22 Email from Lynn and Joseph Leonard, received April 13, 2011. Lynn and Joseph Leonard supported the proposed budget.

5.01.23 Email from Ms. Jennifer Stearns Lau, received April 13, 2011. Ms. Stearns Lau supported the proposed budget.

5.01.24 Email from Mr. Anthony Petrunti, received April 13, 2011. Mr. Petrunti stated that the community cannot continue to have tax rate hikes each year and that they are making it very difficult for anyone to continue to live in the village.

5.01.25 Email from Mr. Richard Lau, received April 13, 2011. Mr. Lau supported the proposed budget.

Mr. Longo addressed the Board and asked how the Triborough Amendment affects budget negotiations and teacher contracts.

President Waldenburg stated that the contract between the District and the UTN holds salaries and step increases to the levels at the end of the contract.

Ms. Brenda Galofaro addressed the Board and stated that weighting should not be eliminated and that the program is necessary to support the teachers.

Trustee Wills requested Ms. Galofaro leave her contact information for her to discuss weighting.

At 8:25 p.m., motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to convene into Committee-of-the-Whole to discuss informally the budget that will be presented to the voters on May 17, 2011.

Unanimously carried.

At 10:30 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by trustee McNaughton, to extend the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

6. RECONVENE IN SPECIAL MEETING

At 11:05 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to come out of Committee-of-the-Whole and to reconvene into Special Meeting.

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Rapiejko, to approve the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvement projects:

- Replacement of two boilers and associated mechanical systems at East Northport Middle School
- Replacement of electrical service and wiring at Northport Middle School
- Replacement of front stairs at William J. Brosnan School
- Renovations to the football/soccer/lacrosse fields at Northport Middle School and East Northport Middle School; and

WHEREAS, said capital improvement projects are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, routine activities such as renovations to, or expansions of existing public school facilities by less than 10,000 square feet are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(8); and

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the capital improvement projects listed in attachment A hereto are classified as a Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(8) of the SEQR Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that the capital improvement projects outlined above are Type II Actions, which requires no further review under SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of said projects from the New York State Education Department.”

Unanimously carried.

7. FINALIZE PROPOSITIONS

7.01 Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve the following proposition that will be submitted to the Voters on May 17, 2011:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the following proposition shall be submitted to the voters at the May 17, 2011 Annual Vote as “Proposition No. 1:”

RESOLVED, that the Annual School District Budget for the 2011-2012 School year in the amount of \$151,178,758 and the necessary taxes therefor be approved.

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Wills, seconded by Trustee Gannon, to approve the following proposition that will be submitted to the Voters on May 17, 2011 as “Proposition No. 2:”

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the following proposition to be included on the ballot at its Annual Meeting on May 17, 2011 as follows:”

SHALL the Board of Education be authorized to expend out of the capital reserve fund established on May 20, 2008 a sum not to exceed \$900,000 for the purpose of replacing two (2) boilers and associated mechanical systems at East Northport Middle School and replacement of front stairs at William J. Brosnan School, including all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus, and incidental costs thereof.

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.01.3 (Schedule A #1-7), and Supplemental 8.02 (revised School Calendar for 2011-2012)

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

8.01 Personnel Schedules, each dated April 13, 2011, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.01.1 Schedule B – Non-Instructional Staff
- 8.01.2 Schedule D – Extra Pay
- 8.01.3 Schedule A – Certified Staff

8.02 Adopting the revised proposed School Calendar for 2011-2012

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

9.01 Approving a 2010-2011 Service Agreement between Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Developmental Disabilities Institute

Vote on Trustee Gannon’s motion to approve all items under 8. and 9., including Supplemental 8.01.3 (Schedule A #1-7), and Supplemental 8.02 (revised School Calendar for 2011-2012) was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming meetings of April 28th, and May 9th, the Budget Vote and Election of Trustee on May 17th, and the Special Meeting to Accept the Voting Returns on May 17th.

At 11:25 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

At 11:25 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmh