

Public Work Session

A Public Work Session of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, November 17, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Conference Room at the William J. Brosnan School, 158 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, with Ms. Julia R. Binger, Chairperson, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mr. David Badanes, Ms. Julia Binger, Mr. James Maloney, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Mrs. Regina Pisacani, Mr. Andrew Rapiejko, Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr.

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration
Ms. Rosemarie Coletti, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Mr. Christopher Powers, Esq., Board Counsel, Ingerman Smith LLP

1. President Binger called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Maloney, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to contract negotiations and matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:01 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 100 persons present.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Rapiejko, to approve all items under 4.01

4.01 Minutes

4.01.1 Regular Meeting, November 3, 2014

Unanimously carried.

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools, stated that a pole was knocked down in Asharoken by Bevin Road. Approximately thirty students were affected and the principals of the schools informed the parents. The Asharoken Police Department assisted the students in getting home along with Building Maintenance Supervisor Krueger and Transportation Supervisor McGrane.

Dr. McDermott stated that Transportation Supervisor McGrane is in the process of gathering information about the potential transportation costs in revising the administrative regulation regarding designated

school entrances. The information should be available in approximately one month.

Dr. McDermott read a letter from the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese commending Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, District Chairperson of World Languages and ESL, for a workshop she presented at their Long Island Chapter Fall Conference.

5.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.01.1 Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, District Chairperson of World Languages and ESL, introduced the following students who tested proficient on the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) and have successfully completed their ESL coursework:

Denisabell Aguirre, Lindsay Avila-Abad, Jefferson Betancourth, Erica Benavidez, Jennifer Benavidez-Yanes, Jessica Bonilla-Hernandez, Ara Cho, Elisabeth Cho, Skyla Fabbriante, Evan Liu, Darwin Martinez, Heather Ortiz-Garcia, Christopher Pereira, Chia-Ling Pidd, Emely Rodriguez Abarca, Kumail Syed, Isabella Terrones-Nunez, Filippo Trevisin, Christopher Velasquez

5.01.2 Ms. Robin Rann, District Chairperson of Mathematics, introduced Adam Change, Mathematics Department Student of the Month.

Ms. Rann stated that Adam is a young man of considerable ambition demonstrating superior problem solving skills and passion for the discipline through his advanced mathematics coursework. He has consistently approached the curriculum with determination, deep analysis, and creative insight. Adam's academic journey through Northport's schools has stretched well beyond the boundaries of the classroom, and has been abundant with honors and achievements reflecting his commitment to academic excellence and his passion for learning. His accomplishments include medal performances in the Long Island Math Fair, high level standings in the Suffolk County Mathematics Competition, and Top Scorer recognition in Mathletes competitions. Ms. Rann noted that Adam is an exceptional student who challenges the highest rigor possible. He will graduate in June with the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma after having satisfied the demanding requirements of the program, including the 4,000 word extended essay on the subject of mathematics. Adam plans to study neuroscience or neurobiology upon graduation. Adam's participation in the Science and Research Awareness Series at the National Youth Leadership Conference further solidified his interest in the field of medicine.

President Binger and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Adam on his fine achievements and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

5.01.3 Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, District Chairperson of World Languages and ESL, introduced Victoria Conde, World Languages Department Student of the Month.

Ms. Nesfield stated that Victoria is a stellar student who has distinguished herself not only in the classroom but in the Northport Community. She has a natural aptitude for language and consistently challenges herself to grow linguistically. Ms. Nesfield noted that given Victoria's love of languages, her ability to connect positively with her peers, and her desire to achieve, it is no surprise that this amazing young woman was inducted into the World Language Honor Society in October. Victoria not only has an interest in languages and world culture, but also in the areas of science and engineering. She is an IB diploma candidate and has consistently earned top grades in her IB Italian courses. In addition to her academic studies, she serves as the Honor Society Treasurer, participates in the Schools for Schools campaign, is a member of the Future Educators of America, and actively contributes to the Mid-Winter Night's Dream organization. Ms. Nesfield stated that it is evident that this young lady has a boundless source of energy and limitless potential. She loves helping others and has emerged as a leader in the school community.

President Binger and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Victoria on her fine achievements and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

5.01.4 Ms. Jennifer Nesfield, District Chairperson of World Languages and ESL, introduced Chia-Ling Pidd, ESL Department Student of the Month.

Ms. Nesfield stated that Chia-Ling is an amazing young woman who has distinguished herself academically and has shown tremendous growth over the last three years. When Chia-Ling arrived from Taiwan three years ago, her English skills were quite limited, but she approached her study of English with zeal and tenacity, so much so that she completed the ESL program within two years. In addition to learning the English language, she has embraced American culture, and developed a strong sense of who she is and what she would like to achieve in the future. Her strong work ethic and natural abilities have helped her excel in all of her mainstream classes, including IB Music, AP Calculus, and Physics. Chia-Ling's conscientious and disciplined work habits extend beyond the classroom. In addition to her academic studies, she is an amazingly gifted musician playing both cello and piano. Ms. Nesfield noted that Chia-Ling is currently an active member of the Northport High School Symphony Orchestra and is a member of the Manhattan School of Music performance program where she attends classes on the weekends and performs with their honors orchestra. Ms. Nesfield stated that Chia-Ling is a source of pride for her family, the English as a Second Language Department, and Northport High School.

President Binger and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Chia-Ling on her fine accomplishments and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

5.01.5 Mr. Dan McKeon, Northport High School Assistant Principal, introduced Jessica Camenzuli, Family and Consumer Sciences Department Student of the Month.

Mr. McKeon stated that Jessica is an intelligent, compassionate and creative young woman who has completed course work in Early Childhood Education, Family Dynamics, Literacy Lab and the college level course, Child Psychology and Development. She is currently enrolled in Early Childhood Education Planning and Administration where she plays an essential part in the management of the preschool classroom. Jessica serves as co-president of Northport High School's Future Educators Association. Jessica's meticulous nature and disciplined work habits are infused in to all she does. She is a hard working dedicated individual and her high level of commitment is rare in a young woman her age. Jessica has received honor roll every quarter in high school and is ranked 15th in the senior class. After school she volunteers as a Special Olympics Coach, she is a Junior Volunteer at Huntington Hospital, and she also volunteers at the Northport Library. Mr. McKeon stated that Jessica is a talented, creative, self-assured assistant in the preschool classroom and is a wonderful role model and mentor to the high school students in the classroom and during FEA activities. Jessica hopes to attend Boston College next fall and major in elementary education and minor in science.

President Binger and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Jessica on her fine accomplishments and presented her with a commendation from the Board.

5.01.6 Ms. Robin Rann, District Chairperson of Mathematics, presented the 2014-2015 Mathematics Department Instructional Initiatives.

Ms. Rann reviewed the 2013-2014 Initiatives which included promotion and development of critical thinking and patient problem solving through Common Core tasks and collaboration; support of mastery learning and conceptual understanding through distributed practice (spiraling); structured lessons to support students' engagement in and articulation of complex thinking, reasoning and argument, and collaboration with peers; and continued differentiation strategies to solidify understanding while maximizing instructional time.

The 2014-2015 Mathematics Initiatives include: use of data to inform instruction; provide a learning environment that promotes complex critical thinking and patient problem solving; design and delivery instruction that leads to deep understanding and mastery; and to provide and engage in professional development that supports the continued implementation of the Common Core Standards. Ms. Rann reviewed the Common Core initiatives in grades 3 through 8 and at the high school level.

Ms. Rann reviewed the assessment data for the Grade 3 through 8 Math Assessments; the Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra2/Trig Regents; the AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics and AP Computer Science test; and the International Baccalaureate performance in Math Studies and Math Standard Level.

There was a discussion regarding computer science, acceleration courses, test refusals, and Common Core readiness.

The Board thanks Ms. Rann for her informative presentation.

5.01 For Information: Upcoming Meetings

The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming Board of Education meetings scheduled for December 8th, January 12th and January 26th.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Board.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Robyn Carlson Parent	Stated that she received information from her FOIL request regarding bus usage to Ocean Avenue Elementary School and observed the bus drivers pulling up further to the entrance of the school. Ms. Carlson stated that she is surprised that the designated entrances are still in effect since the entrance is at the front of the school. Ms. Carlson requested that the official entrances to the school be changed to the front entrance.
Joann Cosgun Parent	Stated that the back entrance to East Northport Middle School does not have security, the back path entrance to the school has no lights, and after contacting transportation there are only 25 students on the bus. Ms. Cosgun again requested that her child be allowed to take the bus.
Dr. McDermott	stated that Mr. Pat DeStefano, East Northport Middle School Principal, will get back to Ms. Cosgun regarding the security at the middle school.
Debbie Ronan Parent	Asked what is being done during this school year and next school year about the decreased instructional time for the kindergarten students now that the kindergartners eat lunch in school.

Dr. McDermott stated that it will be tough to make up the time and the elementary principals are meeting on December 3rd to discuss this topic.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that BOCES has approximately 90% of the information that is needed to complete the feasibility study for full day kindergarten and that

the District probably won't have the report until well after the new year.

8. PUBLIC WORK SESSION

8.01 Discussion of the following Board of Education Policy:

8.01.1 #2300 – “Board of Education Meetings – Types, Agenda, Procedures and Minutes” (#2400 – revised policy)

The Board discussed revised policy #2400 and requested changes to the following sections: I. Annual Organization Meeting #2, #10, #12 and #13; II. Regular Meetings time change to 7:00, remove Monday and add two meetings a month; III. Special Meetings change request by three members of the Board; Agenda for a Regular Meeting clarification of communications placed on an agenda, the order of business adding an additional public participation regarding agenda items only; time limit of public participation; and minutes delivered to Board members within 14 calendar days after the meeting.

At 10:30 p.m., motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee Badanes, to extend the meeting.

Counsel Powers will reviewed the Board revisions to the policy and forward a revised copy for the Board's review.

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Maloney, to approve all items under 9. and 10.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL – FOR BOARD ACTION

9.01 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the following textbook:

9.01.1 CJ9014, Fagin, Pearson, Criminal Justice, Grades 9-12

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, FINANCIAL – FOR BOARD ACTION

10.01 Receiving the following donations to the District:

10.01.1 A Casio keyboard and Acoustic Guitar from Mrs. Edlee Banks, value estimated by the donor to be approximately \$200.00

10.02 Approving the annual membership dues in the New York State School Boards Association in the amount of \$11,782 for 2015

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Thompson stated that when she attended the New York State Schools Boards Association Annual Convention in October she attended several seminars including a law seminar, a seminar for developing tools for effective evaluations of superintendents, and a seminar about open meetings and the Committee on Open Government. Ms. Thompson stated that the meetings should be conducted as transparent as possible and the community should be provided with as much information as possible. Ms. Thompson stated that e-mails are subject to FOIL as well as personal accounts.

President Binger announced that the Board received the draft survey regarding the Superintendent Search and asked for the Board's approval.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Pisacani, to authorize the District Clerk to post the Superintendent Search Survey to the District's website.

Unanimously carried.

The Board requested a press release be sent to the local media regarding the survey.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee McNaughton asked if the Board would consider sending acknowledgements to staff regarding the FYIs that are sent with respect to notifications of deaths and births.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to adjourn.

Unanimously carried.

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

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn