

Public Work Session and Special Business Meeting

A Public Work Session of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, October 21, 2013, 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: Mr. David Badanes, Ms. Julia Binger, Mr. James Maloney (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Mrs. Lori McCue Mr. Andrew Rapiejko, Mr. Joseph Sabia, Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mrs. Tammie Topel, 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
Mr. Christopher Venator, Ingerman Smith, LLP, Board Counsel

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to proposed litigation, matters pertaining to the discipline of a particular person, and matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:15 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan 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 REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

President Waldenburg read a brief update on the LIPA litigation stating that at a special meeting on October 16th the Board unanimously passed a resolution authorizing counsel for the District to send correspondence to LIPA requesting an extension of LIPA's unilaterally imposed deadline to accept or reject is proffered Letter Offer concerning the settlement of the pending tax challenges to the assessment of the Northport Power Plant and the third party beneficiary action commenced by the District. Mr. Waldenburg stated the letter urged LIPA to extend its deadline until January 15, 2014 to allow the Board of Education to complete its due diligence so that it can fully analyze the financial impact that the Letter Offer has on the Northport-East Northport School District and its community. Mr. Waldenburg stated that the Board is hopeful that LIPA will grant the extension so that good faith negotiations can proceed. The Board will continue to provide the community with updates about developments.

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools, stated that this year will be a celebration of student growth in academics, athletics, emotion, citizenship, etc. Dr. McDermott stated that student growth will be recognized at all the Board meetings.

4.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

4.01.1 Ms. Cynthia Fitzgerald, Direct of Student Support Services, stated that Unity Day was celebrated throughout the District on October 9th by students and staff wearing orange and

with students participating in activities which raised awareness about bullying. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that this is a month long initiative through the Pacers National Bullying Prevention Movement. Students from Fifth Avenue Elementary School performed a flash mob dance and a PowerPoint presentation was made showing how students throughout the District participated in Unity Day. Mr. Terrence Hinson, District Chairperson of Guidance, introduced four outstanding high school students who were instrumental in the Unity Day activities at the high school.

4.01.2 Mr. Robert McGrath, District Chairperson of Science and Technology, introduced Kean Amidi Abraham, Science Department Student of the Month.

Mr. McGrath stated that Kean is a hard working and inquisitive student who possesses a passion, commitment, and sense of wonder when he is studying any of the sciences. Over the past four years Ken has taken all four core science courses, four years of science research, and is currently enrolled in the second year of IB Physics. Mr. McGrath noted that Kean is a meticulous, respectful, inquisitive, mature and compassionate individual who is also extremely adept at multitasking. This year Kean is enrolled in a full load of IB and AP courses, involved in research at the Biomedical Engineering Lab at SUNY Stony Brook, plays varsity tennis, is a member of the Gemini Youth Orchestra and a dedicated participant in Mathletes and Students for 60,000. Kean is currently conducting research on mitigating osteoporosis in an estrogen deficient and disuse model. Kean plans to major in Physics and Engineering in college and has applied to Cornell, Williams, the University of California at San Diego, and McGill. Ultimately he hopes to focus his studies on alternative energy resources. Mr. McGrath stated that Kean is someone who leads by example, actively participates in class and is always willing to lend a hand to his peers and teachers.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Kean on his fine accomplishments and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

4.01.3 Mr. Robert McGrath, District Chairperson of Science and Technology, introduced Joseph Wing, Technology Department Student of the Month.

Mr. McGrath stated that Joseph is a bright, sensitive, self-motivated young man with an outstanding sense of integrity and a warm, easy-going manner. Over the past four years Joseph has taken six different technology courses achieving mastery in each. Joseph has studied many facets of woodworking, structural engineering as well as chemical engineering. He is currently taking AP Calculus and Higher Level IB Physics. Mr. McGrath stated that his hard work and persistence in both courses exemplify Joseph's strong work ethic and desire to succeed. Joseph has the ability to comprehend very complex concepts quickly and with great ease and has the exceptional ability to master the mathematics and scientific mechanics of any course he has enrolled in. Mr. McGrath stated that these higher order skills are what allowed Joseph to fully master the Project Lead the Way Curriculum and IB Design Technology course. Joseph is a nature peer tutor, an avid track and field enthusiast specializing in the pentathlon, and he also enjoys soccer. He enjoys creating things in the wood shop and is extremely versed at computer programming. Joseph's primary interest in college is chemical engineering and he has applied to the University of Villanova and Fordham University.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Joseph on his fine accomplishments and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

4.01.4 Ms. Melissa O'Malia, District Chairperson of Social Studies, introduced Nicole Hawkins, Social Studies Department Student of the Month.

Ms. O'Malia stated that during Nicole's four years at Northport High School she has availed herself of the diverse offerings of the Social Studies Department taking AP World History as a 10th grader, IB History of the Americas as an 11th grader, continuing IB History of the Americas as a 12th grader, and will be taking Holocaust in the spring. Nikki was chosen to attend Boys/Girls State by the American Legion where she learned about the process of government and represented Northport proudly. Nikki's AP World teacher

stated that she was an excellent student, always prepared and consistently received the best grades in her class. Nikki's IB History of the Americas teacher stated that she is the rare student who can manage not only the stresses, strains, and responsibilities of being a high school student but does so in such a way as to inspire those around her to follow her lead. Mr. Scott stated that Nikki is a true student leader and an exceptional Social Studies Student who was a vital part of the Northport High School Mock Trial team. The team was undefeated through eight rounds of competition, ultimately competing for the Suffolk County Championship at the Federal Courthouse in Central Islip. Because of her exceptional skill, organizational talents and enthusiasm for Law-Related learning, Nikki was selected as the 2013 Intern for the Law and Civic Education Summer Institute Project P.A.T.C.H. hosts for New York teachers in partnership with the New York State Bar Association.

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

4.01.5 Ms. Irene McLaughlin, Northport High School Principal, introduced Mr. Michael Greenblatt, recipient of the 2013 Yale Educator Award.

4.01.6 Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools, recognized the following New York State Education Department 2013-2014 Reward Schools: Bellerose Avenue Elementary School, Norwood Avenue Elementary School, and Northport High School

4.01.7 Governor Andrew Cuomo declared the week of October 28 – November 1, 2013 School Board Recognition Week. The Governor declared this special week to commend school board members for their dedicated service to the children of New York State. The nine members of the Board received commendations from Western Suffolk BOCES, and the Northport-East Northport School District and PTA Council.

4.01.8 Mr. Robert McGrath, District Chairperson of Science and Technology, presented the 2013-2014 Science and Technology Department Instructional Initiatives.

Mr. McGrath reviewed the 2012-2013 Science Initiatives of implementing the Living Environment curriculum in eighth grade, including networking between middle school and high school on an ongoing basis; developing Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and pre/post assessments that align with the current curriculum meeting the requirements of the NYS APPR legislation; and beginning pilot implementation of new K-5 Interactive Science curriculum.

The 2013-2014 Science Initiatives at Commencement Level Science including utilizing professional development to design and implement instructional strategies in Regents Level Chemistry; refining Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and pre/post assessments on an as needed basis and adjust student growth targets; expanding implementation of Scientific Investigation courses as a prerequisite to Research Independent Study; and utilizing professional development to in-service and prepare staff for new K-5 Next Generation Science Standards.

At the Intermediate Science Level the 2013-2014 Initiatives are to work to expand Living Environment and Earth Science curriculum in eighth grade, continue networking between middle school and high school teachers on an ongoing basis, and explore adoption of Interactive Science from the elementary level into sixth and seventh grades.

The 2013-2014 Science Initiatives at the Elementary Level are to strengthen implementation of new K-5 Interactive Science curriculum, continue professional development opportunities K-5 teachers, and to integrate Common Core Learning Standards in ELA and Mathematics more fully with science learning through the use of leveled content readers.

Mr. McGrath reviewed the Grade Four Science Assessment data, the Grade Eight Intermediate Level Science Assessment data, the Intermediate Level Science Assessment Grade 8 data – East Northport and Northport Middle Schools, the Regents Exam Results, the Northport High School Advanced Placement Science Exam data, and the International Baccalaureate Science Exam data.

Mr. McGrath reviewed the 2012-2013 Technology Initiatives which included on-line curriculum for 6-12 through Moodle, Project Lead the Way curriculum expansion to middle schools, summer teacher training, and professional development targeting new anchoring activities that addressed technological literacy.

The 2013-2014 Technology Initiatives include investigating re-structuring various courses to reflect an A/B day schedule; new curriculum on Marine Technology that would culminate with students obtaining both a NY State Safe Boating License required by a new law covering all operators who are currently 18 and under and possibly a US Coast Guard Launch Operators license; the first robotics initiative with teachers and students beginning the planning process for competition; continued curriculum development that supports technological literacy; and continued work increase and expansion of the Project Lead the Way enrollment.

There was a discussion regarding the regents level middle school curriculum, the interactive Pearson model, implementation of SLOs, elementary science instruction, and the robotics initiative.

4.01.9 Ms. Melissa O'Malia, District Chairperson of Social Studies, presented the 2013-2014 Social Studies Department Instructional Initiatives.

Ms. O'Malia reviewed the 2012-2013 Social Studies initiatives which included developing units utilizing Common Core standards for reading and writing; a concentration on reaching all students on all academic levels through instructional approach of “flipping the classroom”, establishing and implementing essential learning goals and targets (Student Learning Objectives) and evaluating the validity, reliability, and comparability of pre and post assessments; and continuing to encourage students to be responsible citizens by engaging in discussion about civic engagement.

The 2013-2014 Social Studies Initiatives are to continue to address the Common Core reading and writing standards to ensure the rigorous nature of the coursework in the social studies classroom; collaborate with the English Department to response to the shifts in the Common Core; review and revise the scope and sequence of the elementary curriculum to develop district-wide consistency; encourage awareness and sensitivity to cultural differences within our society; and review courses offered for PIG/ECO credit to ensure they are reflective of state standards.

Ms. O'Malia reviewed the Regents Performance Regional Comparison data, the Cohort Regents Proficiency and Mastery Levels Global History data, the Cohort Regents Proficiency and Mastery Levels US History data, the Advanced Placement course data, and the AP and IB course data.

There was discussion regarding virtual field trips and opportunities for getting speakers to come in to discuss current events and obtaining grant funding for these speakers.

Ms. Rachel Friedman inquired about the District obtaining grant money for Ruby Bridges to speak. Dr. McDermott told Ms. Friedman to contact Ms. O'Malia regarding this.

5. WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

5.01 Discussion of a resolution regarding high stakes testing.

Trustee Badanes stated that the Smithtown Board of Education recently passed a resolution regarding high stakes testing and he thought it was a good idea to have a relatively similar statement. Mr. Badanes stated that he is onboard with the intent of the resolution which is that testing is having a negative effect on

students. Mr. Badanes stated that the District needs to send a message to the Governor, Commissioner King and politicians that the testing that is going on is counterproductive. Trustee Badanes stated that he is not against testing but he is against flawed testing.

Dr. McDermott stated that another alternative would be to meet with UTN and NASA to write a letter on behalf of the entire District expressing the opinion of all vested parties. Dr. McDermott stated that the School District is obligated to follow the law. Dr. McDermott noted that the superintendents are working with the BOCES superintendent to craft a letter to the Governor and Commissioner requesting a more reasoned approach to testing that works for students and teachers.

President Waldenburg requested Dr. McDermott meet with the UTN and NASA to draft a statement regarding the high stakes testing and have that draft available for the Board to review at the November 18th meeting.

6. ADJOURN PUBLIC WORK SESSION AND CONVENE INTO SPECIAL MEETING

At 10:00 p.m. the Board adjourned the Public Work Session and convened into a Special Meeting.

6.01 For Information: Upcoming Meetings

The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming meetings of November 4th, November 18th and December 9th.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Board

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
David Badanes Board Trustee	Trustee Badanes asked for a moment of silence in memory of middle school teacher Mike Landsberry who was killed in Nevada.
Albert Prisco Resident	Thanked the Board for letting him know about Commissioner King speaking at Cold Spring Harbor Schools and stated that he spoke to Dr. King about coming to the District to speak. Mr. Prisco asked the Board to send a letter to Dr. King inviting him to speak about the pros and cons of school district consolidation.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Maloney inquired if there was an update on the long range planning study.

Trustee Rapiejko stated that he thought it would be better to hold off on doing the study until next year given the information regarding space utilization that was provided to the Board from the principals of each school.

Trustee Maloney requested a more detailed explanation of the use of space.

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

Vote on Trustee Badanes motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Badanes, Ms. Binger, Mr. Maloney, Mrs. McCue, Mr. Rapiejko, Mr. Sabia, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Topel

NO: Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

Trustee Maloney asked if there was any solution for taping the Board meetings.

Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, stated that the Board meetings are recorded now and the audio can be uploaded to the website.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Badanes, to upload the audio recording of the Board of Education meetings onto the District website.

Vote on Trustee Sabia's motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Badanes, Ms. Binger, Mr. Maloney, Mrs. McCue, Mr. Rapiejko, Mr. Sabia, Mrs. Thompson,
Mrs. Topel

NO: Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Badanes inquired if the use of the narcotic detection dogs has had any empirical affect on drug use at the high school.

Principal McLaughlin stated that she does not have information regarding that but the use of the dogs is a multifaceted approach of sending the message to the students that drugs and alcohol are not permitted in schools.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Maloney, to adjourn the Public Work Session.

Unanimously carried.

At 10:35 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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