

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 17, 2011, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the small conference room in the cafeteria 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: Ms. Julia Binger, Mrs. Kristen Gavin, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Mr. Andrew Rapiejko, Mr. Joseph Sabia, Mrs. Tammie Topel, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr.

Members absent: Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

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, Board Counsel

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to convene in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to collective bargaining negotiations and matters pertaining to current litigation, because discussion of such matters in public may impact the negotiations and may compromise the District's position in the litigation.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:35 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the cafeteria at William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 150 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.

Motion was made by Trustee Topel, seconded by Trustee McCue to reorder the agenda and move item 5.03 before item 5.02.

Unanimously carried by those present.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

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

4.01 Minutes

- 4.01.1 Regular Meeting, September 26, 2011
- 4.01.2 Regular Meeting, October 3, 2011
- 4.01.3 Special Meeting, October 4, 2011

Unanimously carried by those present.

5. SPECIAL REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, announced two important events happening this week. FRIENNDS will be hosting their Gala at the John W. Engeman Theater on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Vice President McNaughton stated that tickets are still available and the proceeds will go to benefit the Drug and Alcohol Task Force. The Northport High School Tiger Marching Band will have the honor of closing the Newsday Marching Band Festival on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Izzet Mergen, Music Director, stated that tickets are available in the music office.

5.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.01.1 Dr. Patricia Schmitt, District Chairperson of English Language Arts K-12, introduced Alex Novak, English Language Arts Department Student of the Month. Dr. Schmitt stated that Alex is an individual who embodies the qualities necessary for academic success. Alex's initiative to enhance his literacy skills by seeking teacher feedback, revising his work, and participating in class discussions sharing valuable and insightful opinions was observed by his teachers. Dr. Schmitt stated that Alex reflects a resilient spirit by attending to teacher feedback and responding to constructive criticism. Alex's teachers credit his indefatigable work ethic for his success. In addition to the academic demands of his schedule, Alex participates on several sports teams including football, baseball, and basketball. Alex plans on attending college next fall and pursuing a major related to social studies and law.

President Waldenburg and Dr. McDermott congratulated Alex on his achievements and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

5.01.2 Mr. Daniel Drance, District Chairperson of Mathematics K-12, introduced Matthew Dannenberg, Mathematics Department Student of the Month. Mr. Drance stated that Matthew is a strong, well-rounded student who exhibits a particular passion for and excellence in mathematics. He has long been a top achiever in his classes and has mastered his coursework at the highest levels. Matthew has added to his growth in mathematics by taking advantage of every challenge and opportunity our district has to offer him and even ones beyond what the district has to offer. Mr. Drance stated that Matthew has been Northport High School's top mathlete, which earned him the privilege of representing Northport, Long Island and New York State in regional and national mathematics competitions. Matthew's desire for continued growth brought him to Brown University this past summer where he studied relativity and modern physics. Mr. Drance noted that Matthew is considering MIT, Harvard and Princeton as avenues to continue his growth, where he plans to pursue a dual major in physics and mathematics.

President Waldenburg and Dr. McDermott congratulated Matthew on his achievements and presented him with a commendation from the Board.

5.01.3 Dr. Patricia Schmitt, District Chairperson of English Language Arts K-12, introduced Northport Middle School Teacher Kathryn Tuthill, New York State English Council Teacher of Excellence

5.03 Governor Andrew Cuomo has declared the week of October 31-November 4, 2011, as School Board Recognition Week. The Governor designated 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. The commendations were presented by Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent, and Mrs. Jennifer Labruna and Mr. Frank Courten, PTA Council Co-Presidents.

## 5.02 Overview of Instructional Initiatives for 2011-2012

Mr. Matt Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, presented the 2011-2012 Overview of Instructional Initiatives. Mr. Nelson stated that there are three common instructional goals across the curriculum. The incorporation of differentiation into daily instructional practice district-wide will be continued, building on previous efforts and focusing on the concept of “Anchor Activities” for all units of study. Differentiated professional development opportunities will be provided to support the effective incorporation of new instructional technologies and continue to expand digital/on-line curriculum development efforts. The efforts to develop a “Culture of Respect” will be expanded in all schools to combat a rise in physical, verbal and virtual bullying behaviors.

Mr. Nelson stated that Anchor Activities should be self-directed, include aspects that can be completed on an ongoing basis, relate to the concepts and content to be learned, not necessarily involve other students, be engaging, meaningful tasks – not busy work or packets of worksheets, be activities that everyone in the class will have a chance to do, and allow students to work at various Depth of Knowledge (DOK) levels.

Mr. Nelson stated that 246 workshops were presented “by teachers/for teachers” last year, providing differentiated professional development. This year 107 workshops have already been scheduled. Professional Development through the Office of Instruction for the fall includes *Go Math!* Workshops for K-5 teachers, NWEA Level 1 and Level 3 training, SMART Exchange, *Moodle* On-line Plan Book, On-line Grade Book and Portfolio Workshops for New Teachers.

Mr. Nelson stated that the “Culture of Respect” initiative expands district-wide efforts to promote respect of self and others. These efforts include the “Bucket Fillers” program in the Elementary Schools, “Kindness Counts” initiatives at the Middle Schools, High School programs including “Quote of the Day”, “Tolerance Assemblies”, “Schools for Schools Project”, “Commons Activities”, etc. Mr. Nelson stated that there are goals in every academic department to promote Social-Emotional Learning (SEL).

There was a question and answer discussion regarding Mr. Nelson’s Overview of Instructional Initiatives. President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott thanked Mr. Nelson for his informative report.

5.04 President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming meetings of November 7<sup>th</sup>, November 21<sup>st</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.01 Letter from Ms. Mary English and Mr. Peter Smith to Members of the Board, received October 3, 2011, re: Gifted and Talented Program

Ms. English and Mr. Smith did not attend the Board meeting. President Waldenburg summarized their letter stating that they had concerns about the Gifted and Talented Program and wished to see the program modified and improved.

## 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Antoinette Blanck UTN President	Stated that she requested a Board-Teacher relations meeting at a previous meeting and publicly acknowledged that a meeting has been setup. Ms. Blanck stated that the United Teachers of Northport are one group and are united and that when the leadership speaks to the Board of Education, they are speaking on behalf of the entire group. Ms. Blanck stated that moving forward there is a need for collaboration and discussion between the UTN and the Board of Education.

President Waldenburg stated that a few members of the Board had met previously with staff members of the Art Department and he noted that the meeting was very informative and mutually enlightening. President Waldenburg stated that he is looking forward to meeting with the UTN.

Francine Mauro                                      Asked if there were initiatives in all departments.  
Parent

Mr. Matt Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration, stated that there are initiatives in all departments.

Trustee Sabia left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Gavin, to approve all items under 8.01, including Supplemental 8.01.1 (Schedule A #15-20) and excluding severed items Supplemental 8.01.2 (Schedule B #15-22) and 8.01.4 (Schedule D)

8.     SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT, GENERAL

8.01   Personnel Schedules, each dated October 17, 2011, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

- 8.01.1   Schedule A – Certified Staff (including Supplemental #15-20)
- 8.01.2   Schedule B – Non-Instructional Staff
- 8.01.3   Schedule C – Salary Transfers
- 8.01.4   Schedule D – SEVERED
- 8.01.5   Schedule J – Committee on Special Education

Vote on Trustee McCue’s motion to approve all items under 8.01, including Supplemental 8.01.1 (Schedule A #15-20) and excluding severed items Supplemental 8.01.2 (Schedule B #15-22) and 8.01.4 (Schedule D) was as follows:

YES:   Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Topel, seconded by Trustee McCue, to approve severed items 8.01.2 (Schedule B #15-22) and 8.01.4 (Schedule D), including Supplemental 8.01.4 (Schedule D)

- 8.01.2   Schedule B – Non-Instructional Staff (#15-22)
- 8.01.4   Schedule D – Extra Pay (including Supplemental Schedule D)

Vote on Trustee Topel’s motion was as follows:

YES:   Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Rapiejko, Mr. Waldenburg  
NO:    Mrs. Topel

Motion passed.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Topel, to approve all items under 9.

9.     SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT FINANCIAL

9.01   Approving a Special Education Services Contract between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the Board of Education of the Port

Washington Union Free School District

9.02 Approving a 2011-2012 Service Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Variety Child Learning Center

9.03 Approving a 2011-2012 Service Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Maryhaven

9.04 Approving a 2011-2012 Service Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and the Cleary School for the Deaf

9.05 Approving a 2011-2012 Service Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Harmony Heights

9.06 Approving a 2011-2012 Service Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc.

9.07 Approving Appropriated Reserves, Budget Confirmation and Set Tax Levy for 2011-2012

9.07.1 “RESOLVED that, pursuant to voter approval on May 17, 2011 of Proposition No. 1 the 2011-2012 Budget Appropriations shall be,

Proposition 1	Annual School District Budget	\$151,178,758
	Total Budget Appropriation	\$151,178,758”

9.07.2 “RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 1318, Subdivision 1, of the Real Property Tax Law, the District shall retain \$6,020,861 of its 2010-2011 total unassigned fund balance, said amount being 3.98% of the voter approved budget and shall apply to the 2011-2012 tax levy the sum of \$3,500,000, the remainder of the 2010-2011 total unassigned fund balance”

9.07.3 “RESOLVED that, pursuant to Subdivision 12 of Section 1604 of the Education Law, the estimated receipts, including the application of the remaining unassigned fund balance as determined above in 9.07.2 and the required levy of taxes for school district purposes, be established as follows:

Estimated Receipts	\$ 19,732,908
Tax Levy (includes estimated STAR Reimbursements of \$10,062,759)	\$131,445,850”

9.07.4 “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	\$8,939,300”
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9.07.5 “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	\$131,445,850	\$162.51
For School District Public Library	\$ 8,939,300	\$ 11.06”

9.08 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2011-2012 budget

Vote on Trustee McCue's motion to approve all items under 9. was as follows:

YES: Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Rapiejko stated that the Audit Committee had a meeting on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> with the external auditors to review the draft external audit report. Mr. Rapiejko stated that the committee had a number of comments on the report and felt that it was important to revise it. Mr. Rapiejko stated that the comments were not directed to the financial statements but more to the management letter. The committee decided that the report would be revised in accordance with the audit committee recommendations and reviewed at the November 1<sup>st</sup> Audit Committee Meeting.

12. NEW BUSINESS

President Waldenburg stated that the TANs sale was held on October 5<sup>th</sup> for the district with a total of nine bidders for the tax anticipation notes. Mr. Waldenburg announced that TD Securities was the lowest bidder on the \$30 million TANs with an interest rate offered to the District of 1.5% with a premium of \$260,100 which effectively brings the interest rate the District will pay on the TANs down to 0.276%.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, stated that she and Dr. McDermott participated in a telephone call with Moody's affirming the District's long term rating as AA2 and short term rating as Mig1.

Dr. Nina Dorata asked why the District continues to budget at an interest rate three to four times above the actual rate the District receives and stated that she hoped the excess funds would be returned to the taxpayers and not put into a line item that has not been budgeted.

Dr. Marylou McDermott stated that the Assistant Superintendent for Business consults with the District's financial advisors before determining the interest rate budgeted. Dr. McDermott stated that the estimate is based on the advice from the financial advisors and financial conditions being very careful to strike a balance. Dr. McDermott stated that the District is taking care of the present and putting money in reserves to protect the District.

13. ADJOURNMENT INTO PUBLIC WORK SESSION

At 10:00 p.m., motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Topel, to adjourn the Regular Meeting and convene into Public Work Session

Vote on Trustee McCue's motion was as follows:

YES: Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

13.01 Discussion and establishment of Board's position on the 2011 Proposed Resolutions for the Annual Business Meeting of the New York State School Boards Association. The Board reviewed each of the twenty-one 2011 proposed resolutions for the Annual Business Meeting of the New York State School Boards Association which will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention and Education Expo. Vice President McNaughton and Trustee McCue will attend the meeting and vote on behalf of the Board.

At 10:35 p.m., motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Rapiejko to extend the meeting.

Vote on Trustee McNaughton's motion was as follows:

YES: Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

At 11:28 p.m., motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to adjourn the Public Work Session and reconvene into Regular Meeting.

Vote on Trustee McCue's motion was as follows:

YES: Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

President Waldenburg stated that the Board was in support of items #1-9, in opposition to item #10, in support of item #11-14, in opposition to items #15-16, in support of items #17-19, and in opposition to items #20-21

Motion was made by Trustee Waldenburg, seconded by Trustee McNaughton to direct the Board's representatives to vote accordingly at the upcoming Business Meeting of the New York State School Boards Association at the Annual Convention on October 29, 2011 in Buffalo, New York.

Vote on Trustee Waldenburg's motion was as follows:

YES: Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

There was a brief discussion regarding communicating with the Drug and Alcohol Task Force on informing District parents and guardians about the possible use of the Suffolk County Police Department's Canine Narcotic Detection Dogs. Vice President McNaughton stated that the policy needs to state the purpose and reasons for using the service and parents need to be informed regarding the data obtained from the student surveys.

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Rapiejko, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote on Trustee McCue's motion was as follows:

YES: Ms. Binger, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. McCue, Mrs. McNaughton, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Topel, Mr. Waldenburg

Motion passed.

At 11:40 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

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