

Regular Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, March 5, 2012, beginning at 6:15 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: Ms. Julia Binger, Mrs. Kristen Gavin, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, 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
Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration
Mr. John Gross and Ms. Cheryl Sarles, District Counsel

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to negotiations. The Board convened into Executive Session because discussion of such matters in public may impact the negotiations.

Unanimously carried.

At 7:46 p.m., the Board reconvened in public session in the cafeteria at the 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.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
5. SPECIAL REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
 - 5.01 Accomplishments of Staff and Students

5.01.1 Mr. Izzet Mergen, Director of Music, introduced Matthew Allen and Benjamin Allen, Music Department Students of the Month.

Mr. Mergen stated that Matthew and Benjamin began their musical studies in the fourth grade, where Matt start to play trumpet, and Ben played trombone. Matt and Ben continued their involvement in the music program throughout elementary school, middle school and high school, where they participated in the Tour Choir, Pit Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Mergen stated that Matthew and Benjamin have been selected for the SCMEA/NYSSCAME All-County Festivals for band and orchestra every year since the 5th grade. They have received a score of A+ NYSSMA solos every year since the eighth grade, which is the highest score for the most difficult level. Matt and Ben were selected for All-State last year where Matt was the principal trumpet in the All-State Symphonic Band and Ben the principle trombone in the All-State Symphony Orchestra. They also serve as principle trumpet and trombone in the Metropolitan Youth Orchestras, and have attended summer programs at the USDAN Center for the Performing Arts, the

New York summer Music Festival, and they will be auditioning for the prestigious Tanglewood Music Program in Boston this summer. Matt and Ben traveled with the choir to Eastern Europe and to Baltimore with the Symphonic Winds. They are rank leaders and officers in the band, board members in the Northport High School Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and IB Diploma candidates. Matt and Ben will be auditioning at the Fredonia School of Music, Hartt School of Music, the University of Maryland, Ithaca College, Oberlin Conservatory, the Cleveland Institute of Music, Boston University, Julliard, and Bard College to continue their performance degrees along with their music education degrees. Mr. Mergen stated that both Matt and Ben have been accepted to the Fredonia School of Music, Hartt School of Music, and the University of Maryland.

President Waldenburg and Superintendent McDermott congratulated Matthew and Benjamin on their achievements and presented them with a commendation from the Board.

5.01.2 Mr. Robert McGrath, District Chairperson of Science and technology, introduced Brittany Byrne, Technology Department Student of the Month

Mr. McGrath stated that Brittany is a bright, sensitive, self-motivated young woman with an outstanding sense of integrity and a warm easy-going manner. Over the past four years Brittany has taken seven different technology courses, scoring with distinction in each. Her coursework in technology has motivated her to study alternative energy methodologies as she pursues a college career in mechanical engineering. Brittany is currently taking AP Calculus and AP Environmental Science. Mr. McGrath stated that Brittany has the ability to comprehend very complex concepts quickly and with great ease. Brittany is a member of the National Honor Society and Technology Honor Society, where she played an integral role in creating a building blocks castle for the Child Education Department at the High School and also built a memorial sitting area in honor of science teacher David Deutsch. She is a natural peer tutor at the high school, a member of the senior citizen prom steering committee, and head pianist for the past ten years for the children's chapel at St. Paul's Church. Mr. McGrath stated that Brittany is a member of the Eatons Neck Basketball League and is active in track, Varsity Cross Country, and the Northport Swim Team. Brittany has applied and been accepted to the University of Maryland, Pittsburgh, Drexel, Delaware, and Buffalo. Brittany is interested in a career in mechanical engineering and believes strongly that Green Energy holds the key to solving our planets energy needs. Mr. McGrath stated that the Technology Education Department is proud to congratulate Brittany as the Technology Education Student of the Month.

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

Superintendent McDermott commended the music teachers on presenting a wonderful faculty scholarship concert, the faculty at Norwood Avenue Elementary School for their participation in the lip sync show, and the faculty who participating in the SHARE retreat.

Dr. McDermott also noted that Northport Middle School Assistant Principal Chelsea Brown and Music Director Izzet Mergen are earning their doctorate degrees.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to receive the Superintendent's proposed budget for 2012-2013

5.02 Superintendent's proposed budget for 2012-2013

Dr. McDermott stated that at the February 6, 2012 Board of Education meeting, the Board directed her to prepare two budgets reflecting a 0% tax levy increase and a 2% tax levy increase. Each of these scenarios presents pros and cons to the District's programs, staff, and long range financial planning and stability. Dr. McDermott stated that the District has embraced a long range plan for budgeting built on the principals of conserving today and protecting tomorrow. Through this philosophy and practice, the District has

successfully, for the last three years, kept the tax levy under 2%, enhanced District programs, and moderately funded and used its reserves. Dr. McDermott noted that Districts need to fund their reserves as it is the only legal means of saving money for future known obligations but unknown variable costs from year to year. Dr. McDermott stated that the District has consistently received an unqualified opinion regarding its financial statements. Dr. McDermott reviewed program enhancements, the pros and cons of a 2% tax levy increase and the pros and cons of a 0% tax levy increase. For the District to achieve a 0% tax levy increase with its financial obligations for 2012-2013 would require the reduction of \$2.7 million. This 0% tax levy increase can be achieved in two ways, by reduction in program and staff or by using and not replenishing the reserves. Dr. McDermott reviewed a 0% tax levy increase with reduction to program and staff which included eliminating late bus transportation; reducing district-wide improvements; reducing the interfund transfer to capital; at the high school reducing supplies and contract services, reducing intramurals and clubs, Music Clinic relocation and reduction, elimination of JV2 and JV9 sports teams and elimination of boys and girls tract swing coach, reducing staff by 5.5 fte; at the middle schools reducing extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, reducing before and after school intramurals, reducing staff by 2.0 fte, reducing contract services, eliminating student organizers/planners; and at the elementary schools reducing flexible elementary class size caps (7.0 fte reduction), reducing intramurals and co-curricular activities, eliminating field trips, and reducing AIS Summer School to two days a week for five weeks. The reductions totaled \$2,859,990 consisting of Transportation \$132,425, Buildings & Grounds \$452,500, High School \$802,849, Middle Schools \$554,487, and Elementary Schools \$917,729.

Dr. McDermott stated that legally the District can only use the reserves according to its liability for that year. For example, if the ERS obligation for 2011-2012 is \$2.3 million that is the only amount of money that can be used from that reserve.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, reviewed three budget scenarios utilizing reserves. This first scenario was a budget-to-budget increase of 1.657%, 2% tax levy, use of reserves in the amount of \$2,200,000, \$0 cuts, use of the assigned fund balance in the amount of \$3,400,000 and \$0 unassigned fund balance. The second scenario was a budget-to-budget increase of 0%, 0% tax levy, use of reserves in the amount of \$2,200,000, \$2,859,990 in cuts, use of the assigned fund balance in the amount of \$3,400,000 and \$0 unassigned fund balance. The third scenario was a budget-to-budget increase of 1.657%, 2% tax levy, use of reserves in the amount of \$3,500,000, \$0 cuts, use of the assigned fund balance in the amount of \$3,400,000 and \$1,100,000 of the unassigned fund balance.

Vote on Trustee Sabia's motion to receive the Superintendent's proposed budget for 2012-2013 was unanimously carried.

President Waldenburg stated that the budget is available on the District's website and the Board will begin line-by-line review at the March 19th meeting.

5.03 The President of the Board reviewed the upcoming meetings of March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd and April 16th.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Board

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, GENERAL

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to approve item 8.01.1

8.01 Personnel Schedules, each dated March 5, 2012, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

8.01.1 Schedule D – Extra Pay

Vote on Trustee Thompson's motion to approve item 8.01.1 (Schedule D) was as follows:

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

NO: Mr. Sabia

Motion passed.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Topel to approve the remaining items under 8.01.

8.01 Personnel Schedules, each dated March 5, 2012, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

8.01.2 Schedule J – Committee on Special Education

8.01.3 Schedule L – PDC UTN

8.01.4 Schedule A – Certified Staff

8.01.5 Schedule B – Non-Instructional Staff

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Binger, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to approve item 8.02

8.02 Receiving for a second reading and adopting the following policies:

8.02.1 Policy #5151 – “Homeless Children”

Unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee Rapiejko, to approve all items under 9.0

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT FINANCIAL

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

9.02 Approving a 2011-2012 Service Agreement between the Board of Education, Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and The Summit School

Vote on Trustee McCue's motion to approve all items under 9.0 was unanimously carried.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10.01 Schedule H – Use of Facilities

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Trustee McCue, seconded by Trustee McNaughton, to approve the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints the firm of ECG Engineering, LLC, for the purpose of providing engineering services in support of a potential Energy Performance Contract for the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District in accordance with the terms and conditions of the attached Agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute such Agreement between the Board of Education and ECG Engineering, LLC”

Unanimously carried.

Trustee Thompson asked about discrepancies between schools on the anticipated extracurricular activities report the Board received. Dr. Terry Bouton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, stated that the report will be reviewed and a corrected report given to the Board. Trustee Sabia requested the report include the actual number of students in each club along with the minimum required.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Trustee McNaughton, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously carried.

At 9:00 p.m. the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

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