

Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, March 18, 2013, beginning at 6:05 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, 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  
Dr. Thomas Caramore, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Binger, seconded by Trustee Sabia, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to current litigation.

Unanimously carried.

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 45 persons present.

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

There were no minutes for approval.

Dr. McDermott, Superintendent of Schools, announced that Social Studies teacher Michael Greenblatt has been selected by the Harvard Club of Long Island as a 2013 Distinguished Teacher.

Mr. Drew Cronin, Director of Physical Education and Athletics, announced that the boys basketball team competed to their best abilities in the State playoff game in Glens Falls. Mr. Cronin stated that they won with dignity and lost with dignity, showing good sportsmanship all along. Mr. Cronin congratulated all the winter sports teams.

Mr. Izzet Mergen, Director of Music, stated that the Northport-East Northport School District was chosen one of the best communities in music education from the NAMM foundation. Mr. Mergen updated the Board on the auditorium renovations that will begin at the high school and two middle schools. Mr. Mergen stated that phase one is to replace all existing chairs, paint, install air conditioning at the high school, and fix the ceilings at Northport Middle School and the high school. Phase two includes improvements to 21<sup>st</sup> century state of the art lighting and sound at the high school and sound at the middle schools.

5. DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED 2013-2014 BUDGET

5.01 Discussion of Revenue, Fund Balance and Reserves

Dr. McDermott stated that the benefits of long range financial planning are maintaining the District's financial stability by preventing spikes in tax levy and achieving a Moody's Aa2 rating. Conservative budget management has resulted in five consecutive years of operating surpluses and healthy reserve levels with ample financial flexibility. Dr. McDermott noted the District's challenges are the property tax cap, decline in full and assessed value and LIPA. Based on State Comptrollers formula indicating a district's level of financial stress, the Northport-East Northport School District is not in fiscal stress. Dr. McDermott reviewed the continued efforts to reduce costs including reducing personnel costs through attrition when possible, reducing overtime costs, negotiating increases in employee health benefit contributions, and refunding of Serial Bonds resulting in long term savings of \$2,500,000. The benefit to program and facilities including maintain program an staff including extracurricular activities and athletics, and continuing to expand capital projects.

Dr. McDermott stated that the projected 2013-2014 budget is \$156,934,893 resulting in a budget-to-budget increase of 1.94%, projected tax levy of 2.86% (the allowable levy limit is 3.43%), and an estimated tax rate of 3.07%. Superintendent McDermott reviewed the budget comparisons from 2012-2013 to 2013-2014, the projected revenue for 2013-2014, the fund balance, use of restricted reserves, decrease of appropriations resulting from the refunding of Serial Bonds, and Capital Projects for the Board to consider.

Dr. McDermott stated that the District's high tax aid is down about \$500,000 in the Governor's proposed budget and that Senators Marcellino and Flanagan are working to get it restored.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent of Business, stated that preliminary information received from Western Suffolk BOCES is that the District could lose approximately \$88,000, about 5% of grant money, due to sequestration and the following year may double to 10%.

There was Board discussion regarding staffing needs, high tax aid, sequestration, use of reserves, 4% unassigned fund, unanticipated revenue, assessed valuation, refunding of serial bonds, and budgeting for negotiations.

## 6. BOARD AND COMMUNITY DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED 2013-2014 BUDGET

### 6.01 Communications to the Board relating to the budget:

#### 6.01.1 E-mail from Mr. and Mrs. John Peters

Mr. and Mrs. Peters were not in attendance. President Waldenburg stated that their concerns were regarding increases in property taxes and urged the Board to control the budget increases to the 2% cap.

#### 6.01.2 E-mail from Ms. Denise Summers Mumm

Stated that Board should explore the cost savings that would be achieved in closing a school, explore the possibility of making a full day kindergarten center and should dip into the 4% fund.

#### 6.01.3 E-mail from Mr. Mark Graham

Mr. Graham was not in attendance. President Waldenburg stated that he is opposed to a tax increase above the 2% cap.

#### 6.01.4 E-mail from Mr. Armand D'Accordo

Mr. D'Accordo stated that his letter speaks for itself.

### 6.02 Opportunity for public input regarding the school budget for 2013-2014

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Karen Gray Parent	Stated that she has four children in the District who participate in the summer reading and math program. Ms. Gray stated that on behalf of the children who have taken advantage of the program with great success she is requesting that the Board keep the program in the budget.

Dr. McDermott stated that the program is being modified and will be presented to the Board on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Nina Dorata Resident	Stated that there has been a decline in enrollment of 24% over the last five years and that the Board should do an analysis on closing one or two elementary schools. Dr. Dorata stated that the District's financial statements have shown a spending surplus and that the district reserves are being underutilized. Dr. Dorata stated that it is long overdue for reconciliation between actual spending and budgeted spending and suggested that the District leave very little or not include negotiations money in the budget.
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Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, reviewed the proposed use of reserves in the 2013-2014 budget.

Lisa Dimond Parent	Stated that she is very pleased that the District is able to maintain reserves for future needs, expand capital projects, reduce overtime costs, maintain programs and staff, maintain the District's financial stability and keep budget to budget increase under 2%. Mrs. Dimond also stated that she is concerned about statements concerning closing of schools and the effect on students with special needs.
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Carl Litt Resident	Requested that the Board not re-prioritize, delete or shift capital improvement projects in the District's five year plan and fund items which engineers and consultants have assessed the District is in need of.
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Armand D'Accordo Resident	Stated he is concerned over the District's budgeting practices by presenting the first budget as a worst case scenario. Mr. D'Accordo stated that the District has under spent an average of \$8 million from 2008-2009 to 2011-2012 and the practice of cushioning the budget to keep taxes low takes away the power of the voters. Mr. D'Accordo stated that it is time to actually cut the budget which will enable the tax levy to be cut and return money to the taxpayers.
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Carrie Pearlman Parent	Stated that she would like to see the budget reflect funds to increase security measures at Dickinson Avenue School. Mrs. Pearlman also stated that she supports the current budget and does not want to dip into the unassigned fund balance. She would like the District to maintain class size and the current music program and athletics.
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Motion was made by Trustee Binger, seconded by Trustee Rapiejko, to approve all items under 7.

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

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

7.01.1	<u>Food and Nutrition for You</u> Weixel & Wempen Prentice Hall 2010	International Foods, American Regional Foods, Introduction to Foods, World Cuisine Grades 9-12
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Vote on Trustee Binger's motion to approve all items under 7. was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Thompson, seconded by Trustee Maloney, to approve all items under 8., including Supplemental 8.13 (Resolution), 8.14 (Schedule A), 8.15 (Resolution), and 8.16 (Transfer of Funds)

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

8.01 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board Policy and State Regulation, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mr. Kenneth Ritzenberg to serve as Impartial Hearing Officer for the purpose of conducting an impartial hearing in accord with Policy 4321, Program for Students with Disabilities under IDEA”

8.02 Approving an Independent Contractor Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Mill Neck Interpreter Service

8.03 Approving the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby gratefully accepts a donation of \$12,870 from Northport-East Northport residents whose names are more fully set forth in the attached document, for the purpose of the Northport Middle School Sixth Grade trip to Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, Monday, May 13, 2013, and increase the 2012-2013 budget code A2110.4161.23.2902 by \$12,870 for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2012-2013 budget by \$12,870 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of donations from Northport-East Northport residents.”

8.04 Approving the following resolution;

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby gratefully accepts a donation of \$34,968 from the Northport Middle School Student Activity Account, for the purpose of students attending the trip to Greenkill Outdoor Education Center February 27, 2013 to March 1, 2013 and increase the 2012-2013 budget code A2110.4161.23.2902 by \$34,968 for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2012-2013 budget by \$34,968 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of donations from the Northport Middle School Student Activity Account”

8.05 Receiving the following donations to the District:

8.05.1 \$200.00 from Jill and Eric Welch to the Geraldine Wolf Memorial Scholarship

8.05.2 \$250.00 from Victoria Welch to the Geraldine Wolf Welch Memorial Scholarship

8.05.3 \$25.00 from Daniel and Susan Torpey to the David Trachtenberg Memorial Scholarship

8.05.4 Four Ludwig Fiberglass Timpani Drums to Northport Middle School, twelve Plastic Trombones – two to each elementary school, and one snare drum to Ocean Avenue Elementary School, from In Harmony, value estimated by the donor to be approximately \$8,000.00

8.06 Approving the Monthly Revenue and Budget Status Report for the period July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

8.07 Approving a Supplementary Education Services Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Jungle Bob Enterprises Inc. (FAS)

8.08 Approving a Supplementary Education Services Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Motivational Media (NMS)

8.09 Approving a Rider to Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport School District and Captain Bill's (ENMS)

8.10 Approving a Rider to Agreement between the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Select Tours, Inc. (BAS)

8.11 Authorizing the Board President to sign contracts with the following school district to provide health services for Northport-East Northport students attending schools in that district during the 2012-2013 school year:

8.11.1 Huntington Union Free School District, twelve (12) students attending St. Patrick's School @ \$713.24, totaling \$8,558.88

8.12 Approving a Western Suffolk BOCES Model Schools Grant Application in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be used to enhance "Building Literacy through Digital Story Telling" lessons such as digital video recorder and/or iPads

8.13 Approving the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500 from Cablevision/Power to Learn Program to be used toward supplies for a social awareness/community service project "Empty Bowls" that will be completed by the Northport High School Art Club and increase the 2012-2013 budget code A2110.5030.30.2000 by \$500 for this purpose.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2705 of the 2012-2013 budget by \$500 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of a donation from Cablevision/Power to Learn Program"

8.14 Personnel Schedules, each dated March 18, 2013, and each attached and made part of the official minutes:

8.14.1 Schedule A – Certified Staff

President Waldenburg announced the appointment of Pasquale DeStefano as East Northport Middle School Principal, and the retirement of Bellerose Avenue Principal Barbara Falotico after 26 years and 8 months of service to the District.

8.15 Approving the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the appropriation A1621.4010.30.7803 (Contract Services-Operations and Maintenance of Plant) of the 2012-2013 budget by \$18,793 with the understanding that this increase in appropriation is the result of unanticipated expenses associated with the repair of District property.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an increase in the revenue code A2680 (Insurance Recovery) of the 2012-2013 budget by \$18,793 with the understanding that this increase in revenue is the result of insurance proceeds"

8.16 Approving transfer of general fund appropriations in the 2012-2013 budget

Vote on Trustee Thompson's motion to approve all items under 8., including Supplemental 8.13 (Resolution), 8.14 (Schedule A), 8.15 (Resolution), and 8.16 (Transfer of Funds) was unanimously carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

President Waldenburg reviewed the upcoming meetings of April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

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Beth M. Nystrom  
District Clerk

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