

Northport-East Northport Union Free School District Emergency Meeting – Norwood Avenue Elementary School - 7:00 p.m. (Wednesday, July 24, 2019)

Generated by Beth M Nystrom on Friday, July 26, 2019

Members present

Victoria Buscareno, David Badanes, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein, Thomas Loughran (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Larry Licopoli

Members absent

None

Also present

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Irene McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Technology and Assessment

Dr. Dana Boshnack, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Mr. Robert Howard, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Public Attendance: 100

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Badanes called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. IF NECESSARY, THE CHAIR MAY ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION - Note: It is anticipated that the Board will meet in public at 6:30 p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room at Norwood Avenue School to act upon a resolution, upon majority vote, to immediately convene into Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person.

Action: 2.01 Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person.

Motion by Allison C Noonan, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

At 7:10 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the All Purpose Room at Norwood Avenue School.

3. Mr. Badanes led those present in the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**; and

4. Pointed out the **EMERGENCY EXITS**

5. SPECIAL REPORTS

Mr. Banzer along with John Grillo, District Architect, Park East Construction, District Construction Manager, and J.C. Broderick, District Environmental Consulting and Testing Firm, presented on the Ocean Avenue B-wing roof.

Mr. Banzer stated that the B-wing roof at Ocean Avenue needs to be redesigned and replaced. Students and staff will not be able to occupy B-wing when the 2019-2020 school year starts. Mr. Banzer stated that in May/June an issue with a B-wing classroom led to further investigation of the entire wing. The engineer's inspection led to the recommendation to close the wing and relocate students within the building for the last few days of school. The architect's report stated that the engineer's assessment was

that the issues with the roof were due to “snow load”. The report designed a plan for the roof replacement, scope of work and the expected time frame. This issue was only found in the B-wing addition which was not a part of the original building. The rest of the building has different roofing design and construction. The role of the construction manager was reviewed.

The essential question was given the current state of Ocean Avenue B-wing roof, what is the best alternative for meeting the social, emotional and academic needs of our students, faculty and staff? Considerations taken included limitations on space, proximity/location, provide an alternative for impacted students & staff that is similar, comfortable and inviting (curriculum/instruction, age appropriate classrooms, caring teachers, staff and administration), make it as convenient for families as possible, financial considerations, and maintain continuity and minimize impact to the extent possible.

Possible alternatives considered included:

Lease portable classrooms and place them on the Ocean Avenue Campus

Pros – All grade levels on campus.

Cons – Extremely expensive and difficult to mobilize (4-6 months).

Move Fifth Grade to Middle School

Pros – Some middle school configurations include 5th grade.

Cons – Fifth Grade is a capstone year in the district’s current structure. Would still need more space in Ocean.

Consider using Brosnan Building for two grade levels

Pros – Classroom space conducive to elementary age students.

Cons – Displace Island Kids Day Care. Need 12 month notice per contract. Infrastructure not in place – kitchen, library, etc. Staffing not in place – clerical, aides, teaching staff, administrators. High start-up costs and loss of revenue.

Norwood Avenue Elementary

Pros – Age appropriate classroom space is available. Closest in proximity to Ocean families. Physical infrastructure is in place. Staffing is in place and when/if necessary, traveling for staff is minimized. Grade level curriculum is readily accessible. Staggered start time allows for pick-ups and drop-offs for families if needed. Minimal impact on Norwood day to day instructional program. Warm welcoming teachers, staff and administration.

Cons – It would require Investigate students to relocate to Bellerose. Students in Investigate Program come from all six elementary and two middle schools (grade 6).

Mr. Banzer recommended the incoming Ocean Avenue Elementary Kindergarteners and First Graders to relocate to Norwood until construction is complete.

The rationale is that the impacted area, B-wing, is the Kindergarten and First Grade Wing which totals six sections. Norwood is able to accommodate both grade levels. The estimated timeline for completion of construction is late November. The transition back to Ocean could take place over December break assuming work is on schedule.

Mr. Banzer discussed the considerations:

Provide alternative for impacted students & staff that is similar, comfortable and inviting.

- Norwood Open House for Ocean families: August 5 @ 9:00 a.m.
- Additional opportunities to ease the transition will be forthcoming.
- Will follow-up with written communication to each individual family ASAP.

- Principals will collaborate with PTAs to assist with transition.
- Educational service (IEP, 504, AIS etc.) will follow students.
- This is a temporary situation. It is expected that students and staff will be able to return to their classrooms. Actual return date is dependent on progress of construction work (likely after December break).

Maintain continuity and minimize impact district-wide to the extent possible.

- Eliminate “double moves” within Ocean. The space may change but the people, especially your child’s teacher and classmates will not. Classes will return to “their” classrooms.

Make is as convenient for families as possible.

- The start time for Norwood is 25 minutes later than Ocean and is closest in proximity.
- Ocean Avenue siblings in Grades 2-5 would remain at Ocean.

Financial Considerations:

- Most cost-effective option due to proximity of buildings, infrastructure and staffing. It is anticipated that the district will not need to add buses in the morning and add two buses in the afternoon. Adjustments will be made, if necessary.

Additional Considerations:

- Kitchen at Ocean is under construction. Food service will provide a satellite lunch program.
- Construction at Ocean will take place during school year/instructional day. Will closely monitor health, safety, security and weather conditions.
- Buildings and Ground will work with administration, teachers and staff to coordinate transition for the beginning of the school year and the return.
- This is a temporary situation that is expected to be completed during the school year. The administration will work closely with those impacted to maximize the learning and work environment.

There was a discussion by the Board regarding weekly progress reports and the importance of keeping parents informed, the start time of the schools and how busing will be handled, outdoor recess with the construction going on at Ocean, screening of construction workers, additional support staff, and how school lunch will be handled.

The asbestos abatement at Ocean Avenue will be completed before school starts. There will be separation of students and the construction with construction fencing, separate entrances, security and staff on site daily to enforce higher standards associated with school construction. The school lunch program operates a satellite with all the elementary schools and food will be brought to Ocean while the kitchen is under construction.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT/PARTICIPATION - Please Note: Community members are invited to share their questions, comments, or concerns with the School Board. When speaking, citizens should state their name and address for the record and limit their presentation to 5 minutes. Where possible, the Board will answer factual questions immediately. A written response may be provided when information is not available. If a response would involve discussion of Board Policy or decisions which might be of interest to citizens not present at the meeting, the Board may place the item on a future meeting agenda.

Name

Comment

Alison Mullee
Parent

Asked when will the parents be notified regarding busing and morning care.

Bridget Nolan Employee	Stated that she is a food service worker at Ocean and had concerns about a leak in the kitchen, how will they maintain food temperatures without the use of the kitchen and getting food to the school on time for lunches.
Nicole Mulholland Parent	Stated her concerns about the impact on buses for Norwood, childcare transportation and access to additional buses.
Gillian Tucker Parent	Asked if the back walkway from Mar-Kan to Ocean will be accessible, will there be an impact to the outdoor classroom, and will the 5 th grade helper role with kindergartners continue.
Stacie Norman Employee	Stated that she is a physical education teacher and asked if when she is doing PE classes for Ocean at Norwood will they be combined or separate, will support staff follow, and when transitioning back the teachers will need time to setup the classrooms.
Elizabeth Seim Parent	Asked if the Board has considered before and after care, kindergarten orientation at Norwood, will the same opportunities be provided for students regarding specials and afterschool clubs, potential need for staffing.
Alex Zuckerman Parent	Asked if consideration was given to relocating the entire school to the Brosnan building, and consider having drop off at Ocean and bused to Norwood.
Heidi Zuckerman Parent	Asked if there will be after school SCOPE and if they can drop their kids off at Ocean and be bused over to Norwood.
Shawn Kelleher Parent	Inquired about the All Purpose Room and the floor tiles.
James Cregan Parent	Asked if there is a performance bonus/penalty if construction is completed earlier or later than anticipated, and if current walkers at Ocean could be bused from Ocean to Norwood for one pickup.
Gabrielle DeYoung Parent	Asked how the later start time will be handled for working parents and if there were any thoughts on how kindergarten students will transition in December/January.
Patricia Campoli Parent	Stated that the summer recreation program is going on at Norwood and the Kindergarten and 1 st grade classrooms are being cleaned out with furniture being placed in hallways which is unsafe for the kids, and that communication is vital between Ocean and Norwood parents.
Janice Conte Parent	Asked if the Investigate Program will move back to Norwood after Ocean Avenue students are transitioned back to Ocean and where the students will be in Norwood.
Allison Bruno Parent	Asked how transportation needs will be met when you have an older child who is a walker to Ocean and a Kindergartner who needs a bus.
Lee Boodoo Parent	Asked if the parents will have access to the air quality reports before the start of school.
Jeanne Stanco	Asked about the noise factor from the construction and if there will be a tour of

- Parent Norwood for the first graders.
- Melissa Baker
Parent Stated her concerns about classrooms that are leaking at Ocean Avenue.
- Sara Griffin
Parent Stated her concerns about the emotional aspect of having to move to another school.
- Tracy Bernstein
Parent Stated that all buildings should be inspected for structural soundness.
- Joe Ecobellis
Parent Asked what the backup plan is if not ready for the transition.

There were also questions regarding monitoring of indoor air quality during construction, school pictures, and communication to families.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, FINANCIAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

Action: 6.01 Park East Construction Corp.

Recommendation to approve an Agreement between the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District and Park East Construction Corp for Construction Management

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Victoria Buscareno, David Badanes, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein, Thomas Loughran, Larry Licopoli

Recommendation to amend the agenda and add items 6.02 (resolution), 6.03 (resignation) and 6.04 (appointment)

Motion by Allison C Noonan, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Victoria Buscareno, David Badanes, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein, Thomas Loughran, Larry Licopoli

Action: 6.02 Ocean Avenue Elementary School

Recommendation to approve the temporary relocation of Ocean Avenue kindergarten and first grade to Norwood Elementary School until the Ocean Avenue B-wing roof construction is complete and with consideration of feedback received during the Board of Education Emergency Meeting of July 24, 2019.

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Victoria Buscareno, David Badanes, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein, Thomas Loughran, Larry Licopoli

Action: 6.03 Personnel Actions Report

Recommendation to approve the Personnel Actions Report to approve the Resignation of Certificated Staff (School Lunch Manager)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Victoria Buscareno, David Badanes, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein, Thomas Loughran, Larry Licopoli

Action: 6.04 Personnel Actions Report

Recommendation to approve the Personnel Actions Report to approve the appointment of Certificated Staff (School Lunch Manager)

Motion by Thomas Loughran, second by Victoria Buscareno.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Victoria Buscareno, David Badanes, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein, Thomas Loughran, Larry Licopoli

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Action: 7.01 Board Subcommittee for Organizing Retreats (WITHDRAWN)

9. ADJOURNMENT - Board policy requires adjournment by 10:30 pm, unless meeting is extended by vote.

Action: 9.01 Adjournment

Recommendation to adjourn the meeting and convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of a particular person.

Motion by Larry Licopoli, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Victoria Buscareno, David Badanes, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein, Thomas Loughran, Larry Licopoli

At 10:12 p.m. the Board convened into Executive Session.

At 11:30 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk