

NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
www.northsalemschools.org
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2011

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:35 PM in the Board Conference Room by Board Vice President Judith Schurmacher.

At 6:35 PM, a motion was made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0), to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing specific negotiations. Ms. Schurmacher was appointed Clerk Pro-Tem for this Executive Session. (Mr. Smadbeck arrived at 7:28 PM).

At 7:32 PM, on a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0), the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened to the Public Session.

Board Members Present at this Meeting:

Ms. Katherine Daniels, President
Ms. Judith Schurmacher, Vice-President
Mr. Paul Giamundo, Trustee
Mr. Paul Smadbeck, Trustee
Mr. Andrew Brown, Trustee
Mr. Jonathan Freeman, Trustee
Ms. Deborah D'Agostino, Trustee

Also Present:

Dr. Kenneth Freeston, Superintendent
Dr. Michael Hibbard, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources
Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Barbara Briganti, Director of Business Administration
Mr. Gary Green, Director of Facilities, Operations, Maintenance and Transportation
Ms. Mary Rhuda, District Clerk
Members of the Public & Faculty

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM Katherine Daniels followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Student Board Reports

Student Representatives, Nicholas Brown and Linda DosSantos each reported on past and upcoming events at both Pequenakonck and the Middle/High School.

Announcements

Board President, Katherine Daniels announced that the Board will adopt the 2011-2012 Budget this evening after a month of presentations. The Public Hearing will be held on May 5th at 7:30 PM, which is more of a question and answer period. The Budget Vote is May 17, 2012.

Mr. Andrew Brown spoke to Assemblyman Steven Katz and shared his concerns, as a taxpayer, regarding the proposed tax cap.

Acceptance of Minutes: March 30, 2011

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board accepted the minutes of March 30, 2011.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Freeston spoke about the 6 to 7 week budget cycle that the Board and Administrators have just gone thru. He appreciates those that have come to the meetings, sent emails, or made phone calls and engaging in the process. He thanked the Board and recognizes that there have been difficult decisions made.

This year, the spring break is very late, which means as soon as students return, year end activities will begin. This is a wonderful way to celebrate our students.

Director of Business Administration's Report

Ms. Briganti reported that the POS system is up and running in both cafeterias. After 2 weeks, 22% of our families are using the system, and hoping more will sign on. There were a few glitches, but they have been worked out.

Board Reports

Mr. Brown advised that the Safety Committee performed a lock down drill at PQ. There were some mechanical problems to be worked out, but that is what the drills are for. The student's behavior was exceptional.

Mr. Giamundo was also part of the lock down drill, and wanted to commend the faculty, every person knew their role in the drill. The also stated that PQ is a wonderful, educational environment.

Ms. Daniels met with the Wellness Committee. They are in the process of sending out a letter to all clubs and organizations with a copy of the Wellness Policy asking for their assistance in promoting the policy.

Ms. Daniels attended the question and answer portion of the "Race to Nowhere". All questions & comments will be posted on the website.

Discussion

Ms. Daniels discussed the Citizens Advisory Committee for Fiscal Planning. Since the resignation of Mr. White, this was a good time to “press the reset button”. Mr. Andrew Sternlieb has agreed to chair the committee. All current members have agreed to continue on the committee.

Mr. Giamundo likes the multi-year/multi-layered approach to the committee. Mr. Smadbeck wants to be sure the new mission and scope of work are in accordance with existing Board policy. After Board discussion, some changes were made the resolution that will be voted on this evening.

Public Comment

None.

Action Items

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

Adoption of Proposed 2011-2012 School Budget in the amount of \$38,569,065

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the proposed 2011-2012 School Budget in the total amount of \$38,569,065 to be proposed to the District’s voters on May 17, 2011.

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

Approval of Property Tax Report Card for the 2011-2012 school year

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 2011-2012 Property Tax Report Card for the North Salem Central School District.

Acceptance of CSE and CPSE dated April 13, 2011

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the acceptance of CSE and CPSE Reports dated April 13, 2011.

Approval of Letter of Intent for the 2010-2011 School Year Merger/John Jay High School

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution as amended (corrected dates):

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Board of Education President and the Superintendent to sign the Letters of Intent for the mergers for the following sports with John Jay High School/Katonah Lewisboro School District:

Fall 2011

Women's Varsity Swim & Dive

Winter 2011/2012

Men's Varsity Swim & Dive

Modified Wrestling

Varsity Skiing

Winter Track

Approval of Letter of Intent for 2011-2012 School Year Merger/Somers High School

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution as amended (corrected dates):

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Board of Education President and the Superintendent to sign the Letters of Intent for the mergers for the following sports with Somers High School/Somers School District:

Winter 2011/2012

Varsity Ice Hockey

Modified Ice Hockey

Disposal of Assets

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the disposal of seven filmstrip projectors.

Middle/High School Library Book Donation

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of donated books valued at \$255.79 for the Middle/High School Library from the PTO.

Elizabeth Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund Donation

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of \$500.00 to be applied to the Elizabeth Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund from the Westchester Community Foundation.

Cornelia Storrs Scholarship

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of \$80,000 to be applied to the Cornelia Storrs Scholarship Fund.

Erik V. Nicoletti Scholarship Fund Donation CORRECTION

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education amends the January 19, 2011 acceptance of \$125.00 to \$75.00 for the Erik V. Nicoletti fund and

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts \$50.00 for the Elizabeth Butler Scholarship Fund.

Acceptance of Award

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the award for Mr. Scott Lenhart for his winning entry in the “Cameras for Classrooms Essay Contest” sponsored by Wingscape. The camera will be utilized by the Ornithology Club, the Environmental Club and AP Environmental class. The camera is valued at \$199.95.

Water Bid – Durkin Water

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools utilize Durkin Water (only licensed vendor for potable water in Westchester County) for the delivery of potable water for the period July 6, 2010 through the completion and certification of the new well and water filtration system by the Westchester County Department of Health.

Contract – Hudson Valley Consulting

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools confirm the agreement between Hudson Valley Consulting and North Salem CSD that the contract for management and supervision of the North Salem MS/HS WWTF dated April 25, 2006, and originally scheduled to expire on January 31, 2009 will continue commencing February 1, 2009 on a month-to-month basis until terminated by either party or until a formal successor agreement has been signed.

Fiscal Advisory Committee

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution, as amended:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reappoints the Fiscal Advisory Committee as a Citizens Advisory Committee to the Board of Education pursuant to District Policy No. 2260. The mission, scope of work and governance for Fiscal Advisory Committee shall be as follows:

North Salem Central School District

Fiscal Advisory Committee

MISSION

- The Fiscal Advisory Committee (“FAC”) will help, assist and advise the Board of Education (“Board”) in matters of financial analysis, budget preparation and process, capital budgeting and spending, and tax policy so that the North Salem Central School district (“District”) can achieve its educational goals in the most fiscally responsible and cost effective manner possible.
- The FAC should take into consideration in its deliberations the interplay between the needs of the District’s various stakeholders to control the growth of the budget and tax levy and the desire to maintain a culture of excellence and raise educational metrics.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Advise on the integrity of the budgeting process and financial control procedures
- Provide advice on “fund balance” strategy and tax levy “cap” management
- Investigate alternate revenue opportunities
- Provide advice on controlling spending and reducing expenses
- Advise on borrowing strategies
- Advise on strategies for funding capital improvements
- Undertake a comparative analysis of the cost structure of other school districts of similar size and culture

- Provide input into the District's long-range financial plans
- Help educate the public on matters of District fiscal policy

GOVERNANCE

- The members and Chair of the FAC are appointed by the Board in accordance with Section 2260-School Board Governance and Operations
- The Board shall make every effort to form a committee that is representative of the entire community/stakeholders
- The Chair shall be a resident of the District
- Only residents of the District may be voting members; Board members and District administrators and staff are non-voting members
- All meetings are open to the public; only voting members may vote
- A quorum of voting members is needed for any action requiring a recommendation/vote of the committee
- Requests for information will be channeled through the Superintendent
- The committee's Scope of Work will be approved by Board Resolution
- The Board may from time to time suggest other areas of interest or concern in addition to the Scope of Work
- Recommendations by the FAC will be presented to the Board in accordance with District policy

The Board of Education hereby appoints the following residents as members of the Fiscal Advisory Committee: Andrew Sternlieb, Chair, Cynthia Curtis, Andrea Good, Stephen Mulligan, William Papp, Helen Powers and Gary Windus. The Board of Education liaisons will be Katherine Daniels, Deborah D'Agostino, and Paul Giamundo. Staff advisors to the Fiscal Advisory Committee will include Kenneth Freeston, Barbara Briganti and Amy Reynolds.

Consent Agenda

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

Certified

Ms. Megan Vaccaro

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the *extension* of Ms. Megan Vaccaro as a Leave Replacement Teacher, Special Education Teacher, from on or about April 4, 2011 to on or about May 31, 2011. Ms. Vaccaro is a leave replacement for Ms. Patrice Farney.

Mr. James O'Brien

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. James O'Brien as a Substitute Teacher, Grades 6 - 12, for the 2010-2011 school year, at the substitute rate of \$85.00 for the first 10 days; \$95 thereafter.

Ms. Cheryl Gravius

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Educations approves Ms. Cheryl Gravius as a Leave Replacement Teacher, Grade 2, from on or about May 9, 2011 to on or about November 14, 2011. Ms. Gravius will be placed on MA, Step 3, Prorated per NSTA contract. Ms. Gravius is a leave replacement for Ms. Jennifer Healey.

Classified

Mr. Richard Clark

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Richard Clark as a Substitute Custodian for the 2010-2011 school year, at the substitute rate of \$14.00/hour.

Mr. Gary Green

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the one year probationary appointment of Mr. Gary Green as Director of School Facilities, Operations, Maintenance & Transportation at the salary of \$117,300. Effective date of April 1, 2011.

Tenure

Ms. Lynn Colwell

RESOLVED, whereas Lynn Colwell has at all times served and has held certification in the Elementary tenure area; and

WHEREAS, the resolutions initially appointing Ms. Colwell and granting her tenure erroneously identified her as being employed in the Secondary English tenure area; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Ms. Colwell's probationary and tenure appointments be and hereby are corrected to reflect appointment and continuous service in the Elementary tenure area.

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Ms. Jennifer Healey

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education grants Ms. Jennifer Healey unpaid leave of absence from on or about October 3, 2011 to on or about November 11, 2011.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Rhuda
District Clerk