

**NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NY 10560**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
August 9, 2005**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District of North Salem, New York, was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2005, in the North Salem Middle School Cafeteria. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Ms. Hublard Hershman.

Board

Members:

Douglas
Giamundo
Hart
Hershman
Martell
O'Meara
Palma

Present:

Ms. Carla Palma, President *
Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman,
Vice President
Ms. Lisa Douglas
Mr. Paul Giamundo
Ms. Norma Hart**
Ms. Marie L. Martell***

*Arrived at 6:20 p.m.
**Left at 10:35 p.m.
***Arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Absent:

Mr. John O'Meara

Also Present:

Dr. Peter R. Litchka, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Director of Finance

Executive Session:

At 6:16 p.m. on motion by Ms. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Hart and carried 4-0, the Board moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Ms. Hublard Hershman was appointed Clerk *Pro Tem* for this Executive Session.

Ms. Palma arrived at 6:20 p.m.
Ms. Martell arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Reconvene to Public Session:

At 10:35 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Douglas and carried 6-0, the Board reconvened to public session.

Ms. Hart left at 10:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Palma welcomed all present.

Comments on Agenda Items:

None at this time.

President's Report:

The reason for tonight's special meeting was to discuss the three (3) candidates for the position of Director of Transportation, Buildings, and Grounds. There were three (3) wonderful candidates, and it was a pleasure to meet them. The District will continue the process and hopefully we will be able to settle this particular hire over the next week or so. In terms of process, Peter has been delegated through a resolution passed at the July 5th BOE meeting to make an offer of employment.

President's Report:
(continued)

Dr. Litchka stated that we should have a decision not later than Friday. Although we will be missing Ray Clauser, Ms. Palma assured everyone that all the appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that our schools are top quality and that our busing, transportation and buildings will be up to speed.

Ms. Palma mentioned that a question had been raised as to whether or not all of our Agendas and Consent Agendas are posted on the website. Ms. Palma wanted to make sure with the District Clerk that everything is appropriately posted. Ms. Freer stated that in fact the Consent Agendas had not yet been posted to the website and she would speak to Ms. Sue Papp, who is our webmaster, to ensure that a plan is put in place in order to have this task accomplished. It was stated that the updated Agenda from the last meeting was not posted in its full completion, with the addition of the Resolution.

Ms. Freer stated that her understanding was that an Agenda could be changed if done prior to the meeting date; but not if the meeting had already taken place. Ms. Freer was asked to make sure that the updated version of the Agenda gets placed on the web.

Discussion ensued with regard adding an item titled "Old Business" on any future Agendas. This will be used as a means to address any old business in terms of updates.

Discussion Items:

Budget Update

Ms. Fassler-Wallach was asked to shed some light on the issue encompassing the pension retirement liability that had been carried over from the previous school year budget.

We had talked about several different measures to meet this obligation. The Board would like to receive an update as to where we are with regard to this issue. They would like to have an opportunity to review the proposal on how we are going to accommodate this in our spending plan.

Ms. Fassler-Wallach stated that they are not finished yet closing the 2005-06 year, but it appears as though we are in good shape.

Ms. Fassler-Wallach and Dr. Litchka will have this information available by the end of September.

Ms. Douglas requested that any tax certiorari, along with the corresponding dollar amounts attached to each, be provided to the Board. Ms. Palma suggested that perhaps we should think about the establishment of a set of standardized financial reports.

Ms. Martell questioned as to why no determination has been made as to the dollar amounts for tuition for out-of-district residents.

Ms. Fassler-Wallach explained that in prior years we have lost monies due to this decision being made at the reorganization meeting in July. Most districts, as a general rule, do not establish these rates until January of the current school year.

New Business:

There is a question outstanding regarding the fees for legal counsel. There seems to be a significant rate differential between the amount compensated to our legal counsel versus what other attorneys are paid. We currently pay our legal firm at an hourly rate, as opposed to a set rate for the school year. Ms. Palma stated that upon Mr. Kehl's return from vacation, she would schedule a meeting with him for further discussion.

At the Board meeting on July 25th a resolution was passed to hire a second attorney in order to obtain an outside opinion on a personnel issue. Dr. Litchka stated that when they spoke late last week, there was additional data required from the District. This information has since been provided and we are awaiting a response.

One of the discussion items on the Agenda for the August 17th meeting will be Administrative Goals, to be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Giamundo inquired as to why this topic would be discussed in executive session as opposed to public session. In response to his inquiry, Ms. Palma stated that it is a reflective discussion of a person's performance and what areas need improvement, as well as suggestions on how to make said improvements. Mr. Giamundo suggested that the discussion take place in public session.

Adjournment:

Seeing no further business, on a motion by Ms. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Martell and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Minutes accepted at BOE meeting
on September 7, 2005.)

Marsha S. Freer, District Clerk

