

NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
www.northsalem.k12.ny.us

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2006. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 6:52 p.m. by Ms. Carla Palma.

Board members present at this time:

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

Mr. John O'Meara, Trustee, Absent

Also present:

Dr. Peter R. Litchka, Superintendent
Dr. Michael Courtney, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Director of Finance
Dr. Patricia P. Cyganovich, Principal, MS/HS
Dr. George A. Bovino, Assistant Principal, MS/HS
Mrs. Roberta Reiner, Principal, PQ
Mr. Henry Sassone, Director, Physical Education

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Following the Pledge, Ms. Palma welcomed all present and stated that this is the first of two special meetings for budget reconsideration.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2006-2007 Budget

Dr. Peter R. Litchka

We believe the budget we put forth met the needs of the school district. The Board of Education has asked that we put together cuts of 1%, 2%, 3%, and 4.5%. The Administrative staff has been working hard to achieve this. \$332,000 will represent a cut of 1%. With 1% cut we would lose one teacher and one aide (retirements), etc. We recommended that things that were new be eliminated. A 2% decrease would present a reduction of teaching staff and reduction in programs, including one position at Walkabout. A 3% reduction would mean additional elimination of positions and programs. A 4.5% would be a contingency budget. Our options:

1. Put same budget back up for vote on June 20th.
2. Put up a reduced budget.
3. Go directly to a contingency budget.

At this time, members of the Board of Education were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Administration regarding some of the cuts being presented. Questions included:

- Does the Administration prefer to make cuts at level one versus level 3?
- How can you have a virtual high school without video conferencing?
- Are the reductions prioritized within the levels?
- Eliminate varsity rather than modified lacrosse?
- What is the impact of elimination of contests? In a level 2 reduction, JV and modified are cut – varsity level maintained?
- Is this a total elimination of the program?
- What about equipment and uniforms?
- If tractor is eliminated, will maintenance costs increase?
- What about full-day kindergarten?
- What is the impact in both buildings with our AIS services?

President Carla Palma opened the discussion up to members of the community in attendance. Comments included:

- NS teacher – complimentary of the work and effort into budget – please seriously consider any potential reductions in budget re-submitted for vote on June 20th.
- Class size – some community members have heard that some of the classes that run in the high school are very small.
- Re-submitting the same budget would be a mistake.
- Look strongly at deferring bus replacement until next year.
- As a board, look to eliminate administrators before we eliminate teachers.
- Spending over \$500,000 on a district office; do we need one?
- We have more teachers than necessary.
- Poor participation in the budget discussions before the first vote.
- Voter turnout – number of North Salem families that voted was disgraceful.
- Complacency.
- Full-day kindergarten should stay in. In a half-day program, our children are being shortchanged.
- Must be some way to complement other districts by having classes for multiple districts.
- What's our plan for getting the word out and better voter turnout on the 20th?
- We cannot afford to lose our summer programs and our AIS services that are here to help those students with difficulties.

ACTION ITEMS

Final reading and adoption of Proposed Policy 8635, Information Security Breach and Notification (not May 24, 2006 as previously stated in the May 17, 2006 minutes). A motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Ms. Douglas, and carried to adopt Proposed Policy 8635, Information Security Breach and Notification.

Second reading of Policy 9121, Nepotism and Significant Relationships. A motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman,

seconded by Ms. Douglas, and carried to conduct the second reading of Policy 9121, Nepotism and Significant Relationships.

COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

None at this time.

CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

AT 9:40 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Ms. Douglas, and carried to enter into Executive Session.