

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF NORTH HALEDON**

Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting

February 17, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

TIME: 7:30

Location: Memorial School

Flag Salute

Roll Call

Mrs. Antropow, Dr. Badami, Mrs. DeNova, Mrs. Lampe,
Mrs. LaCognata, Mrs. Melone, Mr. TenKate, and Mr. Valenti.

Absent

Mrs. Contegiacomo

Others Present:

Mr. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools/Acting Board Secretary,
Mrs. Viola Lordi, Board Attorney

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the North Haledon Board of Education has issued notice of this meeting to be publicized by having the date, time and location of the meeting posted at the North Haledon Municipal Building and Memorial and High Mountain Schools and mailed to The Hawthorne Press, which has been designated as the Board's official newspaper and to The Star Ledger, alternate newspapers. Notice was also filed with the Borough Clerk and will be sent to those persons requesting that such notice be mailed to them.

Superintendent's Comments:

Mr. Coffaro stated that this meeting will be held as a "Committee as a Whole".

All non-instructional staff were 'Riced' but no action will be taken at this meeting. He stated that he did this because he needed to discuss personnel in closed session in order to discuss plans for 16/17 budget. He added that his vision for the district for the 16/17 budge it is to not affect the kids.

Special Education Presentation by Sharon Cubicotti

Sharon Cubicotti, Supervisor of Child Study Team, presented to the Board a summary of 15/16 and 16/17 projected Special Ed costs:

Special Education Students

15/16 Year

- # Students classified-→109 students
 - 96 in district
 - 13 Out of District

16/17 Year

- # Students classified (Projected)-→98 students
 - 88 in district
 - 10 Out of District

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Special Education: Out of District Tuition:

- 15/16 Year
 - New Beginnings (Annex program at Memorial)
 - 6 students/\$356,862
 - Other
 - 7 students/\$956,452

- 16/17 Year (projected)
 - Expected reduction in Tuition costs due to enrollment→\$404,124

Other Expenses:

- 15/16 Year
 - Related Services
 - \$22,000 – one student
 - Aides
 - \$246,989

- 16/17
 - Related Services
 - Costs expected to be same as 15/16
 - Aides
 - Costs expected to be same as 15/16

Committee Discussion:

Facility (report given by Mr. Coffaro for Bill Mullanaphy, custodian)

- In the last lock down drill at HMS, two locks did not perform as they should. Room #131 and room #135 both had locks that malfunctioned. Ace security was in and fixed both locks, and informed us that the locks are incorrectly installed, and that they would all need repair. Estimate on fixing the rest of the locks will be \$360.
- A smoke detector at HMS was malfunctioning. As a result, Associated Fire Protection was called to repair. Currently, the smoke detector is functioning properly and the panel is clear.
- In our building check on Monday 1/25/16, it was found that the Memorial school circulator pump #2 was leaking with repair cost estimated at \$2800.
- During the winter break, all rooms have been cleaned and sanitized including, floors, desks, tables, doorknobs, phones, railings, bathrooms and keyboards.
- First floor light bulbs (90) at Memorial have been replaced. We need to order more bulbs to finish Memorial. Upon completion, we will move on to HMS.
- During the large rainstorm on 2/16/16, no roof leaks were found and all drains and gutters were clear and functioned properly.

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Curriculum (report given by Michele Mazzola)

- Science - teachers reviewing curriculum and creating labs for units. Will work to generate a needs assessment for materials.
- Science Text Books - exploring digital options through Discovery Learning, hard copies through Houghton Mifflin, and free online resources being used by county districts.
- Little Ivy Academy – receiving positive feedback; additional class series to be added on Tuesdays for waitlisted students.
- MLST presentation will be at next BOE meeting on February 24th.
- Grade 6 poetry contest – 28 students have been chosen
- Paul Valenti added that he would like the Curriculum Committee to revisit homogenous classrooms for the 16/17 year and that Policy encourages it. The current homogenous classroom format creates extra workload for teachers (e.g. several lesson plans).

Technology (report given by Michele Mazzola)

- Google email addresses to be created for 7th and 8th grade this week.
- Real Time - working to compare estimates, but all that can be housed through Real Time appear to be a savings without losing functionality. Full comparison will be reported for next month.
- Computer Server and repair updates (e.g. Smartboards) are needed and will be included in 16/17 budgetary preparation.
- IT Ticket status and update provided
- Report cards using parent portal will be looked at for next year.

Finance

- Book Sale-Lease Program
 - The program allows the district to use its textbooks as collateral for a 5 year loan at a 3.0/3.5% interest rate, with one-year “reprieve” regarding first payment.
 - The program requires an inventory to be taken of all the textbooks including leveled books for the lower grades. Thank you to all who helped with this inventory facilitated by Michele Mazzola with assistance from: Mr. Giancaspro, Mrs. Tait, Mrs. Taormina, Mrs. Morgantini, Mrs. Nickles, Mrs. Bouma, Mrs. Topp, Mrs. Gabriele, Mrs. Weinstein, Mrs. Rohlff, Mrs. Talarico, and Mr. Kreider).
- Equipment Lease Program – to be included as part of load is purchase of:
 - School Bus, 60 Chrome Books plus two carts, and District wide chairs (600 qty.).
 - 5-year payment plan with 3.0/3.5% interest rate, with one-year “reprieve” regarding first payment.

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Public Relations

- New Newsletter to be posted monthly on district web site and web page of both schools.
- Communication packet (on-going).

Policy

- Need to look at whether there is a policy on the District having a Facebook page

Negotiations (report given by Lisa Antropow)

- Negotiations are continuing. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 9th.

Representative's Reports:

Board of Recreation: No report

Borough Council: No report

Planning Board: No report

PCSBA/NJSBA: Mrs. DeNova. At the 2/1/16 meeting, Saul Rubenstein, a Rutgers University professor, provided his study results on how districts can benefit by stronger collaboration between the Administration and Teachers. A pilot group of 6 NJ districts is currently in a pilot program in NJ.

P.C. Educational Service Commission: No report

Petition of Citizens –

Motion to Open the floor: RL

Second: LD

Vote: 8-0

NOTE: Each Citizen was given 3 minutes to speak with the session total of 30 minutes

Heather Davidson – 96 Highland Road

- Mrs. Davidson asked Mrs. Cubicotti to clarify the Special Education costs that she presented. She also added that she supports the teachers and Superintendent.

Cyndi Cavagnaro – 44 Rothesay Avenue

- Mrs. Cavagnaro asked if we can sell the current school bus as revenue when ready to purchase the new bus. Mr. TenKate responded that the Board will look into it.

Renee Weinstein – 126 Osage Road, Wayne, NJ

- Mrs. Weinstein spoke that she supported all the teachers, administration and custodians.

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Mary Ann Jones –36 Boat Street

- Mrs. Jones stated that she has been a lifelong resident of North Haledon and a teacher in the district for 13 years. She added we have the best administration. We should cut items, not positions.

Michele Scrofani –30 Westervelt Avenue

- Mrs. Scrofani stated that if there will be savings in Special Education in the 16/17 year, why will there be cuts in administration.
- Mr. Coffaro responded that he is looking at all avenues. The book sale lease loan will help with the deficit. Need to look at breakage for salary since we don't have any surplus.

Kim Tanis – 21 Fairmount, Mahwah

- Ms. Tanis stated that she has been a teacher in the district for 25 years and would leave because of the uncertainty of the district.

Joe Mannino – 8 Cranberry Court

- Mr. Mannino stated that he liked the openness of this meeting format.
- He asked what the process is for preparing and approving the Budget. Mrs. Antropow responded that the Board does not build the Budget. The Superintendent and Staff prepare the budget. The Board reviews and approves the preliminary budget before it is sent to the County Superintendent. In April, there will be a presentation to the public for the final budget.

Laura Primavera – Walray Avenue

- Mrs. Primavera stated that she agrees with Mr. Valenti's proposal on making the classes homogenous.

Lisa Anguilli – 15 Hillside Avenue

- Mrs. Anguilli stated that she is against the proposed cuts with the Administration. Mrs. Antropow responded that the Board did not state we were cutting Administration and that was been rumors that have been circulating.

Carletta Fowlkes – Highland Road

- Mrs. Fowlkes thanked the teachers and added that we need to be careful when labeling Special Education children.
- She added that she would like to know when homogenous classrooms will be taken into effect and would like parents to be part of that conversation.

Anthony Griffo – 10 Onyx Terrace

- Mr. Griffo asked if the Special Education analysis is a one-time effort or ongoing? Mrs. Antropow responded that the Curriculum Committee requested it to be done.
- Mr. Griffo asked if Ginny Merlino identified any more differences with the 15/16 budget. Mrs. Antropow responded "no".

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Brian Ranieri – 63 Suncrest Avenue

- Mr. Ranieri asked if the district can replicate the New Beginnings Annex program in house?
- Mrs. Cubicotti responded that the district is looking into it.

Motion to Close the Floor: RL

Second: CB

Vote: 9-0

Old/New Business:

None

ADJORN TO CLOSED SESSION:

WHEREAS, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, also known as the Open Public Meetings Act, authorizes a public body to meet in executive or private session under certain limited circumstances, and

WHEREAS, said law requires the board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an executive or private session,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH HALEDON BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT:

1. It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session prior to adjournment of this meeting for purposes of :

Discuss personnel issues with the Board

2. The matters discussed will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.
3. No action will be taken.
4. Board will adjourn from private session

PRIVATE SESSION

Motion: RL

Second: PV

Vote: 8-0

Time: 9:31pm

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Re-open Public Meeting

Motion: RL
Second: PV
Vote: 8-0
Time: 10:25pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RL
Second: PV
Vote: 8-0
Time: 10:26pm