

Northport-East Northport UFSD

Districtwide Health and Safety Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting- November 30, 2023 via Zoom

Attending: Robert Howard, John Lackner, John McEnroe, Rocco Colucci, Dan Bach, Susan Boyle-NYSIR, Linda Bogdanowich, Lisa Todaro, Eric Jordan, Matthew Stanton, Allen Earle, Tim Hoss, Tom Harrison, Julie Hendricks-Atkins, Tori-Ann Schuttinger, Stephen Kerekes, Angelo Cocchiola, Lori Beekman, Trish McGrane, Sabina Larkin, Jayne Seymour, Alan Tener, Eleni Russell, Michael Genovese, Wendy Meyer

Bob Howard began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the second Health & Safety Committee meeting of the 2023-24 school year. committee. He started the meeting by reviewing the Health and Safety Committee purpose and norms and background from the New York State Education website. He explained the proper process and protocol is for the building level Health and Safety Committee meetings to occur prior to the Districtwide Health and Safety Committee meetings. The buildings should work towards solving concerns at the building level. Mr. Howard reminded the committee that the website has an online google form that can be filled out by community members, parents and staff if there is a health and safety concern they would like to bring attention to. Mr. Howard opened the floor to any questions at this point. There were no questions.

Bob Howard began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the 2023-2024 school year, acknowledging the new members: Northport HS – Lisa Autz; ENMS – Eleni Russell; Fifth Ave – Matthew Stanton; Norwood Ave. – Eric Jordan; Ocean Ave. – Toni-Ann Schuttinger and Erica Peritore; and Pulaski Rd. – Jacqueline Miata. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2023 Districtwide Health and Safety meeting. John McEnroe made a motion, Dr. Tener seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Bob reminded all of the next Health & Safety meeting on November 30, 2023, followed by a brief presentation detailing the Committee's Purpose and Norms, Proper Process and Protocols.

Before moving on to old and new business, Bob announced the retirement of Buildings & Grounds second-in-charge, Wil Scherer. Bob thanked him for his service and wished him a happy, well-deserved retirement.

Old Business/New Business

Bob Howard had a brief agenda detailing the following:

- Elementary Playgrounds – Bob explained the necessity of this project as the playgrounds are aging and we need to ensure a safe environment for children. The updated timeline was communicated to the PTA. The playgrounds are expected to be installed during the month of November.
- Bob shared with the committee an accident involving a pedestrian that happened at Northport HS. The person is a staff member who was taken by ambulance to the hospital and is okay. As a result of this event, safety protocols and signage are being reviewed. A reminder to all that when you are on a campus, it is important to be aware of your surroundings, students and staff walking. Bob indicated he will be meeting with Rob Dennis, Northport HS Principal, to evaluate protocols and additional signage modifications.

Jacqui Miata, Pulaski Rd., inquired if the review of signage and protocols will be at all schools, or just Northport HS? Specifically, Pulaski Rd. because of the near miss from last spring. The Committee and Town of Huntington were going to work on getting additional signage and flashing lights.

Bob responded that signage and protocols are being reviewed for Northport HS and Pulaski Rd. School.

Bob Howard welcomed John Lackner

John Lackner welcomed everyone to the meeting, as well as thanked Wil Scherer for his help, especially regarding his expertise in fire safety. John shared details about the busy and productive work accomplished over the summer:

- Northport HS – with in-house work, 4 bathrooms were completed; some classroom renovations in 106 and 109 and the Little Theater; excessive painting in the Upper Commons and various classrooms; and stairwells are currently being painted.
- Northport MS – 2 student restrooms and 1 faculty restroom were completed, and the ramp going to the L wing was epoxied.
- Ocean Avenue – with in-house work, some flooring; painted the classrooms in the original footprint of the building, as well as some offices; one bottle filling station was installed.
- East Northport MS – painted the nurse's office and library; did 2 floors that were abated; and replaced additional bottle filling stations.
- Playgrounds – site work enhancing some of the asphalt; preparing for installation of new playgrounds in November.
- Parking Lots – some upgrades were done, as well as maintenance to enhance the lifespan of the parking lots such as filling the cracks; seal coated 2 parking lots; line striping was done district-wide.
- PA Systems – Fifth Ave. system installed; looking at additional systems throughout the district in need of replacement.
- Serving Lines – targeting holiday breaks to remove and replace the serving lines in the elementary buildings. Dr. Tener asked for clarification if this was in reference to electrical service lines going to the buildings. John responded that these are serving lines for the kitchens that the children use to pick up their meals.

Bob Howard thanked John for his update, and added that much of the focus of Buildings & Grounds and capital work is on the health and safety front. A lot of the summer work involved asbestos removal. HVAC upgrades and replacements, and roof replacements. Not only does this take care of our assets, it maintains a healthy and safe environment. Bob also supported the PA system work John reported on, stating they are health and safety related. Our PA and fire systems are aging, and it is important that we're replacing them and keeping them up to date.

Eric Jordan, Norwood Ave. asked for clarification on the district's asbestos removal – do we keep an inventory?

Bob responded that John Lackner could probably speak in more detail, however the answer is yes, there is a manual maintained by the district that shows locations having asbestos or assumed asbestos, that's done by an environmental testing agency. Bob added that the end goal is to reduce asbestos in all spaces, as asbestos is present in buildings and schools across Long Island. The key to remember is that when it's encapsulated in floor tile and sealed, it's not a problem. When something breaks, then fibers enter the air, creating a health and safety issue. Bob complimented John on the fantastic approach he takes to removing

asbestos, explaining using a comprehensive approach doing a bathroom, for example, asbestos is removed from floor tile, pipes, and ceiling tile.

Bob added that the removal of all asbestos in the district would likely be millions of dollars, however we are able to be more proactive and aggressive in asbestos removal, thanks to the last few budget appropriations from the community. John Lackner added that we have a consultant every 6 months do a surveillance to ensure the most problematic areas are a priority.

Eric thanked Bob and John for their clarification.

Matt Stanton, Fifth Ave., inquired about abatement and the investment in maintaining our buildings. Does this incorporate in the buildings that are for sale as well?

Bob responded that from a perspective of evaluating resources, the buildings that are for sale have been lower on the priority of spending resources, however still maintaining a healthy and safe environment. For example, administration offices in the Brosnan building. There are projects that need to be done, but funds are needed elsewhere for higher priority projects, so the leaking windows at the Brosnan building have to wait. However, health and safety are a priority, so when the bricks at the back of the building became loose, funds were utilized to ensure the safety of the building. We're prioritizing spaces with students in them.

Bob welcomed John McEnroe

John McEnroe welcomed returning and new members, and updated the committee on district security:

- As a recommendation from the final meeting of last year, a reminder was sent out regarding the district's Safe Schools Anonymous Tip Line. This is a great tool we have in place, along with the District Emergency Information Guide available on the district's website. These are age-appropriate helpful resources for parents and teachers regarding talking to children about violence in schools and in general.
- At the September Superintendent's Conference Day, we brought in a guest speaker to discuss the importance of "See Something, Say Something" to encourage the use of the anonymous tip line that we have in place.
- Blue strobe visual lockdown communication system – project is continuing. We have completed the 2 middle schools last year, and have slated the 4 elementary buildings for this year. I'll update further as we move throughout the year.
- The Visitor Management System has received some upgrades – hardware for all 8 reader stations has been upgraded to receive available updates for software from New York State, REAL and Enhanced IDs.
- Cameras – additional installations around the district to cover blind spots.
- Classroom Door Vision Panels – about 80-85% finished with the installation of security safety film. We will continue to evaluate the need for additional areas.
- Senior Lunch Leave – some improvements have been made following our evaluation at the end of the last school year. We changed the door where the entrance and exit take place and added additional security.
- Our local law enforcement now has a secret code to allow for quick access into our buildings in the event of a lockdown emergency.
- October 6, 2023 – Districtwide lockdown drill. We will be testing and using our Rave Panic Button app to ensure it is functioning properly.

- In response to the Northport HS pedestrian accident, security will be increased to ensure vehicle and pedestrian safety.

Bob Howard added that the Suffolk County Police Department has a share program with cameras and schools. This program allows Suffolk County Police to view in their command center. If there's an emergency, or active shooter event, they can view the cameras live, expediting their response. We have brought this information to our attorneys, they have reviewed it, and we anticipate presenting this to our Board of Education sometime in October. Wanted to share this information with the committee, as this is a great tool for collaboration with the Suffolk County Police Department.

Eric Jordan wanted clarification from the last meeting regarding the ring of hierarchy with local law enforcement – Northport Village versus Suffolk County.

John McEnroe responded that 2 of our buildings fall under the jurisdiction of Northport – Ocean Ave. and the Brosnan Building. Northport Village does not have all of the resources that Suffolk County has, so SCPD would be in command under all circumstances. Eric also inquired about our protocol for lockdown drills. Have we done simulation testing to see if there is a breach- “secret shopper” concept? John responded we have not done a drill such as that. He explained the risks involved when you are talking about students and possible psychological effects.

Matt Stanton followed with a question regarding incorporating other agencies when doing a drill. Bob Howard indicated the importance of familiarizing all agencies with each building to ensure timely collaboration in an emergency. We hold walkthroughs with our law enforcement and fire departments. Many of our local fire and law enforcement officials went to school here and/or have children who have attended, or are attending schools in our district.

Bob Howard welcomed Dr. Alan Tener for the social emotional health component

Dr. Tener announced that the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week would be starting in 3 weeks. Nationally known as Red River Week, locally for many years we have referred to it as Rap Week, will kick-off with the Color Run on October 20, 2023 at Northport MS. This week-long program is about recovery, awareness and prevention and offers activities and events for all ages and developmental levels. At the elementary level, we typically have theme days emphasizing community spirit and healthy choices. You may see the many pinwheels located at the elementary buildings, pledging a wish for a happy, healthy future. Additionally, there is a resource fair at Northport HS with guest speakers to help create greater awareness.

Bob Howard mentioned an SEL survey moving forward. Details will be made available as we have them.

Bob Howard opened up the meeting to the committee participation

Tom Harrison reported that his building-level committee is evaluating the condition of the windows at Fifth Ave.

Bob Howard reminded everyone that the next meeting will take place on November 30, 2023 at 10:00am, via Zoom. He indicated that the plans are to keep the meetings virtual, however this can be reconsidered in the future.

Bob thanked everyone for their participation and wished all a great school year.

2023-2024 Districtwide Health and Safety Meetings

September 28, 2023 @ 3:45 p.m.

November 30, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

February 29, 2024 @ 3:45 p.m.

May 2, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.