

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
May 20, 2004

The North Branford Board of Education met on Thursday, May 20, 2004 at North Branford High School Cafeteria at 6:20 p.m. The following members attended:

Board Chair:	Ron Haskins
Board Vice-Chair:	Cheryl Smith
Board Secretary:	Amy Sochocki-Norton
Board Members:	Lisa Gagliardi
	Penny Q. Seaman
	Kris Vanacore

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Robert K. Wolfe

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Cheryl Smith to adjourn to executive session as per Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes as permitted by Section 1-200 (6) (a,b & c) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Cheryl Smith to reconvene to public session at 7:03 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Instruction/Curriculum:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Food Services:	Ed Slubowski
Principals:	Dr. David Perry, NBHS
	Alan Davis, NBIS
	Nancy Brittingham, TVES
	Robin Brown, JHS
	Dr. Karen Johnson, STW

Lori Vollero
Morgan Vollero
Mary Ann Forbes

Heather Vollero
Mary Vollero
Deborah Welton, NBFT

Michael Vollero
Marie Jennett
Carol Brearton

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Cheryl Ross
Wendy Lee Sawicki
Marcella Ardine
Laura Grunbeck
Mayor Michael Doody
Jim Dwyer
Marilyn Modzelewski
Jane Wharton
Kristi Wharton

Mary DelloStritto
Dolly Potter
Cliff Potter
Frank McCarthy
Todd Stoeffler
Paul Faraclas
Rose Angeloni
Randy Wharton

Katie Copeland
Grace Polivka
Elizabeth Lazzari
Vincent Candelora
Joanne Wentworth
Laura Petrella
Christine Imperato
Jessica Wharton

There were no comments from visitors at this time.

II. Recognition

a. Connecticut State Invention Convention 2004

Nine North Branford students participated in the Connecticut State Invention Convention at Storrs on Saturday, May 1st. Two students won at the state level. These students were:

Jessica Wharton Grade 4

Morgan Vollero Grade 4

The Board of Education recognized these students for their efforts in this competition. Jessica Wharton's invention was Handicaps – for pills and Morgan Vollero's invention was a snow scraper for trucks.

b. Laws of Life Essay Program – Statewide Winners

The Board of Education recognized two NBIS students:

Nicole Bouchard Grade 7

Erica Vanacore Grade 8

These students were the statewide winners of the School for Ethical Education's 2003-2004 Laws of Life Essay Program. The Laws of Life program is a character-education strategy that provides students in grades 5-12 with a chance to discover, reflect on and write about the core values that can guide them throughout their lives.

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The Board of Education recognized these students for their efforts in this competition and presented their certificates to Elizabeth Lazzari, 7th grade English teacher NBIS.

III. Student Representatives

Maria DeSarbo and Patrick Cassidy reported on the following items:

Junior Prom was held at Laurel View in Hamden on May 7, 2004 and was a huge success.

Senior Prom will be held at Laurel View in Hamden on Friday, May 21, 2004.

The Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 13, 2004 in the auditorium with 40 students being inducted.

On Wednesday, May 19, 2004 Mr. Roberti and Mr. Ficocelli's art and writing classes attended a field trip to an Art Museum.

An Awards Ceremony was held at NBHS for students receiving honors for various achievements.

Thursday, May 13, 2004 a Hard Truth program was presented at NBHS sponsored by MADD and the Waterbury Hospital.

Wednesday, May 19, 2004 NBHS math students enjoyed a field trip to Lake Compounce measuring radius, revolutions per minute, etc.

Senior trip will take place on Friday, June 4th at Lake Compounce.

Relay for Life will be held on June 5 and June 6, 2004 and many members of the community will take part.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Amy Norton to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2004 Board of Education meeting with no corrections.

ALL VOTED AYE

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V. Communications

Letter from: ACES, Cheryl Saloom Ed.D., Executive Director

Re: ACCESS Program – employment, assessment and job coaching services for ACES students who have graduated K-12 schools.

Letter from: State of CT – Department of Public Health,
Yolanda R. Cravinho, Environmental Analyst

Re: Compliance with Consent Order

Letter from: State of CT – Department of Education
Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Commissioner of Education

Re: Circular Letter #C-21 - Racial Statistics

Letter to: Margaret Hrabchak – Stanley T. Williams School

From: Read to Grow, Inc.
Laura Radulski, Books for Kids Coordinator

Re: Read to Grow Donation

Article: *New Study Supports Value of School Libraries*
Reading Today – April/May 2004

Article: *“Absolutely the Best Dentist”* – School official’s analogy offers insight into teacher’s plight
Island Packet – February 16th, 2004

Article: *Norton Students Experiment With Computer Technology*
Laura Baldino’s grade 3 class video conference with Norton School (Cheshire, Connecticut)

Dr. Wolfe congratulated Laura Baldino on her video conference project

Dr. Wolfe mentioned he received a letter from John and Laura Grunbeck.

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Motion: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to amend the agenda to the Superintendent's Report to add item R – Contracts.

ALL VOTED AYE

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Resignations

Mrs. Deirdre Braun, speech-language pathologist at Jerome Harrison Elementary School, has submitted her retirement resignation effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year after serving the school system for 15 years.

MOTION: Moved by Penny Seaman and seconded by Kris Vanacore to accept the retirement resignation of Mrs. Deirdre Braun, speech/language pathologist at Jerome Harrison Elementary School, effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year with regrets.

ALL VOTED AYE

Mrs. Rosalind Proto, grade 6 teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, has submitted her retirement resignation effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year after serving the school system for 34 years.

MOTION: Moved by Penny Seaman and seconded by Kris Vanacore to accept the retirement resignation of Rosalind Proto, grade 6 teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year with regrets.

ALL VOTED AYE

Mrs. Edwina O'Neill, Spanish teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, has submitted her retirement resignation effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year after serving the school system for 35 years.

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MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Cheryl Smith to accept the retirement resignation of Mrs. Edwina O'Neill, Spanish teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year with regrets.

ALL VOTED AYE

Ms. Amber Scherber, science teacher at North Branford High School, has submitted her resignation effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Amy Norton to accept the resignation of Ms. Amber Scherber, science teacher at North Branford High School, effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year with regrets.

ALL VOTED AYE

Mrs. Lynn Clements, grade 7 science teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, has submitted her resignation effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year.

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Cheryl Smith to accept the resignation of Mrs. Lynn Clements, grade 7 science teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year with regrets.

ALL VOTED AYE

B. Appointments - None at this time.

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C. Leaves

Miss Elizabeth Tracz, second grade teacher at Jerome Harrison School, has applied for a one year unpaid leave of absence under Article 20 of the agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers. Miss Tracz has an exciting opportunity to attend a masters program in deaf education at Smith College. The Superintendent recommends the granting of this leave and extends his very best wishes in this professional endeavor.

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Gagliardi and seconded by Amy Norton to approve a one-year, unpaid leave of absence for Miss Elizabeth Tracz, grade 2 teacher at Jerome Harrison School, under Article 20 of the agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

ALL VOTED AYE

D. Donations

Dr. David Perry, Principal of North Branford High School, has received a generous donation of a State Championship sign (valued at \$500) and a golf cart (valued at \$2500) from the North Branford Thunderbird Booster Club.

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to accept the generous donation of a State Championship sign (valued at \$500) and a golf cart (valued at \$2500) from the North Branford Thunderbird Booster Club with sincere thanks.

ALL VOTED AYE

Kris Vanacore questioned why the gifts were installed before they were accepted by the Board of Education.

Dr. Wolfe stated the sign was installed before he received the letter at Central Office.

Kris Vanacore asked if the golf cart was for the golf team.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the golf cart would be used for transporting materials or used to transport injured players from the field for all sports teams.

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E. Field Trip Requests - None at this time.

F. Around the Schools

STW

5/20 Grade 2 Fieldtrip to Mystic Aquarium
Kindergarten students: "Practice Lunch"
5/21 Kindergarten Orientation
6/7 Grade 2 Lighthouse Point
6/8 STW Fun Day & Island Rhythm Band
6/9 End-of-the-Year Assembly
6/10 Volunteer Thank you Breakfast
STW Principal for the Day
6/17 Step-Up Day

JHS

5/18 Miss Baldino's Class meeting video conferencing "pals" at Beardsley Zoo
SAGE Enrichment Program – Beaded Zipper Pulls
5/20 Kindergarten Orientation
5/24 SAGE Enrichment Program – Sand Art
5/24 SAGE Enrichment Program – Mosaic Tiles
5/27 Field Trip – Beardsley Zoo – Kindergarten
FRC "Mom's Night Out"
Mrs. Bannon - Family Math Night
6/2 Grade 3 - Field Trip – Little Red School House & Reynolds Beers House
6/3 Grade 3 - Field Day
6/4 Character Day
6/7 FRC Kindergarten Care Program Open House
6/8 FRC Kindergarten Care Program End of Year Gathering
6/9 Mrs. Mandigo – Author's Tea
6/10 Mrs. Pitoniak & Miss Baldino – Author's Tea
6/15 Miss Baldino's End of Year Field Trip with video conferencing "pals" –
Riverbend Campground – Sterling, CT
6/17 Step Up Day

TVES

5/10-14
& 5/17-21 Field Hockey Clinic
5/11-13 School Store - final session
5/12 Friendly Helpers to Evergreen Woods
PTO Meeting
5/13 School-Wide Assembly, grade 5 Band, 9:40 AM, parents invited
5/17 New Parent Orientation, 7:00 PM
5/20 Field Trip, Grade 4, Maritime Center, Norwalk
5/21 Hat Day, Relay for Life
5/24 Field Trip, Eli Whitney Museum, grade 5
5/26 5th Grade Band Concert for parents, 7:00 PM
5/27 Field Trip, Eli Whitney Museum, grade 5
5/28 DARE Awards Assembly, picnic and clown show
6/3 Field Day
6/8 Field Trip, grade 4 Mystic Seaport
6/10 Grade 6 Orientation for grade 5 students, NBIS
6/14 Grade 5 Honor Night, 6:30 & 8:00 PM, Auditorium
6/16 Field Trip, grade 5 Old Sturbridge Village
6/17 Step-Up Day

NBIS

5/7 Staff-PTO staff appreciation luncheon
5/25 All School-Spring Concert (5pm & 7pm)
6/4 All grades-Band & Chorus members to compete @ PAC Festival, Six Flags
6/10 Grade 8-Holiday Hill Class Picnic
6/10 Grade 5-Incoming Grade 6 orientation
6/11 All grades-Award Ceremony in the Auditorium
6/18 Grade 8-Promotion Dance
6/21 Grade 8-Promotion Ceremony

NBHS

5/20 9-12 Academic Awards, 12:15 p.m., Auditorium
5/21 Senior Prom, Laurel View Country Club
5/28 Senior Class Picnic, Lake Compounce
6/4 Kaleidoscope Coffee House
6/8 NB Scholarship Assoc. Awards 6:30 p.m. Auditorium
6/10 First half block G exam—all students, 1:09
6/11 Second half block G exam – all students, 1:09
6/16 Blocks A & B Exams – all students
6/17 Blocks C & D Exams – all students
6/18 Blocks E & F Exams – all students
6/21 Make-up exams
High School Graduation 6:30 on Athletic Field
Ecumenical Breakfast – Seniors- 9:00 a.m.

G. New England Ballet

The New England Ballet performed Peter and the Wolf for students grades K-2 and Little Red Riding Hood for students grades 3-5 on Wednesday, April 28th at the North Branford Auditorium. Nearly 1300 students were able to see this art form as a result of the generosity of the New England Ballet. The Superintendent shared a sampling of the many letters that he received from students in addition to cards and posters. The event was viewed as an overwhelming success exposing our students to ballet while at the same time allowing them to travel to a performing arts venue.

Special thanks are extended to the New England Ballet who donated the performances and DATTCO Transportation for their contribution to make this possible. Dr. Wolfe also commended the efforts of Donald Winnicki and thanked him publicly for all his help.

Amy Norton questioned how the performances were arranged.

Dr. Wolfe stated that the New England Ballet had made arrangements to use our auditorium for evening performances but because of poor marketing the performances were cancelled.

Superintendent Wolfe mentioned that Orchestra New England performed free of charge for our students on Bach's birthday.

H. Grants

The North Branford Public Schools will again be applying for the Carl D. Perkins Grant. The purpose of this grant is to assist in the development and enhancement of the academic, career and technical skills of secondary students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs. A copy of this grant has been distributed to Board Members.

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Gagliardi and seconded by Amy Norton to approve the Carl D. Perkins Grant Application for the 2004/2005 school year.

ALL VOTED AYE

Cheryl Smith questioned if Board members could read the grants before they are submitted.

Dr. Wolfe stated this could be arranged in the future.

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The Superintendent was pleased to learn that Project SAGE has been extended for one year by the State of Connecticut. The grant provides for school adjustment support for students in kindergarten through grade 3 at Jerome Harrison and Stanley T. Williams Schools. While funding is based on a competitive grant application, North Branford has been successful in obtaining funding in the past for this program. A copy of the SAGE Grant was distributed to Board Members.

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Gagliardi and seconded by Amy Norton to approve the SAGE Grant Application for the 2004/2005 school year.

ALL VOTED AYE

Dr. Wolfe stated he was very grateful to the SAGE grant writing team, as they had to write this grant on a very short notice.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned the time line of finding out if we receive this grant.

Dr. Wolfe stated usually sixty days or late summer.

I. Social Studies Program, K-5/6-12 Review Phase Reports

The Social Studies review committee has finished their work. Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Joan Follo and the committee were present to discuss the Social Studies Review Reports.

The Superintendent extended a special thanks to the following committee members as well as Mrs. Follo for their efforts.

K-5 Curriculum Review Team:

Nancy Brittingham	Terry McCabe	Linda Lyon	Carrie Sabetta
Jennifer Johnson	Wendy Jones		

6-12 Curriculum Review Team:

Rosemary Addario	Brian Bodner	Peter Bouley	Patricia DePalma
Marcella Ardine	Mike Votto		

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Joan Follo stated that the social studies curriculum has not been updated since 1997 and the Connecticut Social Studies Curriculum Model was updated in the year 2000. Due to these changes on the state level, some informal changes have been implemented in the North Branford Public School Social Studies Curriculum. Some of these changes include the addition of new courses, including the state mandated civic course, and integrating CAPT preparation into the curriculum.

One area that also needs to be addressed is the use of technology in Social Studies. Although teachers do their best to use the computer labs, more training and resources are needed. Teachers need to be aware of the content-specific methods used in the classroom that relate to technology.

J. Tools for Schools

The North Branford Public School System in cooperation with the State Department of Health and East Shore Health District is in the process of implementing the Tools for Schools Program. This program's intent is to provide a systematic means of evaluating environmental concerns in our schools. Mr. Don Winnicki, Director of Personnel & Business, is leading this initiative. Don provided information on the program, the process and the calendar for implementation.

Mr. Winnicki mentioned that each school would have a team made up of a principal, nurse, teacher, parent and a custodian. This team will be trained on how to use the Tools for Schools kit and develop an action plan for their particular school.

He remarked that several Connecticut agencies and organizations, along with the EPA Region I have formed the Connecticut School Indoor Environment Resource Team to assist schools. This committee includes public health professionals with Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) expertise, industrial hygienists, and trainers. A two part-training program has been developed to train the committee to:

- collect and analyze potential IAQ problems using the kit;
- understand and evaluate ventilation systems;
- conduct site walk-through;
- develop and prioritize IAQ solutions; and
- communicate effectively with the school community.

Cheryl Smith questioned if there would be a cost to the Board.

Donald Winnicki stated there was no cost for training but there might be costs to the recommendations reached by the committees.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that all five schools would be participating in this program.

Donald Winnicki stated it is a state mandate that all schools in Connecticut develop an indoor air quality plan.

Cheryl Smith questioned how this would affect the middle school.

Donald Winnicki stated it is the intent to move forward in all our schools.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned we are not sure yet what will happen to the middle school be it a renovated or a new school and what ever is developed by the team will be utilized to some extent. It will take some time though, to get to this point.

Cheryl Smith asked how the Supervisor of Building and Grounds fits into this program.

Donald Winnicki stated each school must form their own teams compiled of staff from that particular school so the Supervisor of Building and Grounds would not be a member of a particular team.

Dr. Wolfe remarked the Supervisor of Building and Grounds will come into play when the various teams establish their needs. (Mechanical systems, carpets, etc.)

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if Board members could be on these teams.

Donald Winnicki remarked that the program was structured to have team members from the school's staff on the team.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that there would be a parent representative on each team.

K. CMC & SAC End of Year Report Schedule for 2004

The Superintendent provided an end of the year report schedule for activities related to the Curriculum Management Cycle and Strategic Action Committees. Special thanks were extended to Joan Follo for this update.

Superintendent Wolfe mentioned there was a tremendous amount of work going on and he thanked everyone on all the committees for their efforts. He remarked that we have moved forward with new curriculum initiatives in mathematics, character education, social studies, etc.

L. Early Start Times

There has been considerable press about early start time for high school students. The Superintendent is a member of the CAPSS Policy Committee, which has issued a report regarding early start time. While there is a benefit to high school students, there are considerable implications; some of which are financial, in order to adequately make a change. A copy of the committee's report was provided for Board review. The Superintendent is not recommending any change at this time.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that for us a later start time would mean we would have to change our transportation system or our younger students would be out in the dark for most of the year. North Branford has a three-tier transportation system and to go to a non-tiered system would be very costly. He remarked it would also affect all of our sports teams.

Lisa Gagliardi mentioned that she attended a CAFE workshop and most everyone present agreed with a later start time. She questioned if we could form a committee of Board members, teachers, administrators and parents to evaluate a later start time.

Dr. Wolfe stated that he thought all findings were laid out in this report but yes, the Board could form a committee to discuss a later start time.

Kris Vanacore remarked that she is not in favor of a later start time and she agrees with the report.

Amy Norton mentioned she also agreed with the report and there are so many other things our district must move ahead with that this should not be a priority. She remarked that this was discussed five years ago with the former Superintendent and we should move ahead with creative scheduling at this time.

Lisa Gagliardi stated that yes, there were some disadvantages with a later start time but a lot more benefits. She would like to see the Board at least look at this to see if it was right for North Branford before we negotiate a new teacher's contract.

Ron Haskins remarked that with the middle school project coming up we might have to do split schedules.

Cheryl Smith stated that it is up to the student's parents to deal with their child's sleeping patterns.

M. 2004/2005 Budget

Administration provided recommended budget reductions for the 2004/2005 school year. Administration has worked collaboratively with the North Branford Federation of Teachers in reaching recommendations for budget cuts. The Superintendent met with both the Board Chair and the Budget Subcommittee regarding projected reductions. The Superintendent provided up-to-date information on reductions so that the Board could discuss and take action.

Superintendent Wolfe thanked Donald Winnicki, the administrators, Debbie Welton, Ron Haskins, and the Board sub-committee for all their help and recommendations on these budget cuts.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the policy committee of CAPPs would soon release a new paradigm for the funding of public education. He stated that many Superintendents are having budget difficulties and he can understand why town councils, board selectmen and taxpayers are concerned. He remarked that the bottom line for this particular year is Federal and State cutbacks and at the same time increased mandates. It is estimated that the No Child Left Behind Federal Legislation will increase spending in public education by 35 billion dollars.

Dr. Wolfe distributed the proposed budget reductions. (attached)

Superintendent Wolfe stated these cuts would impact all students in some way. (teacher cuts, elimination of the creative learning program, reducing of guidance counselor, freshmen sports, etc.)

Kris Vanacore stated she could not support cuts in our teaching staff and she was given a challenge to come up with ways to save these positions at the last budget sub-committee meeting.

Cheryl Smith asked what her ideas were.

Kris Vanacore stated one idea was to cut freshmen coaches.

MOTION: Moved by Penny Seaman and seconded by Cheryl Smith to call the motion for freshmen coaches.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to cut Freshmen Coaches from the 2004-2005 budget at \$17,000

LISA GAGLIARDI	-	ABSTAINED
AMY NORTON	-	NO
PENNY SEAMAN	-	NO
CHERYL SMITH	-	NO
KRIS VANACORE	-	YES
RON HASKINS	-	NO

MOTION FAILS 4-1-1

Dr. Wolfe mentioned he did not recommend cutting freshmen coaches as freshmen students could still play on the Varsity or Jr. Varsity teams and these coaches would be needed for health and safety issues. We are eliminating freshmen sports but not freshmen players.

Amy Norton questioned if we could cut freshmen coaches in the smaller sports teams, such as if a team only has 15 or 20 players and mentioned she would only vote for this motion if it was amended to specify the ratio of student players.

Dr. Wolfe stated that not every team has freshmen coaches.

Penny Seaman stated it was hard to see what the savings would be. We can't tell a coach we will hire you if we can get 30 students for a team.

Lisa Gagliardi stated football has 5 coaches for 50 players and soccer has 3 coaches for 35 players.

Kris Vanacore asked how many coaches were for cheerleading and for fencing and if football needed 5 coaches and soccer 3 coaches.

Dr. Wolfe stated 1 coach in cheerleading and 1 paid coach for fencing. He mentioned that football and soccer have two teams, Varsity and Jr. Varsity. Dr. Wolfe remarked that coaches for tennis, cheerleading and lacrosse had already been cut.

Kris Vanacore questioned if a nurse was needed in each school especially now since NBHS and NBIS were connected.

Penny Seaman stated more nurses were needed and not less.

Kris Vanacore remarked that the population in our classrooms has to be a priority.

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Amy Norton stated she would not support this motion as she feels nurses are understaffed.

Kris Vanacore questioned the District Inservice account and who it benefited stating there was a large surplus in this account.

Joan Follo remarked that this account was for professional development and they were already cut by \$20,000.

Kris Vanacore remarked that if we overspend in a line item we could go back to the town council for money. She feels the town council would understand.

Penny Seaman stated that all Board of Education members are liable for overspending the budget and she would not recommend this.

Joan Follo stated that we have a wonderful Professional Development plan that we depend on and we need the monies in this account for writing, technology, etc. She mentioned that teachers need this money to be trained and we need to support this plan.

Amy Norton remarked that she shares Kris's frustrations but Professional Development should be left intact and if cut would effect every student in the district.

Penny Seaman mentioned that every year we have different developments that we impose on our teachers. We need this money in Professional Development to develop these skills and we get a lot of value for the little amount of money we spend.

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to cut an additional \$17,588 from the Inservice line item in the 2004-2005 school year budget.

LISA GAGLIARDI	-	NO
AMY NORTON	-	NO
PENNY SEAMAN	-	NO
CHERYL SMITH	-	NO
KRIS VANACORE	-	YES
RON HASKINS	-	NO

MOTION FAILS 5-1

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MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to cut the electricity account by \$20,000 in the 2004-2005 school year.

LISA GAGLIARDI	-	NO
AMY NORTON	-	NO
PENNY SEAMAN	-	NO
CHERYL SMITH	-	NO
KRIS VANACORE	-	YES
RON HASKINS	-	YES

MOTION FAILS 4-2

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that this motion could throw the electricity account into the red.

Ron Haskins questioned what utilities would be paid for in the next two months besides electricity.

Don Winnicki stated \$9,000 gas propane, \$10,000 sewers and \$12,000 water.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if we have a \$20,000 surplus in this account at the end of the year what happens to the money.

Donald Winnicki stated that is up to the Board.

Amy Norton remarked that the Board does not have a contingency fund.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that we could have a spike in electricity and that money would be needed in that account.

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to cut the position of Supervisor of Building and Grounds in the 2004-2005 school year budget.

LISA GAGLIARDI	-	ABSTAINED
AMY NORTON	-	NO
PENNY SEAMAN	-	NO
CHERYL SMITH	-	NO
KRIS VANACORE	-	YES
RON HASKINS	-	NO

MOTION FAILS 4-1-1

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Cheryl Smith stated we might get to the decision of cutting this position but we should wait until we discuss with the town council about combining services.

Kris Vanacore stated we could hire one and one-half teachers if this position was eliminated.

Ron Haskins stated this person has a contract.

Kris Vanacore remarked that she thought this contract was for one year.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that this position is needed, as this person will oversee the water project, clean air quality, upgrading of buildings, etc.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if the town would assume these responsibilities for our buildings if this position were eliminated.

Cheryl Smith stated the Board has received a letter from Mayor Doody to pursue this matter but so far it is not conclusive.

Penny Seaman stated that the town has asked the Board to explore this possibility but it will not happen overnight.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Kris Vanacore to approve the North Branford Board of Education sub-committee meet every month and to try to work closer with the Town Council on the Board of Education budget paying close attention to better planning.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION PASSES 6-0

Amy Norton stated there was a miscommunication between Central Office and herself when she suggested writing a letter to Mayor Doody asking for a meeting.

Penny Seaman remarked the Board of Education formed a sub-committee to meet with the Town Council and it wasn't very fruitful.

Ron Haskins stated the Board has to be more pro-active in keeping all Board members informed.

Lisa Gagliardi remarked that when she first joined the Board of Education she asked for

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the budget sub-committee to meet once a month and would like to see a Board representative at administrative budget meetings with the Superintendent.

Lisa Gagliardi thanked everyone for his or her efforts on this budget and thanked the Town Council for supporting the Board of Education budget. She mentioned she has met with many other districts Board members during the past month and feels the 3% we received from the Town Council were fair and more than other towns received. She remarked that everyone is in a tough situation and feels we did fairly well compared to other towns.

Penny Seaman thanked the school administration for all their hard work and effort with this budget but mentioned that it was a very sad day with all these budget cuts. She mentioned she had been happy with her children's education in this town but now that class sizes are growing, buildings are becoming decrepit, etc. She stated that to suggest the Board should thank the Town Council for 3% is ludicrous. Penny stated that this is truly a sad day for our town. Mrs. Seaman mentioned she might have a hard time selling her home with the school system declining.

Amy Norton stated she spend a lot of time going over this budget, making many phone calls and she looking at every line item. Amy remarked she couldn't find any overspending in the Board budget.

MOTION: Moved by Amy Norton and seconded by Penny Seaman to accept the proposed budget reductions as submitted by Superintendent Wolfe and his administration.

LISA GAGLIARDI	-	YES
AMY NORTON	-	YES
PENNY SEAMAN	-	YES
CHERYL SMITH	-	YES
KRIS VANACORE	-	NO
RON HASKINS	-	YES

MOTION PASSES 5-1

Amy Norton remarked that there are amazing people who work in North Branford and she couldn't see opening any contracts.

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N. Certified Evaluations

In accordance with Section 10-151b of the Connecticut General Statutes “The Superintendent shall report the status of teacher evaluations to the local or regional Board of Education on or before June 1st of each year. For purposes of this section, the term teacher shall include each professional employee of a Board of Education below the rank of Superintendent who holds a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education.”

The Superintendent informed the Board that year-end summative evaluations on all certified employees are currently in progress. This process includes a year-end conference and a review of all supportive material related to the goals or mutual expectations that have been established. It is expected that this will be completed on or about June 30th, 2004.

In accordance with Section 10-151b subsection B, each local and regional Board of Education shall develop and implement teacher evaluation programs consistent with State guidelines.

This requires an updated teacher evaluation plan approved by the North Branford Board of Education. A committee under the direction of Joan Follo has been working to update the North Branford Public Schools’ Professional Growth and Educator Evaluation Program.

This plan is in final draft form and will be reviewed by administration. The plan will be provided for Board review upon completion.

This plan will go into effect upon approval for the 2004/2005 school year and meet the requirements of the State of Connecticut for a plan update.

O. Retirement Dinner

The third annual North Branford Public Schools Retirement Dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 2nd at Woodwinds in Branford. Invitations have been sent to current and retired employees. The event is also open to the public. As of this writing a total of 9 employees will be honored for their long-time service to the district. They are:

Deirdre Braun	JHS	Speech
Doris Bryant	NBIS	Cafeteria
Patricia Maiorino	NBHS	English
Nadine Mandigo	JHS	Grade 3

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Noreen McKiniry	NBHS	Guidance
Edwina O'Neill	NBIS	Spanish
Suzanne Ouellette	JHS	Special Ed
Marilyn Ponzio	TVES	Cafeteria
Rosalind Proto	NBIS	Math

P. Rotary Project

The North Branford Rotary Club is considering a Centennial Service Project, which would benefit our athletic complex at NBHS. Vice Chair, Cheryl Smith, who is a member of Rotary, provided the board with updated information regarding this initiative. Cheryl Smith introduced Donna Christensen and Vinny Candelora from the Rotary Club.

Cheryl Smith asked Vinny Candelora to speak on this project. Mr. Candelora remarked the Rotary Club is looking to build a concession stand and restroom near the North Branford High School field on the opposite side of the bleachers.

Vinny Candelora stated the Rotary Club will work with the North Branford Booster Club and Public Works on this project and then it would be turned over to the Board of Education to administer.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if this would all be for free.

Donna Christensen stated yes, but the Rotary Club needed the Board's approval.

Amy Norton remarked that the Board is honored that the Rotary Club chose the school system for their project.

Kris Vanacore questioned if there would be an insurance problem.

Mr. Candelora stated the Rotary Club has their own insurance.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if they could tie into the existing sewer system.

Vinny Candelora stated the Rotary Club would come back to the Board for final approval.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that this project will benefit all our sports and students and thanked the Rotary Club, Vinny Candelora and Donna Christensen and committed school support on this project.

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MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to approve the idea of the Rotary Club building a concession stand and restrooms at NBHS.

**ALL VOTED AYE
CHERYL SMITH ABSTAINED**

MOTION PASSES 5-1

Q. Auditorium - Pilot

The Board previously granted permission for the parents' group, Drama Mamas and Papas to sell bottled water as a pilot project at the spring drama presentation. The Board asked for a report from the organization as to how this project was received. Administration has asked for a representative of the group to provide this information so that the Board can determine if they would like to allow groups to continue selling water. (report attached)

Ron Haskins remarked that the custodians found no bottles left in the auditorium and recommended small bottles of water be used.

Dr. Wolfe stated that with the Board's approval he would make this option a part of the application process.

The Board of Education approved the selling of bottled water in the Auditorium lobby only.

R. Non-Union and Non-Certified Contracts

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Cheryl Smith that all non-certified and non-union employee contracts not be negotiated by administration without previous consultation with the negotiation committee and that all non-certified and non-union employee contracts be reviewed and approved by the Board before they are executed.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSES 6-0**

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Amy Norton asked if Kris meant that these contracts wouldn't need a motion but the Board would have the opportunity to review them and provide a verbal and informal approval.

Kris Vanacore stated this was correct.

IV. Committee Reports

1. Negotiations

No report at this time.

2. Budget

No report at this time.

Amy Norton asked the Superintendent to keep the Board informed when a plan is in place for the creative learning students.

Superintendent Wolfe suggested the Board Budget Sub-Committee set a standard date for their monthly meetings.

3. Building and Grounds

No report at this time.

4. Curriculum

Amy Norton mentioned that she met with Lisa Gagliardi and Tamre Mockus and they hope to have the Science Curriculum voted on at the June Board meeting so supplies can be ordered and the curriculum in place before the new school year.

5. Pension

Kris Vanacore stated that the pension committee met and several pensions were reviewed.

6. Policy

The first reading of the following policies were provided to the Board.

Policy #P3012 – Separation of Church and State, Protection of Private Religious Beliefs

Policy #P3045 – Exemption from Instruction

Policy #P3090 – Live Animals in the Classroom

Kris Vanacore stated that the Policy for exemption from instruction should be explored as you won't know what is being taught until you are well into the subject.

Cheryl Smith stated this policy should be brought back to the Policy Committee.

Lisa Gagliardi suggested the Board get the current copy of P3012.

Penny Seaman stated there is not a policy in place.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned why the AIDS education is specified.

Penny Seaman stated this is a state statute.

7. ACES

Kris Vanacore stated that ACES hired new auditors and discussed contracts.

8. Strategic Planning

No report at this time.

9. Building

Dr. Wolfe stated that we have received four bids from architects for NBIS and new tile has been selected and ordered for the Auditorium. He mentioned the contractor has agreed to remove the existing floor.

10. Calendar Committee

Board representative on the Calendar Committee, Amy Norton, presented to the Board information regarding:

1. 2004/2005 Calendar

Amy stated that our students would attend school on President's Day, as this day was not included in our February vacation.

2. Proposed 2005/2006 Calendar

MOTION: Moved by Amy Norton and seconded by Kris Vanacore to approve the 2005/2006 Calendar as submitted by the Calendar Committee.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSES 6-0**

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business at this time.

VI. Visitors and Press

Rose Angeloni remarked that the Board could still have February 21, 2005 off and extend school by one day. She was on the committee for the 2004-2005 calendar and they had discussion on regards to this. She feels many parents might take issue with students going to school on President's Day as many of them have this day off.

Lisa Gagliardi stated she would be willing to do this as a parent and a Board member and we could vote on this next month.

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Stephanie Bilskis remarked it is a good idea to have monthly budget sub-committee meetings and she hopes the building committee would do a walk-through at NBIS. She also mentioned the Rotary Club Project will be good for all students and it is a good idea to sell bottled water at the auditorium.

Stephanie mentioned she still thinks the school budget stinks, as there is no room for growth for our school system. She urged everyone to work as a community next year for the good of all our students.

Vincent Candelora remarked that it is a good idea for the Board of Education budget sub-committee to hold monthly budget meetings. He stated this is the first time the Board is hearing that the Board of Education has a \$60,000 surplus in one of their accounts. He feels money is being moved around and the Board of Education doesn't know about it or where the surplus money is. He feels the Board of Education should look at their budget every single month and the Board would receive more accountability from the Town Council if this procedure were followed.

Mr. Candelora distributed the Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures. He remarked that the auditors agreed that the Board of Education should review their finances monthly.

Penny Seaman stated she also read this report and the auditors found not one single violation on the part of the Board of Education.

Mr. Candelora stated he was not suggesting there were any violations but felt the Board should address line item transfers every month.

Cliff Potter stated he attended the last Town Council meeting and he didn't see one Board of Education member present at this meeting. He remarked that there are Town Council members present at the Board of Education meeting tonight and Board members should attend Town Council meetings. He mentioned that we have to get rid of the friction between the Board of Education and the Town Council.

Kris Vanacore remarked that she has attended many Town Council meetings.

Mayor Doody remarked that Penny Seaman would have no problem selling her house. He also commended Kris Vanacore for having the courage to explore the surplus accounts. Mayor Doody stated he didn't want to be sitting at a Board of Education meeting next year and hear there is a surplus account after hearing we couldn't hire new teachers this year.

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The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on June 17, 2004 Totoket Valley Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Cheryl Smith to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 10:05 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine