

**THE NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
JULY 15, 2004**

The North Branford Board of Education met on Thursday, July 15, 2004 in the Jerome Harrison Cafeteria at 6:10 p.m. The following members attended:

Board Chair:	Ron Haskins
Board Vice-Chair:	Cheryl Smith
Board Secretary:	Lisa Gagliardi
Board Members:	Kris Vanacore Larry Casey

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Robert K. Wolfe

MOTION: Moved by Larry Casey and seconded by Kris Vanacore to adjourn to Executive session as per Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes as permitted by section 1-200 (e6)(a,b&c) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Larry Casey and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to reconvene to Public session at 7:04 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Ron Haskins introduced, and welcomed back the newest board member, Larry Casey.

1. Visitors

Director of Personnel/Business:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Joan Follo
Principals:	Dr. David Perry, NBHS Robin Brown, JHS

Christine Imperato	Dolina Potter	Debbie Stone
Brent Aiken	Aimee Aiken	Lou Criscuolo Jr.
James Dwyer	Lynn Jenkins	Elisabeth Caplan
Elisa Pannone	Nikki Musco	Diane Artaiz
Mary Ellen DiLella	Mark Fabrizi, NB FT	Deborah Welton

Vincent Candelora

JoAnne Wentworth

Diane Artaiz asked the board to make a motion to amend the agenda to add donations to the agenda tonight.

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Gagliardi and seconded by Larry Casey to add donations to the agenda for further discussion.

ALL VOTED AYE

II. RECOGNITION

Dr. Wolfe announced Mr. Jim Dwyer has received the Golden Apple Award, which was sponsored by radio station Star 99.9. This was a writing contest sponsored by the radio station, and a student of Mr. Dwyer's class, Kelsey Tamulevich submitted an essay about Mr. Dwyer. A representative of Starr 99.9 came to the school to make the presentation.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Kris Vanacore and seconded by Cheryl Smith to approve the North Branford Board of Education minutes of the June 17, 2004 meeting with no corrections.

**ALL VOTED AYE
LARRY CASEY ABSTAINED
MOTION PASSES 4-0-1**

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

News Release: Connecticut Department of Education,
Dr. Betty Sternberg Commissioner

Re: 2003 CMT Results Show Gaps Beginning to Close

Dr. Wolfe stated that he would like to share the results of the CMTs with Administrators, and report back to the Board at the September board meeting.

Letter from: Anne K. Paine

Re: Comments on improvements to NBIS

Dr. Wolfe added that Ms. Paine included a map of the school to show where she feels improvements should be made. The parent was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Letter from: George P. Dowaliby, Chief
Bureau of Special Education
State of Connecticut Department of Education

Re: Special Education Continuous Improvement Plan

Dr. Wolfe stated that our school system went through a compliance review of our special education department last year, and this letter states that based on the annual review of the Special Education program, that we are in compliance with sections 10-76a to 1076h. The Department conducted extensive interviews with students, staff and parents. He commended Suzanne Wright and her entire team, because in advance of the department coming, they had to do an immense amount of work.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Resignations

Dr. Wolfe stated that an addendum has been added to the Superintendent's Report because several resignations have been received.

Mrs. Mary DelloStritto, grade 4 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, has submitted her retirement resignation effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Larry Casey to accept the retirement resignation of Mrs. Mary DelloStritto, grade 4 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year with regrets.

**ALL VOTED AYE
KRIS VANACORE ABSTAINED
MOTION PASSES 4-0-1**

Mrs. Krista Morton, Coordinator of Special Services has submitted her resignation effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Larry Casey to accept the

resignation of Mrs. Krista Morton, Coordinator of Special Services, effective the end of the 2003/2004 school year with regrets.

ALL VOTED AYE

ADDENDUM TO SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Mrs. Kathryn L. Bourret, grade 4 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, effective June 30, 2004.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Larry Casey to accept the resignation of Mrs. Kathryn L. Bourret, grade 4 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, effective July 30, 2004 and to wish her the very best in the future.

ALL VOTED AYE

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Mrs. Nicki Gallagher, .6 social science teacher at North Branford High School, effective July 13, 2004.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Larry Casey to accept the resignation of Mrs. Nicki Gallagher, .6 social science teacher at North Branford High School, effective July 13, 2004 and to wish her the very best in the future.

ALL VOTED AYE

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Ms. Keri Colwell world language teacher at North Branford High School, effective July 13, 2004.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to accept the resignation of Ms. Keri Colwell, world language teacher at North Branford High School, effective July 14, 2004 and to wish her the very best in the future.

ALL VOTED AYE

B. Appointments

The Superintendent has extended contracts to the following certified staff:

Aimee Aiken	Grade 3	JHS	Masters	1
Danielle Ducharme	World Language / Spanish	NBIS	Bachelors	1
Mary Ann Valentino	Grade 8 Math	NBIS	Masters	6
Christine Noonan	English	NBHS	Masters	5
Lisa Dannheim	Guidance Counselor (.45)	NBHS	Sixth Year	7
John Pryor	Social Studies	NBHS	Sixth Year	1
Antonietta Angelino	World Language	NBHS	BA	1

Dr. Wolfe welcomed Aimee Aiken, who was in attendance at the Board Meeting.

Dr. Wolfe welcomed all staff members, and stated that several individuals had multiple contract offers from other school systems, and we are pleased that they have chosen North Branford.

The Superintendent under the authority granted at the June Board Meeting has appointed the above individuals.

C. Leaves

There are no leave requests at this time.

D. Donations

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to reinstate freshman sports in light of the fact that there has been a donation on the table to support that for this year.

Kris Vanacore asked if this was for all freshman sports for one year.

Lisa Gagliardi asked if it was the same freshman sports schedule that was in place for 2004-2005 school year, and if it was the same schedule.

Diane Artaiz stated that she spoke to Chris Webster and it was the same schedule

Lisa Gagliardi asked if all of the sports will be addressed.

Diane Artaiz replied that it is the same schedule as last year.

Lisa Gagliardi asked if there was enough time to schedule all the games.

Larry Casey asked if there were several fund raisers to achieve this.

Diane Artaiz stated that her husband, John Artaiz went to all of the youth groups and booster clubs and asked for donations. She stated that the people of North Branford came through with flying colors to make donations, totaling \$7,000.00.

Larry Casey stated he hopes they can continue this from year to year.

Diane Artaiz stated that this is a one time donation. The town needs to know that freshman sports needs to be reinstated in the budget.

Larry Casey stated that he understood this.

Kris Vanacore added that this does not mean it will not get cut again from the budget next year. It was a difficult decision to cut freshman sports.

Diane Artaiz stated that this was understood, this does not guarantee it for next year.

Ron Haskins stated his concern was if this were to open the door for fundraising for other items that were cut from the budget.

Cheryl Smith asked why that would be a concern.

Ron Haskins asked where does one draw the line.

Kris Vanacore stated that it is not the Board's job to draw the line. If the clubs raise the money for freshman sports, and it is the athletic department is controlling the schedule. It is not one person saying who can play.

Cheryl Smith added the Board should not be concerned with that right now, are we willing to accept this donation now.

Lisa Gagliardi asked if Diane could provide the Board with a schedule.

Diane Artaiz replied that Chris Webster is sending the schedule. She does not have it today.

Kris Vanacore added that this is a donation to the school, and the school makes the decision on the schedule.

Dr. Wolfe stated that the donation will reinstate the freshman schedule as it was before, it does not mean that every sport will have equal games. There is no discrimination against any sport; they will follow the original schedule.

Diane Artaiz added that all of the sports do not have the same amount of games, but will

have whatever they had last year. They asked what amount would it take to reinstate the freshman schedule, and this is what was raised. This was raised from all youth clubs, and booster clubs.

Cheryl Smith thanked the clubs for raising this money. This was an honorable effort.

ALL VOTED AYE

E.Rotary Project

Board Chair Ron Haskins, joined school personnel, Superintendent Dr. Robert Wolfe, Director of Personnel and Business Don Winnicki, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Todd Jaramillo, and High School Principal Dr. David Perry in a meeting with Vincent Candelora representing the Rotary to view the possible site for their Centennial Project – a new refreshment / bathroom facility on the athletic field. In addition members of the Booster Club were also in attendance. They felt that the location of this would be at the junction of where the corner of the soccer field and just outside the football field. The next step it to have a site plan. There is a volunteer to do the site plan. The long-range goal is to have this in place for the beginning of the 2005 school year.

Dr. Wolfe asked if any members that were part of this meeting would like to add to this.

Vincent Candelora stated that Bob Criscuolo is still committed to doing the site work for this project. We are hoping to break ground in June and be completed by the fall.

Dr. Wolfe thanked Mr. Candelora, and members of the board that attended this meeting. Dr. Wolfe stated that this project would enhance the athletic complex for players and spectators.

F.Shoreline Cohort

The Superintendent is pleased to inform the Board that a Shoreline Cohort has been established between Southern Connecticut State University, the North Branford Public Schools and the Branford Public Schools. This Cohort will lead to a 6th year degree in Educational leadership and 092 certification. Half of the course requirements will be located in the two communities.

An initial meeting was held to explain the program the last week of school. Approximately 30 individuals from the two school systems expressed an interest in the program. 14 individuals were from our school system. The Cohort will begin this September and the Superintendent will report back to the Board in terms of how many people are enrolled.

G. Kindergarten Enrollment

As of July 8 Kindergarten registration was as follows:

STW 95 students
JHS 94 students

H. Class Size

Dr. Wolfe stated that class size is being monitored very closely, with a number of “hot spots”, most of them at the high school, with nearly a dozen courses with over 30 students in them. The Superintendent will be working with administration to see how the students can be accommodated, and how it could be changed, and also have a slight increase in the social studies and guidance positions. The next month will be critical, and the August Board meeting will provide the Board with a chance to review class size. The bubble that has been going through our school systems is now slowly starting into the high school. There were 140 students that graduated in June, and the numbers coming out of the middle school, is approximately 190.

I.NBHS Student a Standout

Dr. Wolfe reported that Rob Lasko placed 2nd in the javelin at the New England Championships. Rob also traveled to North Carolina with Coach Brian Bodner to compete in the nationals. Rob placed 7th in the nation at Nationals. He threw a personal best and school record of 189-04. Last year a throw of that exact same distance was 3rd best in the USA. Impressively, Rob did defeat the New England Champion of a week ago. In attendance at this meet were the top throwers from all over the USA including the number one and two ranked high school throwers in the country. Based on the results of the meet, Rob would be considered the third or fourth best underclassman in the USA.

J.Summary Hiring

The following certified positions remain open as of July 9:

- 1.0 Special Services Coordinator
- 1.0 Science NBHS
- 1.0 Science NBIS
- 1.0 Special Ed JHS
- 1.0 Grade 3 TVES

Dr. Wolfe added that we have lost 2 people to other schools systems. In the areas of math, science, world language and speech/hearing most of the people have multiple offers.

The Superintendent is recommending that the authority to hire be extended from July 16 to

August 16, 2004, the date of the next Board of Education meeting:

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Larry Casey to extend the Superintendent's authority to hire certified staff during the period of July 16 thru August 16, 2004.

ALL VOTED AYE

Committee Reports

1. Negotiations

No report at this time.

2. Budget

Cheryl Smith stated that the Budget Subcommittee has begun meeting each Tuesday before the Board meeting. The committee discussed and reviewed line item transfers for the 2003-2004 school year.

A copy of the transfers was handed out.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Kris Vanacore to approve the line item transfers for the 2003-2004 school year.

Lisa Gagliardi asked if amount on the far right of the sheet is the account total, is that the amount that fell short in that particular account.

Don Winnicki stated that this was correct.

Cheryl Smith stated that the final balance of \$35,597 was returned to the town.

Lisa Gagliardi asked for an explanation on several items.

Don Winnicki explained the transfers.

Lisa Gagliardi thanked Don for the explanations.

ALL VOTED AYE

Cheryl Smith stated that the Budget sub committee also discussed increasing 2 positions at the high school because of the large numbers of students in social studies and the

guidance position.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Kris Vanacore to increase the social studies position from .6 to .8 to prevent the class from having 35 students each.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Kris Vanacore to increase the guidance position from .45 to .50.

ALL VOTED AYE

3. Buildings & Grounds

Dr. Wolfe informed the Board that the floor in the auditorium lobby has been torn up, and we are now waiting for the installation of the new tile floor.

Kris Vanacore asked if this would be done by September.

Dr. Wolfe replied that this is what we were told.

4. Curriculum

No report at this time.

5. Pension

No report at this time.

6. Policy

The second reading of the following policies are provided to the Board:

Policy #P3056 – National Honor Society

Policy #P3085 – Use of Copying Devices

Policy #P3115 - Career and Vocational Education

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Kris Vanacore to approve Policy #P3056 – National Honor Society as submitted.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Kris Vanacore to approve Policy #P3085 – Use of Copying Devices as submitted.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Kris Vanacore to approve Policy #P3115 – Career and Vocational Education as submitted.

ALL VOTED AYE

7.ACES

No report at this time.

8.Strategic Planning

No report at this time.

9.Building Committee

No report at this time.

10.Calendar Committee

No report at this time

11.Unfinished Business

None at this time.

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Gagliardi and seconded by Kris Vanacore to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:00 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Rienzo