

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
FIRST BUDGET MEETING
January 25, 2005**

Ron Haskins called the First Budget meeting for the 2005-2006 Fiscal year to order at North Branford High School's Studio at 7:10 p.m. The following members attended:

Board Chair:	Ron Haskins
Board Vice Chair:	Cheryl Smith
Board Secretary:	Amy Sochocki-Norton
Board Members	Lawrence Casey Lisa Gagliardi Bruce Wentworth

Superintendent of Schools:	Dr. Robert K. Wolfe
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I. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Instruction/Curriculum:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Principals:	Dr. David Perry, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Robin Brown, JHS

Todd Stoeffler, NBIS

II. 2005-2006 Capital Request

Superintendent Wolfe distributed the 2005-2006 Capital Request to the Board of Education. (enclosed) He remarked that the bleachers and scoreboard should be one Project, as the scoreboard wouldn't qualify alone for reimbursement. He remarked that the Board must decide if the bleachers would be retro fitted or replaced. It also has to be decided if the press box will be part of the project.

Dr. Wolfe suggested that we do things the right way and do the bleachers, scoreboard and press box all at once. He mentioned that the Board has received authorization from the Town Council on this project three times.

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Bruce Wentworth questioned why this project wasn't completed when it was authorized.

Dr. Wolfe stated the project was never completely funded.

Don Winnicki remarked when the bid went out for the bleachers to be retro fitted there were not many bids. Mr. Winnicki also mentioned that the original quote for the press box was \$60,000 and the Board asked for \$80,000 for the complete project then the Town Council cut back the request to the original \$20,000 and basically eliminated the press box.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the press box has a questionable roof and could become a liability.

Cheryl Smith questioned if we had a quote to replace new.

Donald Winnicki stated this was the quote for new up to April 2003 and that is why he entered an 8% increase or inflation. He mentioned one option we had with new versus retro- fit is we could consider a municipal lease and this would allow us to take the first year payment and most of the second year payment from prior authorizations. We would also have to pay a finance cost.

Bruce Wentworth asked if the monies budgeted would also cover the cost of taking the old bleachers down.

Donald Winnicki stated it would be covered.

Amy Norton questioned if the bleachers were in good shape.

Donald Winnicki stated they were structurally but the price to retrofit is very high but we could go out to bid again with the retrofit as the design work is already done. He also mentioned handicap seating and a handicap ramp must be installed.

Superintendent Wolfe stated the old bleachers have wasted space and with new bleachers we could have them designed so we could incorporate storage underneath the bleachers.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if we could bring in sponsorships for the scoreboard.

Dr. Wolfe stated if we want to bring in advertising, as our fields right now are practically advertisement free. He remarked that this would only save \$6,000

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and the Policy Committee would have to approve this. He stated his personal preference was that for \$6,000 he would rather keep our fields advertisement free.

Lawrence Casey asked how close these estimates were to the actual price.

Donald Winnicki stated he used percentages to set the estimates.

Bruce Wentworth mentioned that the risk involved for a liability is not just Board of Education but also for the town.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that many of the young children who attend games don't sit and just watch the game. Many of them are running around the bleachers, roughhousing, etc.

Dr. Wolfe stated that one of our citizens questioned unlocked doors at our schools. We took a look at doors at NBHS and NBIS and researched exterior security doors.

Donald Winnicki remarked that the following project was researched:

- Two sets (double) doors by Tbird nest
- Two sets (double) doors to the fields (critical)
- One set (double) doors to the back diamond (staff use)
- One set (double) doors PPO (staff use)
- One set (double) doors auditorium (low traffic area)
- One set (double) doors to custodial room (hallway to sixth grade area)
- District Key-pad Reader

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if this hardware could be used on other doors at a later time since we plan on getting new doors in the future.

Donald Winnicki stated he would investigate this possibility.

Bruce Wentworth questioned if there was a time limit to replace old doors as this could be the beginning of our plan to replace doors.

Lisa Gagliardi stated the doors by the student parking lot should also be considered.

Cheryl Smith mentioned that the day care used these doors and would someone have to keep letting them in.

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Bruce Wentworth questioned if a timer could be installed on these doors.

Donald Winnicki mentioned the day care could use the main entrance.

Amy Norton questioned why NBIS need doors at this time if we plan to renovate that school.

Donald Winnicki stated it would be for access to the back area.

Cheryl Smith questioned why doors at TVES were not included on Capital Improvements.

Donald Winnicki mentioned they are just regular doors but he could check into it.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that safety is very important but so is health and safety. We need new heating, lighting, etc. He mentioned that the heating at NBHS is a great concern.

Superintendent Wolfe mentioned that the Facilities Study prioritized our buildings with NBIS being first. He remarked we are trying to be comprehensive and cost effective and we shouldn't be doing things piece meal.

Bruce Wentworth questioned if the Town Council has accepted the Facilities Study.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the Town Council has accepted the first piece of the Facilities Study.

Cheryl Smith asked which building was prioritized after NBIS.

Dr. Wolfe stated NBHS and he felt STW should be done with NBHS as the cost of renovating STW is relatively minor and if it was one project over half could be reimbursed by the state.

Bruce Wentworth questioned if the Town Council put a time-line on all the schools for repairs, etc. so we do not have to keep doing patch- work. He also mentioned it is ultimately up to the town when monies will be allotted.

Cheryl Smith asked if Donald Winnicki could get a cost of a regular door at TVES versus a security door.

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Amy Norton remarked that she has a worry that we will spend money on doors now and won't be able to use them at a later date

Lawrence Casey questioned if security doors, heating, etc. was included in the report when the high school was recently evaluated.

Dr. Perry stated no it was mostly library changes, educational changes, etc.

The Board went through the proposed budget asking various questions to the administrators, Dr. Wolfe and Donald Winnicki on bus contracts, world language, staff, salaries, tuition, special education, PJ case, teams at NBIS, etc.

Bruce Wentworth remarked that he was used to budgets with notes, brief summaries, highlights, etc. instead of just figures. He mentioned that he would like to see more of this in our proposed budget, as it would answer many of his questions before he arrived at a meeting.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the budget requests submitted by his administrators with full explanations are in his office if any Board member would like to view them.

Amy Norton questioned who would be meeting with the Town Council on our budget.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that Ron Haskins has requested a meeting with the full Board and full Town Council on our budget.

Ron Haskins stated the budget sub-committee would meet on February 8, 2005.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned the second budget workshop would meet at TVES on February 1, 2005.

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III. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Lawrence Casey and seconded by Cheryl Smith to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:45 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine