

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 14, 2005

The Thursday, April 14, 2005 meeting of the North Branford Board of Education was called to order at 6:05 p.m. The following members attended:

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

Superintendent of Schools:	Dr. Robert K. Wolfe
Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki

Absent:	Lawrence Casey
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MOTION: Moved by Bruce Wentworth 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 PASSED 5-0

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to reconvene to public session at 7:05 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0

I. Visitors

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

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Michael Pollio	Deborah Welton	Kathy Granfield
Lori Bogue	Vicky Struk	Cheryl Jackson
Raymond Vergati	Lisa Flannery	Desiree MacDonald
Bob Marcarelli	Janice Vergati	Heidi Kehlenbach
Katrina Bennica	Paul Haskell	Joan Czarkowski
MaryEllen Barrett	Sherry DelGaudio	Jaime DeFelice
Meghan Witheril	Barb Viglione	Michelle Cook
Theodora Sarris	Kate Koproski	Alexander Sarris
Giuseppe Caturano	Amelia Caturano	Vivian Catrano
Chris Marotta	John Bakowski	Albert Powers III.
Lisa Comcowich	Al Perry	Tom Comcowich
Kathy Mezerewski	Val Snow	Craig Creller
Robert Darragh	Patti Darragh	Elisa Pannone
Vincent Candelora	Peter Fappiano	Linda Humphrey
Ashley Clow Joiner	Joanne Wentworth	Heidi Miller
Gary Cole	Stephanie Bilskis	Cynthia Conforte
Marilyn Modzelewski	Jennifer Cole	Doreen Elia
Marilyn Mesner	Helena McKee	Patricia Cardoza
Deborah Albino	Linda Girard	Joanne Quinto
Deborah Wilkinson	Lisa Albert	Dianne Vumback
Melayna Lovelace	Mary Cuff	Mayor Michael Doody
Mary-Ellen DiLella	Cheryl Mitchell	Debra Stone
Joseph Amaturro	Susan Pisani	Laura Petrella
Cliff Potter	Joseph Amaturro	David McMahan
Elizabeth Siena	Dolina Potter	Ron Siena
Claudia Faughnan	Diane Marotta	Emilio Marotta
Christine Imperato	Mark Fabrizi, NBFT	Todd Stoeffler
Janice DeAngelo	Kate Fleming	Joan Santacroce
Jennifer Falcigno	Judy Bannon	Tippi Chupron
Robert Varley, New Haven Register		

Judi Bannon introduced the third grade, special chorus from Jerome Harrison School. The students meet every Tuesday before the start of school to practice. They sang several songs from Walt Disney movies:

You Have a Friend in Me from Toy Story

Bare Necessities from Jungle Book

Colors of the Wind from Pocahontas

Curella DeVille from One Hundred and One Dalmatians

Tippi Chupron prepared a Power Point presentation to show while the students sang their

songs.

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Ron Haskins thanked the audience for coming to the Board of Education meeting to speak about a matter that many are very passionate about and remarked that under advice from legal counsel no public discussions could be made concerning an impending hearing. He stated the hearing would be held on May 4, 2005 and he couldn't comment on the impending hearing. He stated the Board of Education has received many written letters concerning this issue. Mr. Haskins mentioned that the hearing would be posted and the hearing would be public and witnesses would be called for both sides.

Bruce Wentworth stated the Board was not discussing the impending hearing because of the Board attorney's recommendation. He mentioned that people could try to speak to the teacher's attorney for further information.

Amy Norton remarked that she looked at the hearing as a jury court case and the Board would hear statements at the right time. No one wanted to jeopardize this case by hearing from the audience beforehand. She mentioned this might not be the right analogy but she wanted to be fair to both sides.

Lisa Albert questioned why Dr. Wolfe gets to speak to the Board whenever he wished but the people attending tonight's meeting could not. She remarked that discussion at the last Board of Education meeting was just the tip of the iceberg and she has spoken to many teachers, parents and community members.

Ron Haskins stated that in one and one-half years of running these meetings he has never stopped anyone from speaking at a meeting but he is under legal advice not to discuss this case.

Lisa Albert remarked that she is sorry if the crowd seems angry tonight but they are here to ask for an honest chance. She mentioned she has done research on this matter and the Board has to answer to the community and not to Dr. Wolfe. She remarked that Dr. Wolfe worked for the Board and the Board did not work for Dr. Wolfe. She stated the Board could not get a big enough room to hold everyone who wants to attend this hearing.

Mark Fabrizi, President NBFT, presented letters to the Board from concerned citizens.

Lisa Gagliardi stated that if the public felt that information was not being received by the Board, her information is public and her address and phone number are listed. As a publicly elected official, you can feel free to access her as you see fit.

Various members of the audience distributed letters to the Board of Education. Many comments were heard from the audience but only one citizen identified who they were before making a comment.

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II. Recognition

Recognition was postponed due to the illness of the CABE representative.

III. Student Representative

Student Representative, Jennifer Falcigno reported on the following:

Sports:

Golf	0-1
Baseball	3-1
Tennis (boys)	3-1
Tennis (girls)	3-0
Lacrosse	1-2
Track (boys)	Beat Portland
Track (girls)	Fell few points short to Portland

Upcoming Events:

May 5, 2005	Parent-Teacher Conferences
May 10, 2005	Spring Concert
May 12, 2005	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony
May 13, 2005	Junior Prom – Laurel View
May 20, 2005	Senior Prom – Bella Nolte

The Connecticut Association of Schools will honor Dr. Perry, for his 20 years of service and contributions to the work of the association and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Commission, at a luncheon on May 12, 2005. The program will be held at Saint Clements Castle in Portland.

The Student Council hosted a senior citizens luncheon at NBHS. The seniors played cards, dominoes and board games in the library with members of the student council. Mrs. Lanzoni and her food service classes prepared a special luncheon for the senior citizens. Each senior citizen was presented with a pansy plant to remember this day.

Mr. Yerke's Spanish 3-A class and a Spanish class from Sheehan High School have been corresponding by email for a few months. The students from Sheehan will be at NBHS on April 15, 2005 to meet their penpals.

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On April 27, 2005 Mrs. Pannone, Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Mezerewski will chaperone members of the student council to Bushnell Park to participate in an event "Celebration on the Hill" to urge state senators to change laws making it easier to fight cancer.

On April 29, 2005 Robbie Lasko and Mr. Bodner will travel to the University of Pennsylvania to attend the Penn Relays. This event is second in prestige to the Olympics and an average of 150,000 spectators are expected to attend. Robbie will compete in the javelin throw. To qualify, Robbie threw 189' and 4" and we all wish him the best of luck.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to approve the March 17, 2005 Board of Education minutes as amended.

Page 5 Addendum to Superintendent's Report
Lisa Gagliardi voted **NO** and strike the side comment.

Page 8 Centennial Project of the Rotary
Cheryl Smith abstained, vote was 5-0

Page 9 ACES Meeting
Cheryl Smith stated this was a December 2004 ACES meeting and this report was not mentioned at the March 2005 meeting.

Page 11 Comments
Bruce Wentworth stated that the Board would consider both sides and didn't assume everyone thought the Board was wrong.

Amy Norton abstained
MOTION PASSED 4-0

V. Communications

NBHS Spring Sports Schedule

Attached for the Board was a copy of the North Branford High School's Athletic Schedule for the Spring of 2005.

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Program Brochure

Chris Webster, Athletic Director of NBHS, was honored at a banquet on March 23, 2005 by the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors. Miss Webster received the NCSSAD "Athletic Director of the Year" Award. A copy of the page from the program brochure detailing Miss Webster's accomplishments is attached.

Rick Geremia will receive the Coach of the Year Award.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Resignations

Mrs. Joanne Quinto, kindergarten teacher at Jerome Harrison School, has submitted her retirement resignation effective the end of the 2004/2005 school year after serving the school system for 17 years.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Bruce Wentworth to accept the retirement resignation of Mrs. Joanne Quinto, kindergarten teacher at Jerome Harrison School, effective the end of the 2004/2005 school year with thanks and regrets.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

Mr. Raymond Torpey, physical education teacher at Jerome Harrison School, has submitted his retirement resignation effective the end of the 2004/2005 school year after serving the school system for 26 years.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Amy Norton to accept the retirement resignation of Mr. Raymond Torpey, physical education teacher at Jerome Harrison School, effective the end of the 2004/2005 school year with thanks and regrets.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

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Miss Elizabeth Tracz, grade 2 teacher at Jerome Harrison, was on leave for the 2004/2005 school year while working on her master's degree in deaf education. The Superintendent has received a resignation from Miss Tracz stating that she will not return to the North Branford Public Schools in 05/06.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Amy Norton to accept the resignation of Miss Elizabeth Tracz, grade 2 teacher at Jerome Harrison School, effective immediately with thanks and regrets.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Mrs. Doreen Elia, special education teacher at Stanley T. Williams School, effective at the end of the 2004/2005 school year after 29 ½ years of dedicated service.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Amy Norton to accept the resignation of Mrs. Doreen Elia, special education teacher at Stanley T. Williams School effective June 30, 2005 with thanks and regrets.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Mrs. Melayna Lovelace, grade 5 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2004/2005 school year after 20 years of dedicated service.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Amy Norton to accept the resignation of Mrs. Melayna Lovelace, grade 5 teacher at Totoket

Valley Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2004/2005 school year with thanks and regrets.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

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Lisa Gagliardi remarked that she was truly sorry to see such a dedicated teacher as Mrs. Lovelace retire and wished her well.

Bruce Wentworth thanked Mrs. Lovelace for her dedicated service.

B. Appointments

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Mr. Eric Bickelhaupt to the position of grade 8-science teacher at North Branford Intermediate School to be placed on Bachelors, Step 1, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers. Employment will be effective upon Mr. Bickelhaupt's release from his current obligations with the Amity Regional School District.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Amy Norton to approve the appointment of Mr. Eric Bickelhaupt to the position of grade 8 science teacher at North Branford Intermediate School to be placed on Bachelors, Step 1, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers. Employment will be effective upon Mr. Bickelhaupt's release from his current obligations with the Amity Regional School District.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

C. Leaves - None at this time.

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D. Around the Schools

STW

4/25-29 TV Turn Off Week

4/25& 29
& May 2, 5, 9 Author John Himmelmann (Grades 1 and 2)

4/27 Family Bingo
4/28 Kids Helping Kids
5/3 Staff Appreciation Day Luncheon
5/4 PTO meeting
5/6 PTO Plant Sale
5/10 Kindergarten Festival of the Arts

JHS

4/27 Grade 2 Family Fun Night
4/29 Grade 1 – Ms. Sandar’s Author’s Share
4/29 Ms. Baldino – Grade 3 – field trip with Sister School partner to the Audubon Society
5/3 Staff Appreciation Luncheon provided by PTO
5/6 Plant Sale
5/6 Ms. Baldino – Grade 3 – field trip to Saybrook Maritime Museum with Sister School partner
5/10 Ms. Baldino – Grade 3 – field trip to SCSU Lyman Auditorium with

Sister School partner

5/10 PTO Meeting

5/19 Kindergarten Orientation

(Calendar Notation – Family Fun Night postponed from 4/7 to 4/27)

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TVES

4/15 New England Percussion Ensemble, 2 morning performances

4/29 BoxTops for Education "Breakfast with Mrs. Brittingham" 9:00 AM

4/30 Playground Fund Raising Committee Silent Auction, 7:00-10:00 PM, TVES gymnasium

5/4 Staff Appreciation Luncheon

5/6 PTO Mother's Day Plant Sale

5/11 Teacher of the Year Interviews (District)

5/11 PTO meeting

5/12 Grade 5 Band Concert, 9:30 AM, TVES gymnasium

5/16 New Parent Orientation, 7:00 PM

5/18 Grade 5 Band Concert, 7:00 PM, auditorium

(Calendar Notation - DARE Awards Assembly date CHANGED to Friday, May 20 at 11:30 a.m. instead of May 27)

NBIS

4/26 Grade 8-Program by the New York Wolf Conservation Center

4/27 Grade 8-Geodomes(PTO sponsored)

4/28 Variety Show @ 7:00

- 4/29 Open to all students-Poetry Jam (location to be determined)
- 5/5 All grades-Assembly reflecting Character Education Concepts
- 5/5 & 6 PTO Plant Sale
- 5/10 All grades-Progress Reports issued
- 5/12 & 13 Grade 8-Class trip to Pennsylvania (Lancaster & Philadelphia)

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- 5/17 All grades-Art work display 5:00-9:00
- 5/17 Spring Concert 5:00 (Chorus /Gr 6 Band) & 7:00 (Jazz Band/Gr 7 & 8 Band)
- 5/19 NBIS PTO @5:30

NBHS

- 4/28 Report cards issued*
- 5/1 Scholar Athlete Banquet, Aqua Turf
- 5/5 Parent Conferences 7 PM
- 5/7 SAT
- 5/10 NBHS Spring Concert 7:30 PM
- 5/12 Honor Society Induction 7:30 PM
- 5/13 Class 2006, Jr. Prom, Laurel View
- 5/17 Class meetings
- 5/18 Class Officer Elections
- 5/19 Math students, Physics Day @ Lake Compounce

(Calendar Notation: Spring Concert changed from 5/4. Report cards and parent conferences changed due to snow days.)

E. Kindergarten Enrollment

As of April 5th, STW has registered 90 students and JHS has registered 79 students. This is an increase of 12 students from last month's enrollment. This enrollment is slightly ahead of the projection for this time of year

Dr. Wolfe remarked that 180 to 190 kindergarten students are anticipated by September 2005.

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F. Professional Development Day

On March 24, 2005, North Branford Public Schools held a professional growth day. Every certified staff member participated in professional development/curriculum development activities to address their personal professional growth plan and/or to complete Curriculum Management Cycle work. An overview of the day's schedule was attached for Board review. Mrs. Joan Follo, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, was available to answer any questions regarding the day's activities.

Joan Follo thanked all Principals and Department Chairs for their help in presenting a quality professional day for all staff members. Joan remarked that Karen Ernst DeSilva presented a workshop on visual literacy that was exceptional.

G. Graduation Date

In accordance with State Statute the North Branford Board of Education may establish a firm graduation date after April 1st of the school year. In as much as the school system has experienced four snow days, this moves graduation to Wednesday, June 22nd, 2005.

MOTION: To establish the 2005 North Branford High School graduation for Wednesday, June 22, 2005

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

H. 2005/2006 Budget

The Board of Education participated in the annual Town Budget Hearing on April 5th. Board Officers, Ron Haskins and Cheryl Smith, provided an overview of the 2005/2006 budget. In addition, the Board is scheduled to participate in a workshop session on Wednesday, April 13th, 2005 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

Once the Town Council sets the funding level, there will be a referendum on May 10th, 2005.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the Town Council made a small cut (\$30,000) to the Board of Education budget at this meeting.

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Lisa Gagliardi questioned if a meeting on the budget was to be held on May 5, 2005.

Cheryl Smith stated that meeting was with the Town Council regarding the Middle School.

Dr. Wolfe remarked this budget would provide for two, new third grade teachers (one at JHS and one at TVES), a world language teacher (NBIS), a special education teacher (NBIS) and two aides (NBIS library and remedial program).

I. Strategic Planning

The Core Strategic Planning Committee convened on February 4th with facilitator Dr. Howard Feddema. Work that had been accomplished in a previous two-day update was reviewed and finalized.

Minor changes were made in the school system's Parameters and Strategic Objectives. A copy of the changes was enclosed for the Board's review and approval.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to approve the changes as submitted in the North Branford Public Schools Strategic Objectives and Parameters.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

In addition, work was accomplished on a number of Action Steps. These changes were also enclosed for Board review and approval. The work included the addition of one new Action Plan – Strategy 6.7.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to accept modified Action Plans and new Strategy 6.7 as submitted.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

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J. NEASC Five-Year Progress Report

The high school has prepared a Five-Year Progress Report. This comprehensive report was enclosed for Board Member review. Dr. David Perry, Principal of NBHS, was present to highlight features of the report and to identify the next steps.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if students from NBHS were denied admission to Ivy League schools because of our accreditation.

Dr. Perry remarked that NBHS received a good accreditation and students from NBHS were accepted into Ivy League schools if qualified.

K. SCSU Career Fair

North Branford Public Schools participated in the Southern Connecticut State University Spring Career Fair which was held April 6, 2005 at the Moore Field House. Over 120 schools and business vendors were on-hand. The school system made contact with 43 potential candidates.

Dr. Wolfe gave special thanks to Nan Brittingham and Anna DeMatteo for their assistance in this recruitment project. He mentioned that science, math and world language teachers for the middle schools and high schools were highly competitive.

L. Southern Connecticut Language & Culture Exposure Program

Currently the North Branford Public Schools have eight high school students participating in the Southern Connecticut Language and Culture Exposure Program. The

Superintendent is requesting the continuation of this program.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Bruce Wentworth to continue participation in the Southern Connecticut Language and Culture Exposure Program.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

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VI. Committee Reports

1. Negotiations

Bruce Wentworth mentioned that the budget sub-committee met prior to the Board of Education meeting and he thanked Donald Winnicki for a very detailed report.

2. Budget

No report at this time.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if last month's line item on attorney fees that was over budget was cleared up.

Donald Winnicki stated this budget is year-to-date and attorney fees are included in this report.

A copy of the April 1, 2005 financial report was provided at the meeting.

3. Buildings & Grounds

No report at this time.

4. Curriculum

Lisa Gagliardi stated the curriculum committee met on April 14, 2005 and discussed the curriculum management cycle. She remarked that the social studies curriculum would be

presented at the next Board meeting. The language arts curriculum K-12 was also discussed.

5. Pension

No report at this time.

6. Policy

Cheryl Smith stated several policies were submitted for first reading and would be voted on at the next Board meeting.

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The following policies are provided to the Board for first reading:

Policy #P4200	First Aid/Emergency Medical Care
Policy #P7010	Goals & Objectives
Policy #P7110	Budget Planning and Development
Policy #P7150	Budget Adoption
Policy #P7240	Tuition Fees
Policy #P7280	Gifts
Policy #P7290	Grants and Other Revenue

Amy Norton questioned what the limit was on gifts for Board approval at this time.

Donald Winnicki stated \$200.00.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned Policy 7110 – Planning and Development.

Cheryl Smith stated that every building principal collects data and information to submit to the Superintendent.

7. ACES

Cheryl Smith remarked that the ACES Executive Committee met on April 14, 2005. She mentioned that the assistant director retired. There was discussion on executive board quorum, approval for reimbursements and leased building versus buying.

8. Strategic Planning

No report at this time.

9. Building Committee

No report at this time.

10. Calendar Committee

Amy Norton remarked that the 2006-2007 calendar would be discussed at the next Board meeting.

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VII. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business at this time.

VII. Visitors and Press

No comments at this time as visitors did not identify themselves.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2005 at North Branford High School at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Amy Norton to adjourn this Meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:25 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk