

**North Branford Board of Education Meeting
June 15, 2005**

The North Branford Board of Education met on Wednesday, June 15, 2005 at Totoket Valley Elementary School Library Media 6:14 p.m. The following members attended:

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

Superintendent of Schools:	Dr. Robert K. Wolfe
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MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi 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 to discuss safety, security and personnel issues.

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

MOTION: Moved by Lawrence Casey and seconded by Cheryl Smith to reconvene to public session at 7:15 p.m.

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

I. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Principals:	Alan Davis, NBIS Nancy Brittingham, TVES Robin Brown, JHS

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Grace Polivka	John Congo	Rosemary Addario
Dick Terrill	Justyna Dziuba	Tom Dziuba
Kristen Haskins	Cheryl Girardi	Robert Hale
Rose Giardina	Julie White	Erin Flood Harrison
Agnieszka Kulas	Shelly Thompson	Laura Petrella
Jeff Pierson	Tamara Pierson	Julia Gritzbach
Mike Gritzbach	Kathy Gritzbach	Marilyn Mesner
Courtney Ryan	Lisa Albert	Deena DeLucia
Jennifer McGrath	Barb Viglione	Jaime DeFelice
Roberta Mack	Margaret Wray	Stacy Allen
Michael Wray	Mayor Michael Doody	Joanne Wentworth
Tracey Merola	Fran Merola	Taylor Merola
Cathy Slubowski	Madeline Slubowski	Dom Maggiore
Andrew Moeller	Elizabeth Dombrowski	Ryan Dombrowski
Cliff Potter	Tony Girardi	David McMahan
Nicole Shea	Francine Stanio	Tiffanie Witkowky
Lisa Johnson	Nancy Keinz	Vincent Candelora
Robert Varley, N.H. Register	Deborah Welton	Grace Krom
Michael Pollio	Mary-Ellen DiLella	Christine Imperato
Desiree MacDonald	Todd Stoeffler	Rochelle Kanell
Susan Pisani	Janice Vergati	Tom Comcowich
Lisa Comcowich	Emilio Marotta	Marcy Onofrio
Dianne Vumback	Patti Darragh	

Ron Haskins welcomed Marie Diamond to the Board of Education.

Mr. Haskins stated Robin Brown is back to much applause.

Amy Norton started the meeting with stating that the meetings of the Board of Education are held in public but are not public meetings. She asked the audience not to take their silence as apathy, as dialog among board members is discouraged and at no time will personnel matters be addressed in public. She remarked that if anyone had concerns or wanted to ask questions about a particular matter they should start with staff members, then the principal of the building, next the Superintendent and if not satisfied with the answer to address it to the Board in writing. She stated that the Board appreciates all comments and takes them seriously.

Ron Haskins remarked that the petition that has been circulating around town was entered into tonight's minutes.

Rochelle Kanell stated she was the mother of two children who attended North Branford schools. She mentioned that the Board tried to throw a pearl away by not offering Desiree MacDonald tenure. She stated the second pearl was Robin Brown who the Board was also trying to throw away. She mentioned that she learned at a meeting that

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Robin Brown followed her conscience and tried to help a special education student and by doing so Ms. Brown was harassed and couldn't do her job and her physical and mental health suffered. Mrs. Kanell remarked that we have lost resources, lost money and we shouldn't lose our pearls. She implored the Board to do an independent investigation and research these matters of Ms. Brown and Ms. MacDonald and not to let it happen again.

Cheryl Girardi stated that Board of Education members were elected to be the voice of the community. She implored the Board not to renew the contract of Dr. Robert Wolfe as he has placed a wedge between his staff and administrators. She asked residents of the town to pay attention to all Board members who vote yes to renew Dr. Wolfe's contract and remember when it comes time to elect new Board members. She remarked that one person has done enough damage and it is time to make a change.

Emilio Marotta questioned when the Board would publicly announce their decision of how it was negotiated to rescind the non-renewal and reinstatement of a teacher. He stated he has been asking this question since May 3, 2005.

Ron Haskins stated that if Mr. Marotta was looking for a comment it would not be made.

Mr. Marotta remarked that this teacher is owed an apology as the persons' name was dragged threw the mud publicly and the Board found out that things that were said were not true. He mentioned he was not asking the Board to reveal any terms of the agreement but to publicly announce that this teacher was reinstated.

Lisa Gagliardi remarked she does hear their concerns and she takes every communication seriously. She mentioned that she hopes that all six Board members would sit down alone and discuss all concerns that the public has among themselves so they can better service the community.

Amy Norton questioned if Lisa Gagliardi was suggesting that the other Board members didn't take public concerns seriously because if she was she took major offense to this statement.

Lisa Gagliardi stated she could only speak for herself.

Ron Haskins called for point of order.

Mayor Michael Doody remarked that he received many comments lately on the Board of Education and he feels some of the comments have merit. He mentioned that the Board must investigate the previous vote of no confidence in a staff member. Mayor Doody stated that he felt the Board of Education has taken no action and are doing the children of this town a disservice. He mentioned that if the Board did not follow through on this

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and no action was taken tonight then they should all submit their resignations to the Town Council so they could pick Board of Education members who can work with our students.

He stated he was here as the Mayor of North Branford to ask the Board of Education for an official investigation in all matters.

Lisa Comcowich remarked that she appreciated the effort Ms. Norton put into her statement but at the last meeting when she asked a question she was cut off from speaking. She stated that she felt Ms. Norton does not listen to what concerned citizens say.

Cliff Potter stated elected officials have a responsibility to the citizens who are starving for information. He remarked that there is no outlet for news and the Board of Education is the only source. He mentioned that Board members couldn't selectively dish out information as many come to these meetings for information and have to walk away with no information. He remarked we would have the last say in November if the questions were not answered.

Dom Maggiore stated the Board of Education is Dr. Wolfe's employer and he was appalled to see the Board on television terminate a teacher without all the facts. Then the Board said they would remain neutral until they heard all the facts but you already terminated the teacher. He remarked that the Board hired an attorney and they already made the decision. He questioned how the Board could be a neutral party when you already made a decision. This money that was paid to the attorney could have been used for the children. He questioned how much money hiring an attorney was wasted. He remarked that the Board is not operating under Robert's Rules of Order as they cut people off from discussions.

Lisa Albert stated that to other towns the Board appears to be a lame duck Board of Education. She remarked that their reputation is ruined. Ms. Albert mentioned she heard the petition that was going around town was thrown in the trash. Lisa Albert remarked who would want to come to our town and school system and the Board's silence is setting a bad tone for our town. She stated we are losing a lot of good teachers and no one seems to care. Ms. Albert implored the Board not to renew the contract of Dr. Wolfe.

Dom Maggiore stated that he reviewed the budget of the Board of Education and there was only one figure. He questioned if the Board knew where this money was being spent. He also questioned why we didn't put things out for bid. He remarked that the Board of Education was elected to watch out for our tax dollars.

Marilyn Mesner welcomed Mrs. Diamond to the Board of Education stating she appreciated her willingness to make herself available to the public. She questioned the status of e-mail addresses for all Board members, Ms. Mesner asked the Board to look into the matter of the audio portion of the tape not working at the last Board meeting. She questioned if there could not be a back up tape to make sure it doesn't happen

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again. Ms. Mesner questioned if the Board would help special education parents facilitate a support group.

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if the secretary's recorded tape could be used as a backup.

Ron Haskins stated he didn't know if the tape would correspond to the filmed tape.

II. Student Representatives

Jennifer Falcigno and Amanda Cottiero, NBHS student representatives, reported on the following items:

Shoreline Scholar Athlete

Students must be on first team All- Shoreline or first team All- State and have a cumulative average of 87.5 and five NBHS students met this criteria; sophomore: Natalie Galgano, Juniors: Kristine Kenning, Caitlin Mercier, Jaime Mikolinski and Alyssa Wollman.

Track

At the All-New England track meet, in Maine, last weekend Robbie Lasko placed third for javelin and Dana Haskins placed sixth for disc.

Boys Baseball

The boy's baseball team lost 5-4 in the semi-finals of States to eventual state champions Waterford.

Final Exams

Final exams started on June 15th and will continue until June 22nd.

Graduation

Graduation will take place on June 22, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

Shoreline Writing Contest

The 23rd Shoreline writing contest for students in shoreline schools at Valley Regional had three North Branford students win awards. Jennifer Falcigno won 2nd place for a personal essay, Dan McNamara won 2nd place in literary analysis and Amanda Gamache placed 2nd for poetry.

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VFW Voice of Democracy

In the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy contest held in March, 2005 two NBHS students Emylee Sidera and Danielle Austin won first and second place respectively.

Board Chair, Ron Haskins, and all Board member thanked Jennifer and Amanda for their participation at the Board meetings this school year.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lisa Gagliardi to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2005 Board of Education meeting with no corrections.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0-1
MARIE DIAMOND ABSTAINED**

IV. Recognition

Dr. Wolfe presented the track team tee shirt to the Board stating that the track team had a 13-0 record this year. This was the first year the track team was undefeated and their first shoreline win. He mentioned that track participation has more than doubled since our new track was built. Dr. Wolfe thanked Representative Robert Ward, again for his help in obtaining funding for the track.

Superintendent Wolfe remarked that Dana Haskins and Rob Lasko made All-State and All-New England and Rob Lasko will go on to compete at the National meet. He commended both students and the honor they bring to North Branford.

National Chemistry Week

Students from North Branford Public Schools participated in a National Chemistry Week Contest. Students had a choice of designing a poster based on the theme of Health and Wellness, or perform a lab in which they determined the different density levels of various beverages. This contest was open to all schools in the New Haven County.

NBIS Winners:

Poster winner grade 7 was:

Nathaniel Dziuba

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Lab winners grade 6 were:

Michael Wray
Alex Brenner
Molly Johnson
Julia Gritzbach
Jack White
Maggie Sullivan
Shannon Pearson

The Town of North Branford won all the awards for the labs this year. All students were honored at the National Chemical Week Awards Ceremony that took place on May 18th at Eli's in Hamden. Our program was coordinated by sixth grade teachers Kathleen Griffin-Daley and Roberta Mack.

Totoket Valley Elementary School also participated in the National Chemistry Week Contest. The TVES program was coordinated by fifth grade teacher, Joseph Daley.

TVES Grade 5 Lab Winners were:

Andrew Moeller
Ryan Dombrowski
Madeline Slubowski

The Board of Education recognized these students for their efforts in this competition and presented them with certificates.

Laws of Life Essay Program

Taylor Merola, a seventh grader, was one of the statewide winners of the Laws of Life essay contest. The Laws of Life essay program is a character education initiative that provides students with a chance to discover, reflect on and write about the core values that can guide them throughout their lives. The School for Ethical Education's Laws of Life program is made possible through the generosity of New Alliance Bank Foundation, John Templeton Foundation, Wright Investors' Service, and private donors. Beth Lazzari, seventh grade language arts teacher, coordinated our local program.

The Board of Education recognized Taylor Merola for her efforts in this competition and presented her with a certificate.

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Superintendent Wolfe congratulated all the students and thanked all staff members who participated in these events.

CABE Award

A representative from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) , Robert Hale, presented awards to the North Branford Board of Education. North Branford received the CABE Award of Excellence for Educational Communications for three print projects:

The Annual Report of the Superintendent 2003/2004

North Branford Public Schools – District Calendar 2004/2005

North Branford Public Schools – Summer Brochure “THE WAY IT WORKS”

North Branford also received an Honorable Mention award for:

North Branford Public Schools Pocket Calendar 2004/2005.

Over the past four years, the school system has received 14 communications awards. Special thanks are extended to students, faculty and administration who contributed to each of the communications projects.

Mr. Hale stated that it is very unusual for one school district to win all three awards.

V. Communications

Letter from: Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro

Re: Thank you letter.

Congresswoman DeLauro wrote thanking Superintendent Wolfe for attending a meeting on the No Child Left Behind Law.

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Memo from: Barbara Q. Beaudin, Chief, Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Student Assessment
State of Connecticut – Dept. of Education

Re: CAPT 2005 Processing Problems

A memo concerning CAPT 2005 processing problems.

Letter from: George Taylor, Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness
State of Connecticut

Re: Recognition ceremony for outstanding school district in this year's state fitness assessment.

Todd Stoeffler, Carter Welch, Nancy Gray and Carol Evans attended a ceremony at the State Capital in Hartford accepting the award for North Branford.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a letter of resignation from Ms. Mary Cuff, grade 3-4 looping teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2004/2005 school year.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to accept the resignation of Ms. Mary Cuff, grade 3-4 looping teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, effective the end of the 2004/2005 school year with regrets.

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

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B. Appointments

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Jennifer McGrath as Spanish/Italian Teacher at North Branford High School for the 2005/2006 school year 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.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve the appointment of Ms. Jennifer McGrath as Spanish/Italian Teacher at North Branford High School for the 2005/2006 school year 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.

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

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Courtney Ryan as grade 1 looping teacher at Jerome Harrison School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 1, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve the appointment of Ms. Courtney Ryan as grade 1 looping teacher at Jerome Harrison School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 1, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

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

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The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Deena DeLucia as grade 3 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 1, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve the appointment of Ms. Deena DeLucia as grade 3 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 1, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

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

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Agnes Kulas as grade 4 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 1, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve the appointment of Ms. Agnes Kulas as grade 4 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 1, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

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

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Shelly Thompson as grade 4 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 2, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve the appointment of Ms. Shelly Thompson as grade 4 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 2, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

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The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Erin Flood Harrison as grade 7 language arts teacher at North Branford Intermediate School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 2, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve the appointment of Ms. Erin Flood Harrison as grade 7 language arts teacher at North Branford Intermediate School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 2, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

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

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Tamara Pierson as grade 1-2 looping teacher at Stanley T. Williams School for the 2005/2006 school year 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.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve the appointment of Ms. Tamara Pierson as grade 1-2 looping teacher at Stanley T. Williams School for the 2005/2006 school year 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.

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

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The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Lindsay Wasserman as .8 social studies teacher at North Branford High School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 1, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve the appointment of Ms. Lindsay Wasserman as .8 social studies teacher at North Branford High School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Masters, Step 1 as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

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

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the teachers who received their masters were in a five-year program at University of Connecticut or Quinnipiac.

Amy Norton remarked that all new elementary school teachers were attending Step-Up Day and she thanked them for going above and beyond.

Superintendent Wolfe thanked all administrators and staff members who served on the various committees to hire new staff.

Dr. Wolfe thanked Nancy Brittingham, Dr. Karen Johnson and the various staff members involved in Step- Up Day.

The Superintendent has received a recommendation from the North Branford High School administration to appoint Mr. Cliff Yerkes to the position of Boys Varsity Soccer Coach for the 2005 season.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve the appointment of Mr. Cliff Yerkes to the position of Boys Varsity Soccer Coach for the 2005 season.

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

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C. Leaves

None at this time.

D. Around the Schools

STW

6/16 Grade 2 Fieldtrip to Lighthouse Point
6/17 Step-Up Day

JHS

6/16 Summer Reading Skit - B. LaPointe
6/17 Step up Day

TVES

6/16 NBIS Jazz Ensemble in TVES gym at 10 a.m.
6/17 Step Up Day

NBIS

6/21 Grade 8-Promotion Dance (7-9:30)
6/22 Grade 8-Promotion (11:30)

NBHS

6/16 Second half Block G Exams
6/17 Exams – Blocks A & B
6/20 Exams – Blocks C & D
6/21 Exams – Blocks E & F
6/22 Ecumenical Breakfast – St. Augustine Church 9 AM
Graduation 6:30

D. 2005/2006 Lunch Prices

All of the factors which impact costs of the school lunch prices continue to rise. During the 2004/2005 school year, we have seen a dramatic rise in the wholesale price of food. Chicken, beef, dairy products, produce and paper costs continue to escalate. Labor and fuel surcharges have also added to increased costs. For this reason, it is essential to raise lunch prices 25 cents per lunch. The system has not increased basic school lunch prices since the 1999/2000 school year. The cost of lunches per school, if approved, will be as follows:

STW, JHS, STW	\$2.00
NBIS	\$2.25
NBHS	\$2.50
ADULTS	\$3.25

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to establish the North Branford School Lunch Program prices as noted above.

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

F. CMC Reports

The Curriculum Management Cycle (CMC) supports the North Branford Public School's learning community by providing educators with the time and resources needed to plan and implement a high-quality, standards-based curriculum that meets the needs of all students. Each of the phases of the CMC; Review, Development, Implementation, and Evaluation has specific work requirements and products that are developed throughout the school year and presented to the Board of Education in the spring. Presented to the Board this evening are four reports; three Review Phase Reports, Art, Music, and Business and one Evaluation Report, 6-12 Language Arts.

The Review Phase Report (or Position Paper) explains the status of our present curriculum and identifies external and internal changes that have occurred since the last curriculum revision. These changes form the basis for needed change in the curriculum. Recommendations are made based on the difference between what is and what should be.

The Evaluation Phase Report determines what is working and what aspects of the program need to be changed or enhanced. The evaluation process is designed to examine the curriculum by monitoring the impact of instruction on student learning.

All reports have been color-coded as follows:

Review Phase Report on Art, K-12	Yellow
Review Phase Report on Music, K-12	Blue
Evaluation Phase Report on Language Arts, 6-12	Green
Review Phase Report on Business, 9-12	White

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Dr. Wolfe thanked all faculty members who participated on the various curriculum committees.

Joan Follo thanked all that participated giving special thanks to John Congo, Dick Terrill, Mark Fabrizi and Grace Polivka and Joe Roberti.

Amy Norton remarked that she met with the Language Arts curriculum sub-committee before tonight's meeting and stated we are in a good position in regards to Language Arts. We are already doing professional development that coincides with our Strategic Plan and our curriculum management cycle and feels we are one step ahead when we go into the implementation phase.

Cheryl Smith thanked Joan Follo and all staff members and asked Joan Follo not to forget to bring recommendations to the Board's attention when the time comes.

Ron Haskins also thanked Joan Follo and staff members.

E. 6-12 Social Studies Curriculum

At the last Board meeting, the new 6-12 Social Studies Curriculum Guide was presented for first reading. At this meeting, the Board had a second opportunity to discuss the new curriculum. The curriculum was developed under the direction of Joan Follo and Rose Addario.

MOTION: Moved by Lisa Gagliardi and seconded by Lawrence Casey to adopt the new 6-12 social studies curriculum guide as presented.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0-1
MARIE DIAMOND ABSTAINED**

Joan Follo thanked Rosemary Addario and her social studies team.

Dr. Wolfe informed the Board of a unique donation from Target Department Stores. A family who has a child at NBIS entered the middle school in a lottery at a Target Department Store and won the lottery of \$2,500.00 for library books. NBIS was one of two hundred schools that were selected.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to accept the generous donation of \$2,500.00 from Target Department Stores with thanks.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

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F. Strategic Planning Report

The Superintendent provided an update on activities regarding the Strategic Plan. Superintendent Wolfe remarked that the Strategic Planning Committee would meet on June 27th and June 28th. The results will be presented to the Board at the August, 2005 Board meeting.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the Board must appoint another member to the Strategic Planning Committee.

G. Technology Grant

The Superintendent was pleased to report that North Branford Public Schools has received a Technology Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$13,569. This grant will be utilized to develop the connection between CEN (Connecticut Educational Network) and the school system so that all schools will be able to adequately access this resource. Special thanks were given to Director of Technology, Timothy Hartigan, for his efforts in submitting this grant proposal.

H. Kindergarten Enrollment

The Superintendent provided information regarding kindergarten enrollment as of this writing.

JHS 84

STW 100

This count includes 15 more students enrolled from the last report.

I. Summer Program

As of this writing, summer camp enrollment has climbed to an all-time record of 1307. The lunch program has reached well over 1000 lunches sold. Programs commence on June 27th and run for an eight-week period.

Dr. Wolfe shared the summer camp tee shirts with the Board. He announced that Nikki Brustman and Michelle Kronkaitis would be the directors of the summer program.

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Lisa Gagliardi questioned if the summer program was self-sustaining and if the lunches were included in the fee.

Dr. Wolfe stated the program was self-sustaining and the cost of lunches is an optional, extra fee. He remarked that the money is paid to the summer program and then food service bills the program.

J. Retirement Dinner

The 2005 North Branford Public School Retirement Dinner was held on June 1st at Woodwinds in Branford. A total of 11 employees were saluted for their long-time service to the district. They were:

***Ruth Anderson
Joan Cohn
Pat Cochrane
Mary DelloStritto
Doreen Elia
Connie Fedeyko
Cappy Kopylec
Melayna Lovelace
Bill Moyer
Joanne Quinto
Ray Torpey***

The Board of Education presented retirement bells to all retirees in attendance. More than 100 individuals were in attendance - which included a host of past employees. It is noted that the 2006 Retirement Dinner will be held on the first Wednesday in June (June 7th, 2006)

K. Summer Meeting Schedule

Listed below are the Board of Education meeting dates for July and August. It is noted that the Board has changed the August meeting to August 16th which is a Tuesday.

Thursday, July 21st, 2005 - Jerome Harrison School – 7 p.m.
Tuesday, August 16th, 2005 - Totoket Valley Elementary School – 7 p.m.

In past years, the Board has on occasion not met in July. Any changes in the summer schedule should be made at this time.

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Lisa Gagliardi asked if the July 21, 2005 meeting could be changed, as she would be on vacation at that time. She mentioned if the Superintendent's contract would be voted on at the July meeting then all Board members should be present.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to change the July 21, 2005 Board of Education meeting date to Tuesday, July 26, 2005.

**MOTION PASSED 5-1
RON HASKINS VOTED NAY**

Ron Haskins stated that Board meetings are set one year ahead of time and every Board member should make an effort to keep these dates and make themselves available.

L. Authority to Hire

Given the critical market conditions, it is important that the Superintendent move quickly to hire high-quality candidates for the remaining open positions.

The Board has traditionally given the Superintendent permission to hire during the summer and report to the Board at its next scheduled meeting on employee hiring.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve that authority be granted to the Superintendent to hire certified personnel during the summer of 2005.

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

M. Summer Reading

The Superintendent was pleased to provide to the Board copies of the Summer Reading Booklists 2005 for each of our schools. This year each school will have their reading lists posted on their school web page. Thank you to all staff members and to our town librarians for making our reading program so successful.

Joan Follo remarked that Mark Fabrizi and the High School team created a unique program where students are asked to read one particular book. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors will develop a project from their book and seniors will write an essay on their book.

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Mark Fabrizi stated that this gives students an additional novel to read and they get a jump-start on the new school year. He remarked that teachers could assign projects and have classroom discussions from the very start of the school year.

Lisa Gagliardi remarked she was pleased with the change and this program has a lot of advantages to it.

Amy Norton stated she has shared some concerns with Mr. Fabrizi on this program and asked for feedback at the September or October meeting.

Cheryl Smith stated she was alarmed when she first saw the list of only one book but now that she understands the program she thinks it has its advantages.

N. Post High School Plans

The Superintendent provided a copy of a document prepared by administration and staff at NBHS detailing postgraduate plans of our seniors. It is noted that 90% of our students will continue on with higher education. Special thanks go to Mrs. Abby DeTour, Director of Guidance, and her staff for compiling this data. Todd Stoeffler was available to answer any questions regarding this information.

Amy Norton stated she still had concerns for the students who decide not to go college and what we are doing for them. She mentioned that plumbing, masonry, air conditioning and heating are noble and needed professions. Amy Norton remarked she would like to see more information on this in a future Board packet.

Lawrence Casey questioned if our students feel they are well prepared for college.

Lisa Gagliardi asked if the high school receives scores from the various colleges who do placement tests.

Todd Stoeffler stated our students feel they are very well prepared for college and he would check to see if scores from colleges could be obtained.

Suzanne Wright stated some of her students are job shadowing as Special Services expanded their participation with the Department of Rehabilitation this year. Many of the students will get jobs after high school.

Lawrence Casey stated the technology program we are instituting would be a big help to students who attend college and students who enter the working world right after high school.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned we have 12 students in regional technical schools.

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O. NBHS Athletics

At press time, eight high school athletic teams were involved in tournament play. The Superintendent reported on the final outcome of these tournaments.

Dr. Wolfe stated that all of our high school athletic teams made it to state tournament this year.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Negotiations

Cheryl Smith mentioned that a meeting is set for June 29, 2005 for Dr. Wolfe's contract.

2. Budget

- a. Cheryl Smith reported on the June 14 subcommittee meeting and its recommendations for the \$30,000 reduction in the proposed Board of Education budget was to cut \$30,000 from line 213-health benefits.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to cut \$30,000 from line item 213 – health benefits.

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

- b. Don Winnicki distributed copies of the June 1, 2005 financial report.

3. Buildings & Grounds

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that Representative Robert Ward was successful in getting North Branford on the omnibus building law that will allow us to change the middle school from build as new to renovate as new.

The building committee will have to select an architect for the middle school.

Ron Haskins mentioned the Board needs to appoint a representative to the

Building committee.

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4. Curriculum

No report at this time.

5. Pension

No report at this time.

6. Policy

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

Policy #P0850	Compliance with Section 504
Policy #P7450	School Based Funds
Policy #P7510	Operation and Maintenance of School Property
Policy #P7514	Use of School Equipment or Property
Policy #P7515	Use of School Facilities
Policy #P7524	Hazardous Materials in School
Policy #P7525	Pesticide Application

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

Policy #P7160	Transfer of Funds Between Categories; Amendments
Policy #P7320	Purchasing Procedures
Policy #P7326	Payment for Goods and Services
Policy #P7432	Financial Records and Reports
Policy #P7434	Periodic Audit
Policy #P7440	Inventories

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve Policy #P7160 Transfer of Funds Between Categories; Amendments as submitted.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0-1
MARIE DIAMOND ABSTAINED**

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve Policy #P7320 Purchasing Procedures as submitted.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0-1
MARIE DIAMOND ABSTAINED**

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MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve Policy #P7326 Payment for Goods and Services as submitted.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0-1
MARIE DIAMOND ABSTAINED**

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve Policy #P7432 Financial Records and Reports as submitted.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0-1
MARIE DIAMOND ABSTAINED**

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve Policy #P7434 Periodic Audit as submitted.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0-1
MARIE DIAMOND ABSTAINED**

Lisa Gagliardi questioned if Board members would receive a report of the previous audit.

Cheryl Smith stated that Board members had already received the report.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to approve Policy #P7440 Inventories as submitted.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0-1
MARIE DIAMOND ABSTAINED**

7. ACES

Cheryl Smith reported that she was unable to attend the ACES meeting this month due to an emergency but will report on the meeting when she receives the minutes.

8. Strategic Planning

No report at this time.

9. Building Committee

No report at this time but Dr. Wolfe stated another Board member is needed for the building committee.

10. Calendar Committee

Amy Norton provided the Board with an update on the 2006/2007-school calendar. She mentioned that the vote was 4-3 for a full February vacation, with an early start before Labor Day and an April vacation that includes Good Friday.

Lawrence Casey questioned how many snow days were provided for.

Amy Norton stated there were five snow days provided for and if there were more snow days, the days would be taken from the April vacation. The last day for school is set for June 22nd.

11. Budget Sub-Committee

Cheryl Smith reported that not much has changed since the last Board meeting. She reported that we are over budget on certified salaries and textbooks. She also reported on an incident with STW septic pump system. Ms. Smith stated there was a variance of \$200,000 this year and some of it will be covered by money saved by new hires that are on the single plan instead of the family plan or a benefit buyout.

Lisa Gagliardi stated she added a difference of \$265,000.

Cheryl Smith stated that we are not at the end of the budget year and we could still end up with a surplus like last year to give back to the town. She anticipates a credit in transportation and other line items will go down.

12. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

Ron Haskins reported that the transportation committee met on May 27, 2005. They did a walk-thru of a cul-de-sac at the condos. There will be one more meeting before a decision is made to the board.

VIII. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business discussion at this time.

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IX. Visitors and Press

Cliff Potter made a statement using three c's:

Compliment – We have a great graduating class that will be the future of North Branford.

Mr. Winnicki does a great job managing the Board's budget and this is brought out at every board meeting.

Concerns - Mr. Potter urges the school system not to put pressure on students to go to college, military, etc. He remarked that some kids just need to take a year off to find out what they really want.

Mr. Potter asked the Board of Education to take the Mayor's concerns and the townspeople's concerns seriously.

Complaint - Mr. Potter remarked that Robert's Rules of Order doesn't work all of the time and the Board should listen to the people who speak at the meetings and be a lot more flexible.

Dom Maggiore questioned if our lunch program was federally subsidized. He remarked that the lunch program should just break even and not strive to make a profit. He questioned if the lunch program does make money, then does it go into a slush fund?

Mr. Maggiore also questioned if we really need a building & grounds person as we already have a maintenance man and public works takes care of the grounds. He mentioned this \$80,000 could be used for the children instead of a building and grounds person. Mr. Maggiore stated he still has not received an answer to his questions on lawyer costs, lunch program, building and grounds and other questions the Board refuses to answer.

Dr. Wolfe stated that North Branford belongs to the Federal Lunch Program.

Amy Norton asked that Mr. Maggiore put his questions in writing and submit them to the Superintendent's office. She stated the Board, as a practice, does not get into a dialog, as this is a Board of Education meeting held in public not a public meeting.

Dr. Wolfe stated he would be happy to meet with Mr. Maggiore and answer his questions on our bidding practice and whatever other questions Mr. Maggiore has.

Laura Pearson stated that she felt questions at Board meetings are met with apathy. She mentioned that she asked questions last year on the Creative Learning Program and her questions were never answered. She remarked that gifted children needs have to be met

as when they are identified as gifted and talented they become special needs

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children. She mentioned she was told that the level system would take care of these children but she disagrees. The level system was set up for the average child and the gifted and talented children are getting lost and not being challenged. She feels that no one cares about these children and only one teacher has ever tried to address these students.

Joan Follo stated she would like to meet with Mrs. Pearson to go over her concerns and asked Mrs. Pearson to call her office and set up an appointment.

Lisa Albert stated she takes exception to Amy Norton's statement as the Board still has not answered her questions about lawyer fees. She urged Board members to come to the meetings better prepared. She mentioned she would resubmit a letter with these questions.

Mrs. Norton remarked that she appreciated feedback and just because a question is asked does not mean it is appropriate to give an answer. She stated any information that is public information would be given to anyone who asks by the Superintendent's office.

Lisa Gagliardi stated attorney fees are Freedom of Information and she has asked two or three times and her question is still not answered.

Ron Haskins questioned if this request was formally asked.

Cheryl Smith stated that this was discussed in executive session and figures are submitted through line items and categories not separately.

Lisa Albert remarked that Board members are missing the point. Letters should be answered or officially told why these questions can't be answered. She stated the issue is no response.

Mr. Maggiore remarked he would like to poll the entire Board to see if they knew where the money was being spent.

Ron Haskins stated that they are the fiscal and policy branches of the Board of Education and all members are aware of what is going where.

Mr. Maggiore stated that a Board member just stated that she didn't know the price of the lawyer's fee and questioned where the seventh member of the Board was.

Ron Haskins stated the Board of Education has six members and all were present.

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Diane Vumbeck thanked Mrs. Gagliardi and stated she felt Mrs. Gagliardi listens to the townspeople. She mentioned that tonight's Board date had been changed and couldn't understand why the Board was upset with Mrs. Gagliardi for requesting a Board meeting change.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for July 26, 2005 at Jerome Harrison Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Lawrence Casey to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 9:28 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk