

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 15, 2005**

The North Branford Board of Education met on Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 6:05 p.m.at the Totoket Valley Library Media Center. The following members attended:

Board Chair:	Ron Haskins
Board Vice-Chair:	Cheryl Smith
Board Members:	John Bozzuto, Jr. Elisabeth Caplan Marcey Onofrio Bonnie Symansky

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

MOTION: Moved by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan 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 personnel, negotiations, legal issues and the 2005-2006 school calendar.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to reconvene to public session 6:58 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Instruction/Curriculum :	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Principals:	Dr. David Perry, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Nancy Brittingham, TVES Robin Brown-Criscuolo, JHS Dr. Karen Johnson, STW

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Lisa Comcowich
Todd Stoeffler
Janice Vergati
Jack Krasko
Mary Bigelow
Clifford Potter
Debbie Stone
John Florio
Lisa Albert
Marcia Staffa

Marilyn Mesner
Desiree MacDonald
Judy Bannon
Joanne Wentworth
Jennifer Daddio
Andrea Alexander
Mike Pollio
William DellaCamera
Eric Albert

Christine Imperato
Laura Petrella
Valerie Snow
Vincent Candelora
Dolina Potter
James Dwyer
Cindy Conforte
Maria Lisa Gagliardi
Robert Dauster

II. Election of Officers

In accordance with Board Policy BC-1, the first order of business at the first meeting in December succeeding each biennial election is the election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the Board of Education.

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to elect Cheryl Smith as North Branford Board of Education Chairperson.

RON HASKINS:	AYE
CHERYL SMITH:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by John Bozzuto, Jr. to elect Bonnie Symansky as North Branford Board of Education Vice-Chairperson.

RON HASKINS:	AYE
CHERYL SMITH:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

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MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to elect Marcey Onofrio as North Branford Board of Education Secretary.

RON HASKINS:	AYE
CHERYL SMITH:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Cheryl Smith to amend the agenda to discuss the 2005-2006 school calendar.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to close North Branford Public Schools on Monday, January 2, 2006 to observe the legal holiday and add the day to the end of the June school calendar.

CHAIRPERSON SMITH:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	AYE
SECRETARY ONOFRO:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
RON HASKINS:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

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MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by John Bozzuto, Jr. to amend this agenda and take tonight's agenda policies from second read and return them to first read.

CHAIRPERSON SMITH:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	AYE
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
RON HASKINS:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Visitors Comments:

Cheryl Smith explained that this would give the new board members the opportunity to read and research these policies.

Vincent Candelora questioned Policy P9060 – Bylaws of the Board. He questioned the language in the policy and asked what executive power board members have. He remarked that the Town Council does not have any executive powers as those powers lie with the Town Manager. He remarked that according to State Statute Section 10-157 executive powers lie with the Superintendent of Schools as he is serving as Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Education and the Superintendent has executive authority over the school system. This authority is given to the Superintendent of Schools by State Statute. He urged Board members to check the wording of their policy as the policy is in contradiction of state policy and Mr. Candelora distributed a copy of the State Statute to every Board member. Mr. Candelora recommended that the Board of Education revise their policy to according to Connecticut State Statute.

Judy Bannon remarked to the Board of Education that a staff member at JHS was almost out of sick time and we have no sick bank in place for a major personal illness. She requested that the Board help us to help each other and questioned if the Board could search out a method that would allow employees to donate sick days to employees facing a catastrophic illness.

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II. Recognition

Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Stephanie DeFrance, North Branford Teacher of the Year and a fifth grade teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, was honored in Hartford on November 21st. Stephanie was escorted on stage by the Superintendent and received her citation from Commissioner of Education, Betty J. Sternberg. The ceremony was held at the Bushnell.

Stephanie has been a member of the North Branford School System for 11 years. She resides in Middletown with her husband, Glen, and their four children.

The Superintendent extends his congratulations to our outstanding Teacher of the Year stating she could not be with us tonight because of family illness. We will honor Mrs. DeFrance at a later Board meeting.

Congratulations to Stephanie!

Calendar Artwork

This evening we had a number of exceptional artists whose artwork appears in the 2005/2006 school calendar. These students were presented with a Certificate from the Board of Education for their efforts. These students were:

Zachary Augur	Corrine Kenney
Chris Balzano	Meghan McCarthy
William Coleman	Kevin Sullivan
Donald Fucci	Connor Sullivan
Amanda Gamache	Stephanie Torniero
Marley Kennedy	

Donald Winnicki held up the pictures of the month for the students and Dr. Wolfe mentioned that there were extra calendars in Central Office if parents wished to have calendars for relatives.

Special thanks was extended to art educators, Mrs. Nilda Gagliardi of Jerome Harrison School, Mrs. Alice Chittenden of Stanley T. Williams School, Ms. Marci Prinz of Totoket Valley Elementary School, Mr. David Holland of North Branford Intermediate School and Mr. Joseph Roberti of North Branford High School, for their assistance with this project.

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III. Student Representative

Mike Scalia, student representative reported on the following items:

Renaissance Breakfast 352 students made the first quarter honor roll and attended the Renaissance Breakfast today. The main speaker was the President of Southern Connecticut State University, Dr. Cheryl Norton. Dr. Norton is the first woman president in the 110 history of Southern Connecticut.

Winter Concert NBHS extended congratulations to Mr. John Congo for an excellent winter concert on December 14, 2005 and to the band and chorus for a wonderful night of music.

CAPT Scholars Breakfast NBHS will honor 82 juniors who as sophomores scored at or above state goal on the CAPT test.

Alumni Program NBHS will welcome back the class of 2005 to the annual alumni breakfast on January 4, 2005. This program is where NBHS gets a report card from the previous class. Dr. Perry asks the graduates how well the high school prepared them for college and the work world and what can the high school do to refine the program to better prepare our students.

Senior Citizens The Student Council and Select Chorus hosted a party at the Senior Center for North Branford seniors and Santa Claus put in an appearance.

Sports

The Co-ed Fencing Team has a new coach, John Tejada, and the boy's team won their first match against Hale-Ray, as did the girl's team. Captains are Alex DeFrancesco and Jessica Robinson.

Boys and Girls Basketball is underway with Captains for the Boys team Mathew Cranley and Nick Dematteo. Captain for the girl's team is Amy Asmus.

Hockey is also underway with Captains Kevin Secor, Chris Baiochi and Keven Sullivan. The hockey team is ranked in the top ten for the state and won their game last night against North Haven.

North Branford/North Haven swimming will soon be getting underway.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2005 Board of Education meeting.

Cheryl Smith had one correction:

Page 3: Cheryl Smith asked if Lisa wanted to amend the motion she made to discuss the process of adding new business to the agenda.

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2005 Board of Education meeting as amended.

CHAIPERSON SMITH:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	ABSTAINED
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:	ABSTAINED
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	ABSTAINED
RON HASKINS:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 3-0-3

V. Communications

The Superintendent provided the Board with a copy of the North Branford Public Schools Winter Sports Schedule.

Dr. Wolfe distributed two thank you notes from staff members.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Resignations - None at this time.

B. Appointments

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Mr. Rich Reynolds as technology educator at North Branford Intermediate School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Bachelors, Step 3, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to approve the appointment of Mr. Rich Reynolds as technology educator at North Branford Intermediate School for the 2005/2006 school year to be placed on Bachelors, Step 3, as per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

CHAIRPERSON SMITH:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	AYE
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
RON HASKINS:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The Superintendent has received recommendations for the following stipend positions:

NBHS – Drama Director – Cindy Genzano
NBHS – Head Cheerleading Coach - Kelly McNamara

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve the above-referenced stipend positions for the 2005/2006 school year to be paid in accordance with the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

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CHAIRPERSON SMITH:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	AYE
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	AYE
JOHN BOZUTTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
RON HASKINS:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

C. Leaves

Dr. Wolfe is recommending granting a leave to Ms. Jennifer Scasino, 4th grade teacher TVES, under Article 20 of the Teachers' contract, for the balance of the 2005-2006 school year.

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to approve leave to Ms. Jennifer Scasino, 4th grade teacher TVES, for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year.

CHAIRPERSON SMITH:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	AYE
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	AYE
JOHN BOZUTTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
RON HASKINS:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

D. Committee Assignments

Board members received a committee organizational chart and a brief description of each committee. This was an opportunity for the Board to have a discussion regarding the committee structure. The Chair of the Board makes committee assignments.

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Ron Haskins to amend the agenda to add a Communications Committee to Board of Education assignments.

CHAIRPERSON SMITH:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	AYE
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
RON HASKINS:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Elisabeth Caplan questioned if any of the committees could be eliminated at this time.

Ron Haskins remarked that the Transportation Committee might be a possibility.

Dr. Wolfe recommended filling the Transportation Committee positions as they only meet when needed and if something comes up we need to have someone on this committee, as it could be a tight timeline.

Committee Assignments

Negotiations:	Ron Haskins, Cheryl Smith, Marcey Onofrio
Budget:	Elisabeth Caplan, Cheryl Smith, John Bozzuto, Jr.
Building & Grounds:	John Bozzuto, Jr., Ron Haskins
Curriculum:	Elisabeth Caplan, Bonnie Symansky
Pension:	Elisabeth Caplan Alternate: Ron Haskins
Policy:	Elisabeth Caplan, Ron Haskins, Cheryl Smith

ACES: Cheryl Smith, Alternate :

Strategic Planning: Elisabeth Caplan, John Bozzuto, Jr.

Building Committee: John Bozzuto, Jr., Bonnie Symansky

Calendar Committee: Marcey Onofrio

Transportation/Bus Safety: Marcey Onofrio, Ron Haskins, Cheryl Smith

Communications Committee: Marcy Onofrio, Bonnie Symansky

E. CABE

The Superintendent provided the Board with cost information for membership and an historical perspective of the cost incurred for non-member participation in workshops.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the fee for a returning school district is reduced by fifty percent. He mentioned that we have spent \$660.00 for the last two years for CABE. He stated that the fee depends on population of the school district and the ERG you are in. The cost for 2005-2006 would be \$8,800.

Elisabeth Caplan stated the workshop she attended, provided by CABE, was tremendously helpful and she received terrific information. She recommended the Board try CABE for one year and feels it would be a wise investment.

Cheryl Smith mentioned that it is not in this year's budget but the Board could talk about adding it to next year's budget.

Ron Haskins remarked that the workshop is helpful but he would rather pay-as-you-go, as it would be less costly.

John Bozzuto stated that joining CABE might pay for itself in the long run as they provide a lot of positive information and legal advice.

Marcey Onofrio agreed it would be good to join CABE since we have four new Board members. She mentioned it would be a wise investment.

Cheryl Smith stated the Board could keep this in mind for next year's budget.

F. Consent Agenda

The Superintendent provided information concerning the use of a Consent Agenda. The purpose of a Consent Agenda is to save valuable time while at the same time insuring individual members that discussion will be had on any item deemed appropriate.

Board members could remove any one item if they so choose to.

Elisabeth Caplan mentioned that the State Board of Education uses a consent agenda. She felt a consent agenda would free up more time to address other issues.

Cheryl Smith remarked that ACES also uses a consent agenda.

Bonnie Symanski stated that she felt a consent agenda would improve Board meetings.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that we could do a sample of the consent agenda at the next Board meeting.

VII. Committee Reports

1. Negotiations – Ron Haskins stated the committee met on November 30, 2005, December 14, 2005 and the next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2005.

2. Budget – Cheryl Smith stated we are already in the red because of energy costs.

Donald Winnicki stated the price of fuel oil was built in but natural gas is adding to the deficit.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that Wallingford Electric is raising their rates in January, 2006.

Cheryl Smith warned that our substitute line might go over due to so many maternity leaves.

A copy of the December 1 financial statement is attached for review.

3. Buildings & Grounds - No report at this time.

4. Curriculum – No report at this time.

5. Pension – No report at this time.
6. Policy

The Board was provided a copy of the following policies for second reading and approval.

Policy #P6100 – Long Range Planning
Policy #P6110 – Retirement of Facilities
Policy #P6120 – Architect Selection
Policy #P6130 – New Construction – Site Selection
Policy #P6140 - New Construction – Naming Facilities
Policy #P9010 – Limits of Authority
Policy #P9020 – Legal Status of the Board – Elections of the Board
Policy #P9030 – Conflict of Interest; Compensation of Board Members
Policy #P9040 – Organization of the Board – Organizational Meeting
Policy #P9050 – Chair
Policy #P9060 – Board – Superintendent Relations
Policy #P9070 – Committee of the Whole
Policy #P9071 – Committees
Policy #P9072 – Organization of the Board
Policy #P9080 – Board Meetings

All policies were set back to first read so new Board members could read and research the policies. No policies approved at this meeting.

7. ACES – Cheryl Smith spoke on ACES Holiday gathering. Students whose artwork appeared on ACES Christmas cards were honored. One student was from North Branford. Cheryl Smith mentioned that ACES is doing a search for a new Executive Director.
8. Strategic Planning – No report at this time.
9. Building Committee - Dr. Wolfe reported that eighteen firms showed interest in the NBIS renovation project. He remarked that the field was narrowed to five. A meeting was held with Town Manager, Karl Kilduff, Jack Krasko and Dr. Wolfe at Town Hall. Two firms submitted similar designs and one was chosen. Herb Neuman Associates were chosen for the NBIS renovation project and plans are underway to hire a construction manager. Dr. Wolfe remarked that we are on our way.
10. Calendar Committee. – No meeting at this time.
11. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee – No meeting at this time.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Donald Winnicki reported on completed summer project.

STW – Carpet replacement in copy room was scheduled for replacement. Two hydrostatic moisture tests were performed on different occasions and the numbers were too high to lay the carpet. John Florio suggested using a new epoxy coating designed for garage floors. It was installed at a relatively low cost and appears to be successful.

Painted canopy, replaced bathroom partition and installed A/C for Project Pride.

JHS

Sprinkler and Fire Alarm testing completed and a triple duty valve was installed on the cooling tower for the air conditioner.

TVES

Incinerator removed, new freezer installed, lockers replaced, replaced Central Office carpet, replaced four exterior doors and bathroom and sink replacements.

NBIS

Replace seat covers on auditorium seating and repairs on stage area.

NBHS

Rotary Club installed new concession stand, FRC play area rebuilt, fencing replaced, replacement of five exterior doors, locker replacement, blind replacements, TV mounts and bathroom partitions replaced.

District

Hazardous waste completed, asbestos inspections updated, elevator inspections completed, play structures inspections completed, light bulb recycling completed, hood cleaning in all schools and New Haven County Fire Extinguisher completed their annual inspections.

Donald Winnicki stated he wanted to follow up on a comment made by a parent about the cost of a notification system vs. building repairs. Mr. Winnicki remarked that the repairs at TVES are completed. The problem was with the overflow pipe and the ejector pumps and they were rebuilt. The distribution box is now ok. The concrete box at STW was repaired last summer but will have to be replaced this summer.

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Thompson General contractors are waiting for shop drawings and the bleacher work could be completed by January 2006, weather permitting.

Elisabeth Caplan stated that she attended the Renaissance Breakfast at NBHS this morning honoring students who make honors and high honors. She remarked on Dr. Perry's speech on leadership and stated it was an honor for her to be there. She thanked Dr. Perry, Dr. Cheryl Norton and Chef Ed for their parts in the wonderful event.

IX. Visitors and Press

Lisa Gagliardi thanked the Board for considering CAFE and remarked that she thought it would be very cost effective. She stated the Board might even be able to save money on legal services and encouraged Board members to look at the big picture. She remarked that the consent agenda was a good idea and submitted a letter to Dr. Wolfe stating she would like to serve on the new principal search committee when it is formed.

Marilyn Mesner commended Elisabeth Caplan for asking for information from CAFE and asked if CAFE would prorate their fees for this year. She felt the Board should join CAFE at this time as there are four new Board members.

Elisabeth Caplan remarked that there is no money allocated in the budget for this year.

Marilyn Mesner stated the Board could find the money if they shifted money around.

Jennifer Daddio questioned if Jerome Harrison School could be used for the summer camp this year as this building is air- conditioned.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that Special Services used Jerome Harrison School for their Summer School.

Jennifer Daddio questioned if they used the gymnasium.

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MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:23 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON SMITH:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	AYE
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTTO:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
RON HASKINS:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk