

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
SPECIAL MEETING  
May 18, 2011**

The North Branford Board of Education met on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 in the Board Meeting Room at Stanley T. Williams School at 7:00 p.m. The following members attended:

Board Chair:	Marcey Onofrio
Board Vice-Chair:	Shannon Miscio
Board Secretary:	David McMahon
Board Members:	Christopher Manna Deborah Prunier Marie Diamond

Superintendent of Schools:	Scott Schoonmaker
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**MOTION: Moved by Marie Diamond and seconded by Shannon Miscio 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: Moved by Marcey Onofrio seconded by Marie Diamond to reconvene to the Board Meeting Room for public session at 7:30 p.m.**

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**I. Visitors**

Director of Business and Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Instruction & Curriculum:	Sara Querfeld
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Operations:	William Choti
Principals:	Alan Davis, NBIS Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES Todd Stoeffler, NBHS Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Carter Welch	Nancy Biancsi	TJ McMahon
Theresa Fransden		

**II. Student Representative**

No Report

**III. Consent Agenda**

a. Minutes

Minutes of the April 14, 2011 Board of Education Meeting

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Mrs. Marci Hart, art educator at Totoket Valley Elementary School and K-12 Art Department Leader, effective at the end of the 2010/2011 school year. Mrs. Hart has been employed by the North Branford Public Schools for the past six years.

c. Appointments

Appointments and staffing were discussed under the Superintendent’s Report.

d. Leaves – None at this time.

e. Donations - None at this time.

f. Field Trips – None at this time.

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by David McMahon to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY MCMAHON:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MARIE DIAMOND:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**IV. Superintendent’s Report**

a. Recognition

NBHS Student Representatives

The following students have served as Student Representatives to the Board of Education for the past school year:

Jacquelyn Ferarro

Margaret Sullivan

The Superintendent and the Board extended a sincere thank you to these students for the time, energy and effort they have given to informing the Board of student activities. Board Chair, Marcey Onofrio, presented flowers and plaques to these students.

Kids for Kids Dancing for Life

Kids for Kids Dancing for Life is a non-profit organization based in North Haven but active in the Greater New Haven Community and beyond since 1994. This is an all-volunteer organization which is made up of Board members from a number of local cities and towns including North Branford. Two of the members of the Junior Board of Directors, Megan Marcucci and Alisyn Naracci, are North Branford Public School students. To date, KFK has given away well over \$800,000 to a wide variety of worthy children's causes. These have touched needs in education, health, welfare and recreation and have affected the lives of literally thousands of young people in the process. The goal of the organization is twofold: raise funds and support for sick and needy children; and encourage and motivate kids to help other kids in their communities who are less fortunate. Kids for Kids previously donated to the North Branford Education Foundation with funds being used for special needs programs.

This year's donation of \$2,500 to the North Branford Education Foundation comes from the proceeds of a four-day performing arts competition held in April and attended by dancers from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that the funds will be used to offset 50% of the cost of a smart table to be used at the primary life skills level and the preschool level.

b. Staffing and Transfers

The Superintendent updated the Board on staffing and transfers for the 2011/2012 school year. The Superintendent commented that Mr. Carlone, the NBIS Technology Education teacher has been transferred to NBHS to teach the Project Lead the Way program. A .2 music position will be moved from TVES to NBHS to balance to 2.0 FTE. Mr. Carnaroli will be increased from .8 to 1.0 to add additional vocal courses at the High School. There are 2 anticipated vacancies, NBHS Math and grade 5. The following positions will also need to be filled: Art at TVES, Music at NBIS, Tech Ed at NBIS, and Special Education at NBIS.

The Superintendent also discussed the position of Principal of North Branford High School. Superintendent Schoonmaker recommended Todd Stoeffler be promoted to Principal of North Branford High School. He stated he has had the opportunity to work with Mr. Stoeffler over the past 2+ years.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marie Diamond and seconded by David McMahon to approve promotion of Mr. Todd Stoeffler to the position of Principal at North Branford High School effective July 1, 2011, in accordance with the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford School Administrators Organization.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
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<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

Superintendent Schoonmaker commented that Mr. Stoeffler’s first order of business is to find a replacement for his vacant Assistant Principal position.

c. Communications

Board of Education Briefs

The Board reviewed the Board of Education Briefs from each school.

The Superintendent shared with the Board of copy of a letter from Janet Allison and George Edwards of New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. regarding the decennial evaluation report of North Branford High School

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Mr. Stoeffler and Mr. Welch and the entire NBHS staff. Mr. Stoeffler commented that plans are already in place to address the recommendations and the leadership committee has already met.

The Superintendent shared with the Board a copy of a letter from Mr. George Colafati, Jr. Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Don Winnicki and Anna DeMatteo for their work in coordinating the new sign over the scoreboard with Bill Choti.

d. ACES ECA Student Acceptance Letter

The Superintendent has received a letter from ACES regarding six returning student and one waitlisted student who have been accepted into the Educational Center for the Arts. It has been the Board’s past practice to pay 50% of the tuition for these students as well as transportation to ECA for students. Transportation home from ECA has been the responsibility of the parents.

The total tuition rate for each student is \$8,746 for the 2011/2012 school year. The State of Connecticut offsets this amount with a grant leaving a balance of \$3,793 per student. In the past, the remaining cost is shared equally with parents – leaving a per student share to the Board of Education of 50% or in this case \$1896.50 per student; however, the interim Education Commissioner recently interpreted the parent choice language of Connecticut General Statutes as requiring sending districts to pay all tuition costs associated with resident students’ enrollment in an interdistrict magnet program. This interpretation does not allow the sending district to chargeback to parents any tuition costs incurred as a result of student enrollment. The cost to the district for the 2011/2012 is therefore \$3,793 per student or a total of \$26,551.00.

Due to this recent interpretation, funding for the 2011/2012 school year has a shortfall in the amount of \$8121 for the seven students. This shortfall amount is calculated by reducing the ten budgeted seats to the seven seats referenced above, while increasing the per capita contribution from \$1843 to \$3793. A funding proposal is included in the budget modifications to be discussed later.

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Shannon Miscio to approve seven students from North Branford Public Schools attending the ACES Educational Center for the Arts for the 2011/2012 school year at the above noted rate. (\$3,793.00)

<b>CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
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<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

e. End of the Year Activities

Listed below for Board member information is a schedule of year-end activities:

<i>NBHS Academic Awards Ceremony</i>	<i>- Thursday, May 26 – 12:15 p.m. – Auditorium</i>
<i>North Branford Scholarship Assoc. Awards</i>	<i>- Tuesday, June 7 – 7:00 p.m. - Auditorium</i>
<i>NBIS Promotion Ceremony</i>	<i>- Thursday, June 23 – 5:30 p.m. – Auditorium</i>
<i>Graduation Reflection and Breakfast</i>	<i>- Friday, June 24 – 9:00 a.m. - Auditorium</i>
<i>NBHS Graduation Ceremony</i>	<i>- Friday, June 24 – 6:30 p.m. – Football Field</i>

f. Project Lead the Way update:

The school district is moving forward with the implementation of Project Lead the Way, the engineering program. The agreement has been signed, and a teacher has been selected to be trained for the first of the four courses: Introduction to Engineering Design. In this course, students use 3D solid modeling design software to help them design solutions to solve proposed problems. Students will learn how to document their work and communicate solutions to peers and members of the professional community. This course is designed for 9th and 10th grade students. The major focus of the Introduction to Engineering Design course is to expose students to the design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards, and technical documentation.

Sara Querfeld commented that Gerald Carlone has passed the pre-assessment test and will be trained at The University of New Haven in July. She stated the Project Lead the Way initial course in introduction to engineering will prepare students to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> course in biomedical sciences.

g. Interdistrict Summer Science Grant: Grades 3 and 5

North Branford, in partnership with West Haven, New Haven, and Hamden Public Schools, has been awarded an Interdistrict Summer Science Grant. The Interdistrict Summer Science Academy is a three-week, science oriented summer program that brings together a diverse group of students in grades 3 and 5. The program is designed to improve student's mastery of science concepts and skills while also creating a multicultural learning environment in which students collaborate on a variety of highly interactive science activities. Twenty North Branford students will have the opportunity to participate at no charge. Students will be engaged in a daily schedule of hands-on, project based lessons on site at Hamden's Church Street School and through weekly field trips to the Maritime Aquarium of Norwalk and the Discovery Museum, and other nearby locations where students can explore science at work in the world around them. The program will culminate with a science fair-style exposition. The camp will run from July 11th- July 28th, Monday through Thursday. Bus transportation to Hamden will be provided at no cost to parents.

Sara Querfeld commented she is delighted some of our students will have this opportunity. She stated one staff member will be able to go with the students.

h. Quinnipiac Interns for school year 2011-2012

The North Branford Public Schools has partnered with Quinnipiac University's School of Education, and has agreed to take a total of 20 interns for the upcoming school year. Seven interns will be placed at the high school, 5 at the Intermediate School, and 4 each at the two elementary schools. One of the advantages to this partnership is the ability the schools will have to ensure quality substitutes in each discipline and grade level in the event a teacher is absent.

Sara Querfeld reported a deepening partnership with Quinnipiac University to allow for more flexibility in staff development by being able to cover more classes. Superintendent Schoonmaker commented that we had budgeted for 10 interns and Sara Querfeld was able to double that with no additional cost.

i. Retirements

The Superintendent took the opportunity to remind the Board of the manner in which retirees are recognized. The Board will formally recognize retirees just prior to the start of the June Board of Education meeting. All retirees will receive a "proclamation of appreciation" from the Board of Education. Families of retirees will be invited to this meeting and light refreshments will be served. The June meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2011.

j. 2011/2012 Budget Reductions

On Tuesday, May 10, 2011, the Town held a Budget Referendum. The required voter turnout for the budget referendum is 15% and the voter turnout was 5.33%. Therefore, both the Town and Education budget passed according to Town Charter. The Superintendent will provide the Board with a summary of budget reductions as proposed by the Administrative team.

Donald Winnicki provided the Board with a list of recommended changes (attached). Superintendent Schoonmaker commented that the administrative team worked to come up with the reductions. Mr. Winnicki commented that they have become more aggressive with the health care budget. He stated outside tuitions were reduced from 2 to 1 and that savings will be used to offset the ECA contribution. He stated the new K-5 reading consultant position will not be filled, as the most urgent need is at the High School level in need of a math position. Marcey Onofrio added when the Board was looking at the budget, administration felt while reading is very important, math positions are short in the core area. She added that this new math position will balance the numbers and help students prepare for SATs and Chemistry classes.

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Shannon Miscio to approve the proposed budget reductions totaling \$150,000 as submitted for the 2011/2012 school year.

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**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**V. Committee Reports**

The Board of Education reviewed committee reports.

a. Negotiations – Don Winnicki stated he will be receiving proposals from the cafeteria workers, custodians and nurses next week.

b. Budget – Marcey Onofrio commented that while things look the same, there was an increase in rental due to storage containers for NBIS.

A copy of the May 1 financial statement was attached for Board review.

c. Curriculum – Marie Diamond commented that Sara Querfeld presented the Administrator Evaluation Plan at their meeting and presented a PowerPoint presentation on Common Core State Standards.

d. Pension – Don Winnicki stated there were 2 slight changes; fund manager and allocations.

e. Policy – Christopher Manna stated the committee will meet with the new attorney next week.

f. ACES – Marie Diamond reported they received a report from lobbyists and the new budget is questionable. She also stated ECS could take a hit as well as State technical schools and Interdistrict magnet programs. She also reported ACES is able to reduce tuition slightly this year. Christopher Manna inquired about the State Technical schools and if the students would be returning to our schools. Superintendent Schoonmaker stated the students would stay at the technical school, however, the schools may be run by the towns or RESCS and no longer by the State.

g. Operations – No report

h. Building Committee – David McMahon stated the committee met and they are working on the NBIS punch list. He added the FRC building at JHS is fully operational. He stated the insurance company is working with Munger Construction to replace gutter damage due to ice build-up over the winter. He stated the FRC program is very happy with the building and JHS is happy to have their entire gym back in operation.

Discussion and action regarding roof projects through the State Department of Education.

Superintendent Schoonmaker commented he is working with Vin Candelora in regards to the roofing project. He stated he met with Town Manager, Richard Brannigan regarding the paperwork for the up to 57% reimbursement from the State. He stated the Board has budgeted \$372,000 and the remainder is up to the Council with Board recommendations to act on supporting additional funds needed for the NBHS roof. The total price is over 2 million if bundled with STW and TVES.

Don Winnicki stated he will present the Board with Ed Specs at the June meeting. He warned a potential issue is that due to the budgeted amount of \$372,000, the most we could had done is \$865,000 worth of work. He stated the Council could take action to fund more with local funds.

Marcey Onofrio commented that a packet will be put together for the June 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. She stated the gym roof is in very bad shape and this could be a potential safety issue.

i. Calendar Committee – Marcey Onofrio stated the next meeting is May 23 at 2pm.

j. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee – no report

k. Communication – Committee will meet next week. There have been no inquires on the website.

## **VI. New Business**

No new business

## **VII. Visitors and Press**

Superintendent Schoonmaker announced Sara Querfeld is being honored as a shining star in North Haven.

## **VIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2011 at Stanley T. Williams Elementary School.**

**IX. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Deborah Prunier to adjourn at 8:38pm.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Neubig  
Acting Board Secretary