

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 19, 2006

The North Branford Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. in the multipurpose room of Stanley T. Williams School on Thursday, January 19, 2006.

The following members attended:

Board Chairwoman:	Cheryl Smith
Board Vice-Chairwoman:	Bonnie Symansky
Board Secretary:	Marcey Onofrio
Board Members:	John Bozzuto, Jr. Elisabeth Caplan Ron Haskins
Superintendent of Schools:	Dr. Robert K. Wolfe

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Bonnie Symansky 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 negotiations, legal issues and personnel.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to reconvene to the multipurpose room for public session at 7:00 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Instruction/Curriculum:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright

Principals:	Dr. David Perry, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Nancy Brittingham, TVES Robin Brown-Criscuolo, JHS Dr. Karen Johnson, STW
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Marcia Staffa
Thomas J. Juliano
Cliff Potter
David McMahon
Christine Imperato

Cindy Conforte
Craig Creller
Dolina Potter
Andrew Esposito
Todd Stoeffler

Barb Viglione
Phil Palma, NBFT
Lisa Albert
Ashley Joiner

There were no visitor comments at this time.

II. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes – Minutes of the Dec. 15, 2005 Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Mrs. Geraldine Ifkovic, grade 6 language arts teacher at North Branford Intermediate School effective June 30, 2006.

c. Appointments

The Superintendent has received a recommendation for the following stipend position for the 2005/2006 school year:

Mr. Michael Berry	Drama Assistant	North Branford High School
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d. Leaves – None at this time.

e. Field Trips – None at this time.

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MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted with one correction:

December 15, 2005 Board of Education minutes – page 4 – Motion- should read Ron Haskins not Ron Reynolds.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Recognition – None at this time.

b. Communications

1. Letter from: Linda Friedlaender, Curator of Education
Yale Center for British Art

Re: Collaboration with second grade teachers.

2. Letter from: Jane Wasyliv, Director of Development/Communications
American Red Cross

Re: Thank you to Elisa Pannone as well as students and staff of
North Branford for hurricane relief efforts for 2005.

3. Memo to: Connecticut State Board of Education from Commissioner
Betty Sternberg, Commissioner of Education

Re: Education Reference Groups (ERGs)

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c. School Events

1. The Superintendent was pleased to report to the Board of Education that 366 students from our three elementary schools were able to attend the performance of Peter Pan at the Chevrolet Theatre in Wallingford on Wednesday, January 18, 2006. This presentation was performed by equity actors. Ticket prices which ranged from \$45-\$71 were made available to students for \$20 including transportation. This special session of the show was shared by students in North Branford and Fairfield.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the students attended a talk session after the play with the actors and he was extremely proud of all our students. He remarked that they asked incredible questions and presented themselves very well. He stated that our system has a good rapport with the Oakdale/Chevrolet Theatre and we are working on incorporating some of their summer activities into our summer camp.

Superintendent Wolfe read some of the letters he received from students stating their happiness and joy at being able to attend the Peter Pan play.

2. On Wednesday, February 8, 2006 both Stanley T. Williams and Jerome Harrison Elementary Schools will be accepting registration for students eligible to enter Kindergarten in the fall of 2006. (Snow date – February 9th)

d. Annual Yearly Progress

Provided for Board review was a copy of the “report card” regarding Annual Yearly Progress. Each year this “report card” is required under Federal No Child Left Behind legislation. The North Branford Public Schools continue to receive positive marks based on the Federal criteria.

Dr. Wolfe stated that every year the state’s criteria goes up and eventually all school districts will fail this report card, in his opinion. He mentioned that if there are less than 40 students in a sub-group the results or the tests are not reported but if there are 40 or more students all results have to be reported. Sub-groups could be Special Education students, ESL students, etc.

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e. Summer Program 2006

The Superintendent shared with the Board of Education plans for an expanded summer enrichment program for the summer of 2006. Students who will be entering grades K-8 in September 2006 are eligible to register for the program. A total of 56 programs will be offered this coming year, which includes 21 new programs.

The theme for the Summer of 2006 comes from a series of new enrichment camps based on collecting. Collecting themes include stamps, coins, Pez, dolls, sports cards, and nature. In addition, a series of new fast paced action camps will also be featured. These include, laser tag, flag football and floor hockey.

Last summer the school system received over 1500 registrations. Student registration will begin in early March with the distribution of the new summer brochure.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the Pez Corporation in Orange, CT has granted him permission to use their logo " Peter Pez: on our summer camp brochures and shirts.

Superintendent Wolfe stated that North Branford would form a partnership with North Haven next year. All academic students will attend schools in North Haven and the enrichment camp would be held at TVES in North Branford. He remarked that there might be an opportunity to incorporate elementary academics into the summer program at North Haven. He stated this plan would be cost effective. Special Education summer school would be held at JHS and there would also be professional development at JHS this summer. We could use the gymnasium at JHS if it is needed for the summer camp program.

f. Special Education Forums

The Superintendent reported on a recent meeting held Friday, January 6th, 2006, in Hartford, which he attended with members of the Connecticut State Dept. of Special Education and Director of Special Services, Suzanne Wright. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the results of the Special Education Forums, which were held in the school system with staff members and parents.

He mentioned that there was no corrective action taken or any citations of any Violations issued. Some recommendations were made but most of the recommendations are already in progress in North Branford. (Increase professional development for inclusion classes, early childhood development, insure retention is not a function to resolve special education needs, etc.)

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Suzanne Wright stated she was pleased to see no corrective action was received

and her staff is already working on ways to help classroom teachers. (inclusion, communications, etc.)

Cheryl Smith remarked that inclusion classes from a teacher's perspective could be very challenging and she hopes plans are underway to help these teachers who have inclusion classrooms.

Suzanne Wright stated that she and her staff are working on many different opportunities for classroom teachers.

Cheryl Smith mentioned that she and the Board would like to have an update on where we are on these goals at a later Board meeting.

Superintendent Wolfe remarked that we would be receiving a report from the state that he will submit to Board members.

g. TVES Playground

On January 5th and 6th, the first phase of the Totoket Valley Elementary School Playground Project was completed with the installation of new equipment on the north side of the building. The playground equipment was in use beginning on Monday, January 9th. The Superintendent shared photographs of the incredible, positive reception that the equipment received by students. Many individuals contributed to this phase of the Playground Project, spearheaded by the following active committee members:

Ellsworth Evarts	Deborah Wilkinson
Karen Austin	Irene Baumgaertner
Christine Cermola	Patty DePonte
Brenda Maher	

Nearly \$25,000 was raised through a host of activities including a goods and services auction. Phase II of the project has the intent of adding new equipment to the south side of the building. The Superintendent extended his sincere congratulations and thank you to the playground committee, Nan Brittingham and members of the faculty for their support.

Nancy Brittingham mentioned that she and her staff are in the process of what to do with the other side of the playground stating she would like to keep it as a community playground incorporating the ball fields in the back of the playground.

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h. Superintendent's Budget Request

The Superintendent provided an overview of the 2006/2007 Budget Request. He also distributed to the Board of Education a detailed, comprehensive document supporting the request.

Listed below is a series of suggested topics for the pre-approved budget discussions:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| This evening | General Overview
fixed costs
program improvements
enrollment
personnel changes
capital budget |
| January 26 th | Curriculum Management Cycle
Special Services
High School Schedule |
| February 2 nd | Middle School Schedule
Buildings and Grounds
Capital |
| February 16 th | Final Discussion and Action on the 06/07 Budget Request. |

The Superintendent extends his thanks to the administrative team for their efforts in developing this responsible budget. Special thanks go to Director of Personnel and Business, Donald Winnicki, and members of the Central Office team. The Superintendent is also appreciative of the time and energy given by the Budget Subcommittee in reviewing this document.

He mentioned that if anyone would like a copy of the proposed budget that they could receive one at Central Office.

The Superintendent's budget request is \$26,603,190. This represents a total increase in spending of 7.36% or \$1,823,529. over 2005/06 approved budget. Of the 7.36%, a total of 5.56% of the increase is for fixed costs.

It will take a 5.56% increase to meet the fixed cost including contractual obligations that currently exist including labor contracts, transportation, insurance, energy costs and outside special education tuition.

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Total Labor	3.22%
Insurance-Pension-FICA contributions	.73%
Transportation and fuel	.52%

Energy Costs	.88%
Outside Tuition	.22%
Program Improvements	1.8%

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that many school systems have returned to their towns for money for increased energy costs. He remarked North Branford would also be in the red for energy but hopefully there will be money from other line items to use.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned schedule changes at NBHS and NBIS, hiring of new personnel, adult education, outside tuition, magnet schools and program improvements.

Superintendent Wolfe stated that of the 60 students we are paying outside tuition for only 23 are special education students. Many of our students attend magnet schools.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that this is the lowest proposed budget submitted in the last five years. He stated that we have more emotional, social and medical problems in our school system today. Some students entering kindergarten have two years of pre-school and some students have had no experience with pre-school. He mentioned the state not fully funding adult education in upcoming years, the need for more library-media instruction for students especially at TVES, the need for a speech-language pathologist, other personnel needed at the secondary schools and one new sport at NBHS (boys and girls indoor track).

Superintendent Wolfe stated that each school operates with a budget which is based on funding which is derived from the number of students in the building as of October 1st of the current year and the allocation per educational level with the high school being the highest. The allocation system is an attempt to ensure equity between schools and levels of the school system.

Dr. Wolfe recommended that the Board have a serious conversation with the Town Council relative to our infrastructure. A thorough examination of the building projects should be made and a new time-line established. If the projects at other schools are to be pushed out for 5 – 10 or more years then repairs to the infrastructure of other schools must be made soon to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. (new roof at NBHS, cafeteria roof at TVES, replacing oil fee lines, etc.)

Bonnie Symansky questioned if there was any funding in this proposed budget for future needs.

Dr. Wolfe stated there are no unanticipated funds in this budget.

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i. Proposed 2007 Board of Education Meeting Dates

The Superintendent is providing Proposed 2007 Board of Education Meeting dates for Board action.

Motion: To approve the 2007 Board of Education Meeting Dates as submitted.

TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING.

Bonnie Symansky questioned holding all Board of Education meetings at TVES. She mentioned that it was good to hold all Board meetings at one particular place where there would be microphones, podium and microphone for visitors and proper lighting as many townspeople watch the Board meeting on television.

Ron Haskins stating using one building would be a good idea and suggested TVES since the Superintendent's office is there.

Marcey Onofrio questioned which building had the best acoustics and the best set-up for holding meetings.

A member of the audience stated that the Board had to be aware of the American Disability Act when a site is chosen.

Cliff Potter remarked that the auditorium should be used, as there are wireless microphones, proper lighting, etc. He felt more townspeople would attend Board of Education meetings if there was just one set place.

Cheryl Smith suggested that this motion be tabled until more information could be obtained. All Board members agreed with Cheryl Smith.

j. NBHS Principal Search

The principal's position for NBHS continues to be posted. The Superintendent distributed a copy of the brochure that was forwarded to all school districts in the State. In addition, the position has been advertised through a variety of electronic media. The Superintendent shared with the Board of Education a flow chart and timeline for upcoming activities related to the principal search.

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It should be noted that in the January newsletter of NBHS solicitation of parent involvement was made.

The recent pool of candidates for openings in nearby communities has been relatively small. Once the posting date has passed, the Superintendent will be able to inform the Board as to the number of applicants.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that Chairwoman Smith would represent the Board of Education on the Principal search along with administrators, teachers, parents and students.

Superintendent Wolfe mentioned that the posting closed on January 20, 2006 and we hope to have a new principal in place on July 1, 2006.

k. Open Choice

The Superintendent provided to the Board an update on its commitment to Open Choice. Open Choice is a major component of our ability to provide multiculturalism within our schools. The Superintendent provided a chart detailing the Open Choice placements by grade level. The Superintendent recommended continuation of the commitment as in the past – 26 seats.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that North Branford has nine students attending the Sound School in New Haven.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Bonnie Symansky that the Board of Education endorses Open Choice for the 2006/2007 school year with its continuation of 26 seats.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

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l. Technology Grant

The Superintendent has received notification from the Connecticut State Dept. of Education that North Branford will receive an Infrastructure grant award in the amount of \$39,520 pending the release of funding. This grant will be used to

upgrade the infrastructure with the installation of additional fiber optics. Special thanks to Director of Technology, Timothy Hartigan, for his efforts with this grant.

Superintendent Wolfe mentioned that we wouldn't be able to do everything that we hoped to do. We had applied for \$150,000 but received \$39,520. He stated that the state divided five million dollars for infrastructure projects with all school districts and he was happy to receive thirty-nine thousand dollars.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations

Ron Haskins stated that the Board has reached a tentative agreement with the Custodian's Union

Ron Haskins asked for a motion to table the agreement with the Cafeteria Worker's Union, as they have not ratified their contract at this date.

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by John Bozzuto to table the agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and Local 1303-382 of Connecticut Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Cafeteria Workers) until they ratify their contract.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

b. Budget

A copy of the December 1 financial statement was included in the Board packet.

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Cheryl Smith remarked that substitute salaries is over budget as are electrical costs, natural gas and transportation. She stated that the medical and life insurance would probably be in the black at the end of the year and we could take money from those line items.

Chairwoman Smith suggested inviting the Board liaison from the Town Council to

attend further Board budget meetings.

c. Buildings & Grounds

Ron Haskins questioned the bleacher project at NBHS.

Donald Winnicki stated the gaps in the bleachers are closed and work is continuing.

Cheryl Smith questioned if Building & Grounds sub-committee had met lately.

Ron Haskins stated that they have not held a formal meeting at this time and he and John Bozzuto would schedule a meeting for the Building & Grounds sub-committee.

Cheryl Smith mentioned she would like to have periodic updates and asked them to consider regular meetings.

d. Curriculum

Bonnie Symanski remarked that the Curriculum Committee met and discussed Curriculum Management Cycle, POETS (organization started to support gifted students) and the CT Mastery and CAPT test scores.

e. Pension

Elisabeth Caplan mentioned that the Pension Committee met on January 8, 2006.

f. 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

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Policy #P6140 - New Construction – Naming Facilities
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

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by John Bozzuto to approve Policy #P6100 – Long Range Planning as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve Policy #P6110 – Retirement of Facilities as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve Policy #P6120 – Architect Selection as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

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MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve Policy #P6130 – New Construction – Site Selection as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve Policy #P6140 - New Construction – Naming Facilities as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve Policy #P9010 – Limits of Authority as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

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MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve Policy #P9020 – Legal Status of the Board – Elections of the Board as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN SMITH: AYE
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SYMANSKY: AYE

SECRETARY ONOFRIO: AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.: AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN: AYE
RON HASKINS: AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by John Bozzuto to approve Policy #P9030 – Conflict of Interest; Compensation of Board Members as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve Policy #P9040 – Organization of the Board – Organizational Meeting as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

January 19, 2006

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve Policy #P9050 – Chair as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN SMITH: AYE
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN SYMANSKY: AYE

SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:	AYE
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	AYE
RON HASKINS:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve Policy #P9060 – Board – Superintendent Relations as submitted.

Bonnie Symansky questioned if the words executive power could be changed to executive authority. She also questioned if the jobs of the Board and the jobs of the Superintendent could be listed. She felt this would add clarity and avoid confusions.

Cheryl Smith stated that policies tend not to be as specific as to list each job.

Bonnie Symansky stated she was looking for ways to avoid confusion and felt that the responsibility of the Board and the responsibility of the Superintendent should be added to this policy.

Cheryl Smith stated that we could not possibly list everything in the policy.

Bonnie Symansky questioned the last paragraph of the policy and asked if Items should be listed here

Cheryl Smith stated it is all encompassing and if we started listing items then the Board would have to stick to the list.

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MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve Policy # P9060 – Board – Superintendent Relations as amended at this meeting. The words executive power would be changed to executive authority.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-1

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve Policy #P9070 – Committee of the Whole as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to approve Policy #P9071 – Committees as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

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MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve Policy #P9072 – Organization of the Board as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN SMITH: AYE

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve Policy #P9080 – Board Meetings as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

g. ACES

Cheryl Smith remarked that the Executive Board of ACES met on January 12, and discussed auditor recommendations and the day care center. She mentioned that the ACES staff raised \$25,000 to help Hurricane Katrina victims. Mrs. Smith also mentioned that the search for a new Executive Director for ACES was ongoing.

h. Strategic Planning

No meeting at this time.

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i. Building Committee

Cheryl Smith stated that Karl Kilduff, Town Manager, had informed her that the Board's appointment of John Bozzuto and Bonnie Symansky to the Building Committee was voted down. He stated there had to be one Republican and one

Democrat serving on the committee. Mrs. Smith stated it was the Board's goal to build a school and not to be political. She mentioned that Bonnie Symansky had graciously stepped down and Ron Haskins would serve on the Building Committee with John Bozzuto. Cheryl Smith remarked she would inform Karl Kilduff that the change has been completed.

j. Calendar Committee

Marcey Onofrio mentioned that the calendar stands, as changed, as the decision came in from the state about changing the teacher's last day of school to the beginning of the year.

k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

No report at this time.

l. Communications

No report at this time.

V. New Business

Related only to items removed from the Consent Agenda.

VI. Visitors and Press

Phil Palma, President NBFT, submitted to the Board NBHS faculty's concerns with the block schedule for next year. (attached) He mentioned that many NBHS staff members do not see this as a true block schedule and it was presented to the faculty but not endorsed by the faculty.

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Craig Creller questioned where the next budget meeting would be held on January 26th.

Chairman Smith remarked at Totoket Valley Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.

Cliff Potter remarked that he and his wife have been following the North Branford Hockey team and they are awesome. He and his wife really enjoy the games. He stated that he thought the auditorium would be the best place to hold the Board meetings because of lighting, sound system and it is a professional building. He asked if Board members could do a recap of the previous Board meeting at each Board meeting. He also stated that the Board shouldn't be afraid to table motions if they need more information.

V. **The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2006 at Totoket Valley Elementary School at 7 p.m.**

XIV. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Ron Haskins to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 9:12 p.m.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine

Account Clerk