

**North Branford Board of Education Meeting
December 21, 2006**

The North Branford Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room at Totoket Valley Elementary School. The following members attended:

Board Chair:	Cheryl Smith
Board Vice-Chair:	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 Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to adjourn to Executive Session as permitted by 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, personnel and contracts at 6:10 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by John Bozzuto to reconvene to Public Session in the Totoket Valley Elementary School Library Media Center at 7:00 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Principals:	Michele Saulis, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Nancy Brittingham, TVES Robin Brown-Criscuolo, JHS Dr. Karen Johnson, STW

Joanne Wentworth	Christine Imperato	Rebecca Bainer
Kristen Baiocchi	Katie Baiocchi	Courtney Brown
Lauren Callachan	Kim Cappetta	Carlee Clarino
Deanna DeMatteo	Ashley DeMatteo	Mary DeMatteo
Marissa Doebrick	Mia Doody	Sarah Flynn
Samantha Flanagan	Natalie Galgano	Merisa Gerwein
Yardley Hansen	Lydia Holland	Lauren Horner
Ashley Hurley	Lauren Kinell	Kaitlyn Mahon
Hanna Marshall	Alyssa McNamara	Chelsea Myers
Katlin O'Donnell	Deseray Peterson	Fallon Pfeiffer
Krissy Polaski	Christina Riccitelli	Sara Robertson
Samantha Scavo	Rebecka Stobierski	Brittany Viele
Jennifer Walker	Kelly White	Tiffany Whited
Amanda Wysocki	Anthony Torino	Cheryl Torino
Babby Nuhn	Melissa Waterbury	Tammy Rusconi
Mark Meyers	Lisa Doebrick	Mary Rusconi
Claudia Baiocchi	Stephanie Flanagan	Karen Wysocki
Claudio Riccitelli	Cathy Riccitelli	Jayne O'Donnell
Debbie Kinell	Lisa Polaski	Pamela Brown
Denise Whited	Vincent Candelora	David McMahan
Carter Welch	Margaret Walker	Melinda Cappetta
Kathy Bainer	Kathleen Doody	Bruce Robertson

Cheryl Smith asked for a moment of silence for Scott Welton son of fourth grade teacher at TVES, Deborah Welton. Scott passed away in a motor vehicle accident. Scott Welton worked in our school system as a substitute teacher, substitute custodian and substitute cafeteria worker. He was attending Southern Connecticut University.

Tammy Rasconi, Freshmen President of Student Council, urged the Board of Education to consider Breathalyzer testing before the semi-formal dance.

II. Student Representative

NBHS student representatives reported on the following:

An independent group of students sold Christmas ornaments to benefit children at Yale Children's Hospital.

FBLA students participated in the Salvation Army Toy Drive. All the homerooms donated money and bought toys to present to the children.

NBHS Library held a Sweater Drive.

Students participated in a Hat Day to raise money for a semi-formal.

NBHS students recognized the new communications advisor, Joe Tenczar, stating he made major improvements in the weekly homeroom announcements.

Project Graduation held a poinsettia drive to raise money.

The Select Chorus and Student Council hosted a Holiday Party for North Branford Senior Citizens.

Winter sports consisting of Girls and Boys Basketball, Hockey, Fencing, Swimming, and indoor track are all underway.

The Girls' Field Hockey Team is to be congratulated for winning All-State and all of NBHS and the town are very proud of this team and their accomplishments.

Midterms will be held in the third week of January.

The Theatre Arts Club will present multiple one-act plays in January.

Mr. Congo, NBHS Regular Chorus, Select Chorus and band held their Holiday Concert on January 13, 2006.

Both representatives remarked to the Board that they support Breathalyzer testing.

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to add this appointment to the Consent Agenda:

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Cynthia Daley to the position of health educator at NBIS, to be placed on Masters, Step 8 of the contract between the North Branford Federation of Teachers and the North Branford Board of Education.

CHAIRWOMAN SMITH:	YES
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	YES
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	YES
JOHN BOZZUTO:	YES
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	YES
RON HASKINS:	YES

MOTION PASSED 6-0

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the November 16, 2006 North Branford Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations - None at this time.

c. Appointments

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Jacqueline Thurston to the position of special education teacher at TVES to be placed at Bachelors, Step 1 of the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers. Jacqueline has served as a special education permanent substitute since the beginning of the school year. She graduated from Providence College in 2006 and carries dual certification in special education and elementary education.

The Superintendent has received recommendations from Michele Saulis, Principal of NBHS, for the following coaching positions:

Fencing Head Coach	Jackie Folz
Assistant Boys Basketball Coach (Freshmen)	David LaCroix
Assistant Baseball Coach (Freshmen)	Frank Mentone

The Superintendent is recommending the approval of the above individuals to these coaching positions.

d. Leaves

The Superintendent has received a request for leave from Nicki Brustman, grade 6 social studies teacher at NBIS, under Article 20 of the agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers. The leave is for the period January 2, 2007 through January 22, 2007 and February 5, 2007 through April 5, 2007.

e. Donations

The school district has received a generous donation of six HP laptops and software from Hewlett Packard. This hardware and software donation is valued at \$6,000.

f. Field Trip

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Alan Davis, Principal of NBIS, for a one-day trip to Boston, Massachusetts. This is the intermediate school's annual eighth grade trip.

Motion: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

CHAIRWOMAN SMITH:	YES
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	YES
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	YES
JOHN BOZZUTO:	YES
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	YES
RON HASKINS:	YES

MOTION PASSED 6-0

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. Recognition

The North Branford 2007 Teacher of the Year, Carter Welch, health educator and department chair at NBHS, received the Board of Education's Teacher of the Year award. Board Chair, Cheryl Smith, and Principal, Michele Saulis, joined the Superintendent in making this presentation. Carter received an award presented by Interim Commissioner of Education, Dr. George Coleman, at a ceremony held November 15th at the Bushnell in Hartford. Congratulations to Carter on receiving this very high honor.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that Carter symbolizes the quality of teachers in the North Branford School system and Carter is ever-willing to advance education at NBHS.

The Board also recognized the NBHS Class S Field Hockey Team. The Thunderbirds won the State Championship with a thrilling 1-0 overtime win against Haddam Killingworth in the finals of the State Tournament. This marked the first time in 25 years that North Branford won the Field Hockey Championship. On route to the championship, the Thunderbirds also defeated #1 ranked Louis Mills, 1-0, in the semifinals. The Thunderbirds shut-out all four oponents in the tournament. High School Principal, Michele Saulis, Coach Babby Nuhn, and Board Chair, Cheryl Smith, presented awards to the Lady Thunderbirds. Congratulations to Coach Babby Nuhn and her championship team.

Rebecca Bainer
Kristen Baiocchi
Katie Baiocchi
Courtney Brown
Lauren Callachan
Kim Cappetta
Carlee Clarino
Deanna DeMatteo
Ashley DeMatteo

Mary DeMatteo
Marissa Doebrick
Mia Doody
Samantha Flanagan
Sarah Flynn
Natalie Galgano
Marisa Gerwein

Lydia Holland
Lauren Horner
Ashley Hurley
Lauren Kinell
Kaitlyn Mahon
Hanna Marshall
Alyssa McNamara
Chelsea Myers
Katlin O'Donnell
Deseray Peterson
Fallon Pfeiffer
Krissy Polaski
Yardly Hansen

Christina Riccitelli
Sara Robertson
Samantha Scavo
Rebecka Stobierski
Anthony Torino
Cheryl Torino
Brittany Viele
Jennifer Walker
Kelly White
Tiffany Whited
Amanda Wysocki
Anthony Torino
Cheryl Torino
Lori Rubino
Babby Nuhn

On route to the State Championship, Babby Nuhn was named Coach of the Year by the New Haven Register and NBHS Seniors, Natalie Galgano and Courtney Brown, and Junior, Christina Riccitelli, were named to the All Area Field Hockey Team. A special congratulations to these individuals on receiving these awards.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that all these students also participate in charity work, as Ms. Nuhn wants excellence from her teams both on and off the field. He also mentioned that most of the team makes honors or high-honors.

A film produced at NBHS was presented to the Board of Education at this meeting.

b. Communications - None at this time.

c. Principal Search

The Principal Search Committee met on Wednesday and Thursday, December 13 and 14. Nine semifinalists were interviewed by the committee with the intent of narrowing the pool. Finalists were selected and scheduled for a second interview following the holiday break. Special thanks were given to the faculty members, parents, Board of Education member and administrators who contributed their time and energy on the search committee.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that there were thirty applications for this position and mentioned that the finalists will have a second interview on January 4, 2007.

d. Powerschool Update

The Superintendent was pleased to inform the Board of Education that the parent component of Powerschool has been implemented at NBIS. Alan Davis was available to answer any questions the Board had regarding this implementation.

Superintendent Wolfe mentioned that he had many calls from parents stating that Powerschool was the best thing that ever happened and they support it.

e. Nutcracker

The Superintendent was pleased to report that third grade students at TVES had the opportunity to travel to the Parson's Complex in Milford to attend the New England Ballet's performance of the Nutcracker. Tickets were made available at a discounted rate and Dattco Bus Company provided the transportation.

f. Community Service

The North Branford Family Resource Center – Preschool participated in the annual Community Round Up held in October. Children from the Preschool contributed non-perishable food items to do their part in this community and school-wide event.

V. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the Board of Education and Town Council members unanimously approved the administrator's contract. He stated that everyone felt the contract was fair to the administrators and the community.

b. Budget

Superintendent Wolfe reminded everyone of the upcoming budget dates and remarked that electricity will have a major impact on this budget.

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

c. Buildings & Grounds

No report at this time.

d. Curriculum

No report at this time.

e. Pension

Ron Haskins stated that the meeting was more of an information seminar on pension funds.

f. Policy

The Board was provided a copy of the following policies for first reading:

- Policy #P4015 – News Media Relationships
- Policy #P4020 – Videotaping of Staff/Students
- Policy #P4030 – Distribution of Materials by Third Parties
- Policy #P4040 – Recognition of Students, Citizens...
- Policy #P4050 – Communications with the Public
- Policy #P4060 – Community Organizations
- Policy #P4070 – School Visitors

The Board was also provided a copy of the following revised policy for second reading and approval:

Policy #P1020 – Attendance

MOTION: Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve Policy #1020 – Attendance as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN SMITH:	YES
VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:	YES
SECRETARY ONOFRIO:	YES
JOHN BOZZUTO:	YES
ELISABETH CAPLAN:	YES
RON HASKINS:	YES

MOTION PASSED 6-0

g. ACES

Cheryl Smith stated that this meeting is the best meeting of the year. She had the opportunity to meet all the artists who contributed to the Holiday cards. Mrs. Smith displayed the sweatshirt designed by ACES students and invited a member of the Board of Education to attend the February 2007 meeting with her.

Elisabeth Caplan agreed to attend this ACES meeting with Cheryl Smith.

Cheryl Smith stated that the meeting focused on magnet schools, transportation issues involving Project Choice students and negotiations.

h. Strategic Planning

No report at this time.

i. Building Committee

No report at this time.

j. Calendar Committee

No report at this time.

k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

No report at this time.

l. Communication

No report at time.

VI. New Business

No new business at this time.

VII. Visitors and Press

Robin Brown-Criscuolo asked the Board of Education if they had made a decision on her request for an exit interview. She remarked that she asked for one at the last Board meeting and has not as of yet received a reply.

VIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2007 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 7:55 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk