

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 15, 2007

The North Branford Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room at Totoket Valley Elementary School on Thursday, March 15, 2007. The following members attended:

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

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. to discuss personnel, negotiations and contracts 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 Ron Haskins and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to reconvene to Public Session at 6:50 p.m. in the Library Media Center.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Building & Grounds:	Todd Jaramillo
Principals:	Michele Saulis, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Nancy Brittingham, TVES

Joe Tenczar
Cliff Potter
Christine Imperato
Phil Palma, NBFT
Todd Stoeffler
Rose Angeloni
Michael Scott, Herbert Newman Associates

:

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to add to the agenda discussion and action regarding Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the North Branford Intermediate School Renovate as New Project.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

There were no visitor comments at this time.

II. Student Representative

Student Representation was not present at this meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the February 15, 2007 North Branford Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Mr. Brian Smith, mathematics teacher at NBHS, effective at the end of the 2006/2007 school year.

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Ms. Lindsay Wasserman, social studies teacher at NBHS, effective at the end of the 2006/2007 school year.

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Ms. Tamara Pierson, looping teacher at STW, effective at the end of the 2006/2007 school year.

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Mr. George Kevalas, counselor at TVES, effective March 30th, 2007. Mr. Kevalas served the district for more than 27 years.

- c. Appointments - None at this time.
- d. Leaves - None at this time.
- e. Donations - None at this time.
- f. Field Trip

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Ms. Jennifer McGrath of NBHS for a trip to Tenement Museum and Little Italy in New York on May 30, 2007.

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

Elisabeth Caplan had one correction:

February 15, 2007 minutes – page 3

Elisabeth Caplan voted **to abstain** as she was not at January 2007 Board of Education meeting.

MOTION PASSED 5-0-1

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Ron Haskins to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wolfe explained the first two phases of the NBIS project and stated that HAZMAT removal is Phase I and is scheduled to begin immediately following the close of school this June. Phase 2 will begin with the demolition of the current cafeteria and the building of new cafeteria and music rooms.

Michael Scott, representing Herbert Newman Associates, presented a Power Point presentation for Phase 2 touching on the media center, music suite, cafeteria, unified arts wing, fully renovated gymnasium, third floor for eighth grade, new sixth grade wing, renovated seventh grade wing and the landscape.

Cheryl Smith questioned that the Board was being asked to give approval on cost estimates that they do not have. She questioned the cost for Phase I.

Michael Scott stated that it would be about \$400,000. and an extra \$100,00 was being held in reserve if needed for emergencies.

Cheryl Smith questioned where the administrators would be this summer at NBIS.

Dr. Wolfe stated the NBIS administrators would use one of the rooms in the auditorium this summer.

Elisabeth Caplan asked for a more intense explanation of the drop off center and questioned if it would be secure.

Michael Scott stated that Administrators would be in a better position to observe both entrance doors and the reception area also would view both entrances. The interior wall is made of glass and all offices had windows.

Donald Winnicki stated that there are really four phases to the NBIS project.

Phase I	Asbestos removal
Phase II	The lion's share of the work – rebuilding NBIS
Phase III	Furniture and Equipment
Phase IV.	Portables

Dr. Wolfe stated that the entire NBIS Project has a price tag of \$36,400,000.

Cheryl Smith questioned how much of the project the state would fund.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the state would fund 57% of eligible costs.

Don Winnicki stated he hopes to have all figures by the April 19, 2007 Board of

Education meeting.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that special thanks goes to the entire faculty and staff at NBIS as well as building administrators for participating in a series of focus group with representatives of Herbert Newman Associates. The faculty's attention to detail allowed us to make a number of changes before the final design.

Superintendent Wolfe mentioned that in order to proceed with the first two phases of the North Branford Middle School Renovate as New Project 099-0049 RNV/E, the Board needs to review and approve the final plans and estimates submitted by the architect so an ED042 can be filed with the State Department of Facilities Unit. This form will allow the State's architects to review the plans and cost estimate we submit. Prior to submission, the School Building Committee will also have to review and approve the plans and cost estimates for these two phases.

MOTION: Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve the Final Plans and Professional Cost Estimates for Phase I, Hazardous Materials Abatement of Project 099-0049RNV/E North Branford Middle School as submitted and forward to the Permanent Building Committee.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to Final Plans and Professional Cost Estimates for Phase 2, Construction Project 099-0049RNV/E North Branford Middle School as submitted and forward to the Permanent Building Committee.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

John Bozzuto questioned where the temporary classrooms will go and if it would house all ten portables.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that in the first year we would only need two portables and in the 2008-2009 school year we would need ten portables. He mentioned that they would be housed most likely in the parking lot that borders Route 80.

Michael Scott mentioned that a covered walkway to the school is being considered.

a. Recognition - None at this time.

Dr. Wolfe stated that a representative of CAFE was going to present awards tonight for the Annual Report, Summer Brochure and the District Calendar but because of an emergency the representative could not make the meeting. The presentation will be at a future meeting.

b. Communications - None at this time.

c. NBIS Focus Groups

On Thursday, March 1, 2007, faculty, staff and administration of NBIS met in focus groups with representatives of Herbert Newman Associates, architects for the Renovate as New Project for the middle school. A total of 45 individuals met with the architects for discussions that were germane to their specific instructional/work areas. The Superintendent extends a sincere thank you for the commitment on the part of the NBIS staff and their attention to detail that will result in an improved work and learning environment.

d. NBHS Drama Production

Tickets are now available for the NBHS Drama Club's Production of **Once Upon a Mattress**. The performances will be held at the Auditorium on Thursday, March 29th, Friday, March 30th, and Saturday, March 31st. All performances will be at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for children under 12 years of age -\$10 for senior citizens and \$12 for adults. Tickets are on sale Monday and Wednesday evenings at the Auditorium from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

e. CMT/CAPT Testing

The 2007 testing window for the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) and Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) is March 5th to March 30th. The testing window includes two weeks of formal testing and two weeks of make-up for students who may have been absent during the formal testing window. The Connecticut General Statutes mandate a statewide assessment to be administered to all public school students in grades 3 through 8 (CMT) and grade 10 (CAPT).

Dr. Wolfe thanked Joan Follo, staff and building principals for their efforts.

Joan Follo thanked Elizabeth Anastasia, NBHS staff and Maureen McCarthy for a terrific job.

f. SCASA Student Award Luncheon

The Superintendent provided the Board an advance copy of the program for the South Central Area Superintendent's Association Student Awards Luncheon to be held Friday, March 16, 2007 at the Laurel View Country Club in Hamden.

Six North Branford students will be honored. Almost 300 individuals are expected representing 16 towns. Opening remarks will be made by Dr. David Larson, Executive Director of CAPSS. Guest speaker for the event is Dr. Cheryl Norton, President of Southern Connecticut State University.

Due to the pending weather conditions this event will be held on March 30, 2007.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that seventy-one students from sixteen towns would attend this luncheon for a total of two hundred and eighty-six in attendance.

g. Board of Education's 2007/2008 Budget Request

The Board of Education's 2007/2008 Budget Request was submitted to the Town Manager and Town Council on Tuesday, February 27th, 2007. The Superintendent provided the Board with revised budget books.

Dr. Wolfe stated he would confirm the dates and then send them to all Board of Education members when dates are confirmed.

Superintendent Wolfe remarked that Anthem submitted a 2% increase.

h. Professional Development Day

Certified staff members will be involved in a full day of professional development activities on Monday, March 26, 2007. The activities will span a wide range of building-based and system initiatives K-12. Joan Follo, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, was available to highlight some of these activities.

The Superintendent extended his thanks for the time, energy and effort that has gone into this important professional development day.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that Michele Saulis and NBHS will be involved with site based planning on March 26th and March 27th.

Cheryl Smith remarked that a school system in Maryland holds classes on-line when they have a snow day.

i. Kindergarten Enrollment

Kindergarten registration as of March 7, 2007 is as follows:

STW	71
JHS	69

Dr. Wolfe mentioned a modest proposal to cap JHS and STW at 72 students for kindergarten. If we get more students than 72 at each school then we could fill one section with students from JHS and STW. We would utilize only one-half kindergarten position at STW. This position would be at STW because it would be more cost effective for transportation. If we get a lot more students then this would not be an issue. He remarked that we would just monitor the situation for the time being.

Bonnie Symansky questioned if we only get seven or eight more students what would happen.

Dr. Wolfe stated that then we would have to see if eight divided by four is acceptable to the Board of Education.

V. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations - None at this time.

b. Budget

Elisabeth Caplan remarked that there were no drastic changes and professional services were still over expended.

Elisabeth Caplan questioned how the energy costs look at this time.

Donald Winnicki remarked that so far it looks pretty good.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned we had savings of 17% in January but in February we didn't fare as well.

A copy of the March 1 financial statement was enclosed for Board review.

Dr. Wolfe distributed a copy of area town's budget deliberations stating that most were over North Branford's submitted budget of 5.15%.

- c. Buildings & Grounds - Ron Haskins distributed a memo for the underground oil storage piping at NBHS and STW.

Donald Winnicki stated we only received two bids and one of them was not complete. He stated that the good news was that the successful bidder was less than what we had anticipated. He remarked that they came up very high on references stating that they have done work for the Coast Guard.

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by John Bozzuto to award RFP 03-2007 Underground Oil Storage Piping at North Branford High School to Lemelin Environmental Services of Chicopee, Massachusetts in the amount of \$19,450.00

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by John Bozzuto to award RFP 23-2007 Underground Oil Storage Piping at Stanley T. Williams School to Lemelin Environmental Services of Chicopee, Massachusetts in the amount of \$25,570.00.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Cheryl Smith asked what the amount was that was budgeted for these two projects.

Donald Winnicki stated that we budgeted \$18,000.00 more and NBHS came in slightly higher than what we estimated but STW was significantly lower.

Marcey Onofrio questioned when this work would take place.

Donald Winnicki stated NBHS would begin on April 9, 2007 and STW would start about June 25, 2007. He stated no work would be done with students in the building. He also mentioned that this company would restore the grounds after the work was completed.

d. Curriculum

Bonnie Symansky stated that AP courses were discussed with Michele Saulis, NBHS principal, and the reasons for students to take these courses.

e. Pension

Elisabeth Caplan mentioned that the committee discussed the pension of a cafeteria employee and discussed the changing of funds.

f. Policy

The Board is provided a copy of the following policies for second reading and approval:

Policy #P4110 – Advertising and Promotion

Policy #P4120 – Smoke Free Environment

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by John Bozzuto to approve Policy #P4110 – Advertising and Promotion as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by John Bozzuto to approve Policy #P4120 – Smoke Free Environment as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6–0

g. ACES

Cheryl Smith stated that at the last meeting a presentation on the Choice Program was held. A charity auction for March 21, 2007 to fund the foundation and professional development was discussed. Mrs. Smith stated that there would be an increase in tuition for the next school year.

h. Strategic Planning

Dr. Wolfe mentioned site-based planning on March 26th and 27th at NBHS.

i. Building Committee

John Bozzuto remarked there would be a meeting on March 19, 2007 on Phase One and Phase Two for the NBIS Project.

j. Calendar Committee - No meeting

k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee – No meeting.

l. Communication

Bonnie Symansky stated the committee is waiting for information from Donald Winnicki

Donald Winnicki stated he contacted Steve and he is interested in an evening meeting or a Saturday meeting. Mr. Winnicki stated the next step is to set up a meeting with the interested participants.

Joe Tenczar stated that tapes would be on Channel 18, the town channel, for the time being.

Bonnie Symansky remarked that she is looking forward to seeing more student work.

VI. New Business

No new business at this time.

VII. Visitors and Press

Cliff Potter remarked that the town of North Branford is in the habit of doing just enough. He remarked that the police station is too small, the town hall is getting over-crowded, the senior center is older than some seniors and Jerome Harrison is running out of room. He cautioned the Board not to build NBIS too small and repeat the same mistake as many of our other town buildings. He stated the Board should make sure NBIS could be added on to in the future, if needed. Mr. Potter remarked that there is a lot of wasted space at Town Hall such as the entranceway. Mr. Potter also questioned why no one from the Town Council was at tonight's Board of Education meeting.

Cheryl Smith stated that previous Board of Education meetings have been attended by various members of the Town Council such as Mary Bigelow, Joanne Wentworth and Andrew Bozzuto.

Mr. Potter stated that the last video - tape of the Board of Education meeting had problems with the audio portion.

Bonnie Symansky stated that they are aware of this and they are working to solve the problem.

VIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2007 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:10 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk