

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 19, 2007

The North Branford Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference room at Totoket Valley Elementary School on Thursday, April 19, 2007. The following members attended:

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

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Robert K. Wolfe

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky 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 negotiations and personnel.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to reconvene to Public Session at 6:55 p.m. in the Library Media Center.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Joan Follo
Principals:	Michele Saulis, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Dr. Karen Johnson, STW Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Robert Sullivan
Stephanie DeFrance
Paul Malcolm
Mark Connolly
Cliff Potter
Douglas Combs

Mary Sullivan
Kim Malcolm
Jocelyn Felton
Bill Connolly
Dolina Potter
Joanne Wentworth

Kevin Sullivan
Chelsea Malcolm
Kevin Felton
David McMahon
Kyle Combs
Marcia Staffa

Melissa Waterbury
Christine Imperato

Deepa Mavani

Chris Webster

II. Student Representatives

Melissa Waterbury and Deepa Mavani reported on the following:

- What's Up With This Day:** Held on April 18th to help NBHS students understand and deal with character education issues. Various topics included steroids, drugs, alcohol, teen relationships, etc. A full assembly was held at NBHS with a guest speaker who was also a comedian.
- Once Upon a Mattress:** The Drama Club play was a huge success and enjoyed by all that attended.
- Panjea-Jam for Peace:** Charity event to raise money for Africa will be held on April 20, 2007 at NBHS.
- Project Graduation:** A car wash will be held on May 5th and a Powder Puff game on May 6th to benefit Project Graduation.
- Junior Prom:** The prom will be held on April 27, 2007.
- AP Exams:** Seniors will soon take Exams.
- Sports:**
Baseball- 3-1
Softball- 4-2
Tennis and lacrosse – Doing well but many games cancelled because of weather.
Hockey - Attended CIAC Division 3 playoffs.
Basketball – Girls attended CIAC playoffs.
- FBLA:** Sold pies for Easter to benefit club.
- Americare:** Students will be improving a house on April 28th and May 5th.
- Honor Society:** New members will be inducted into the Honor Society on May 16th.
- Relay for Life:** Students are competing in a Penny War between classes. There are a variety of teams representing NBHS. The boys' baseball team will hold a hat day to benefit Relay for Life.

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the March 15, 2007 Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Mrs. Barbara Soch, music educator at Totoket Valley Elementary School. This resignation is effective June 30, 2007. Barbara has dedicated the past 23 years to the North Branford Public Schools.

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Mrs. Nancy Gray, physical education teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School. This resignation is effective June 30, 2007. Nancy has dedicated 33 years to the North Branford Public Schools.

We thank both Barbara and Nancy for their dedicated service to the children of North Branford and wish them a happy and healthy retirement.

c. Appointments – None at this time.

d. Leaves – None at this time.

e. Field Trips – None at this time.

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

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Elisabeth Caplan mentioned that she attended the Drama Club production stating that the play was fabulous and Melissa Waterbury did a wonderful job. She thanked Mrs. Genzano stating the production was a lot of fun.

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. Recognition

Dr. Wolfe welcomed John Prins from CAFE who was in attendance tonight to present awards to the North Branford Board of Education.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that North Branford has received fourteen awards in five years from CAFE.

Mr. Prins presented the first place award to the Board of Education for the Superintendent's Annual Report. He congratulated Dr. Wolfe and the Board of Education and also presented Honorable Mention awards for the 2006-2007 District Calendar and the Summer Program Brochure "What Do You Collect?"

Mr. Prins stated that CAFE is the organization, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education that represents Connecticut's Boards of Education.

Cheryl Smith presented the award to Dr. Wolfe stating he should be very proud of his report.

Six North Branford Students Received Honors At Annual SCASA Awards Luncheon

The South Central Area Superintendent Association honored 71 students on March 30 at their second annual Student Recognition Luncheon held at Laurel View Country Club in Hamden. Over 280 people were in attendance with guest speaker, Peyton Patterson, President, Chair and CEO of New Alliance Bank. Superintendent Bob Wolfe, Co-Chair of SCASA coordinated the event. Students were selected for their overall academic achievement, extra-curricular involvement and community service. Each district was allowed to name six students, with the exiting grade at each level having two representatives.

The Board of Education recognized the following students who represented North Branford:

TVES - Grade 5
NBIS - Grade 8
NBHS - Grade 12

Jocelyn Felten
Chelsea Malcolm
Melissa Waterbury

Kevin Sullivan
Kyle Combs
Mark Connolly

Stephanie DeFrance represented Nancy Brittingham as the Principals of each school and the Chairwoman of the Board of Education presented plaques to each of the students.

Dr. Wolfe and members of the Board of Education congratulated these students on being selected for this honor.

Chris Webster to be Honored - Inducted into the CT Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

Chris Webster, North Branford Public Schools' Athletic Director will be honored on April 25, 2007 as she will be inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. The dinner induction ceremony will be held at Cascade in Hamden.

Coach Webster has led the Lady T-Birds into four State Championships during her 30 years as Head Girls' Basketball Coach. The 1976 Championship was the first ever State Championship, boys or girls, for North Branford High School. The 1986-87 team posted a 26-0 record culminating in another State Championship. Students who played between 1986-1989 earned a record of 95 wins and only 6 losses including a 53 game winning streak that spanned three years.

Chris has garnered more than 440 career wins during her 30 years at the helm of North Branford Women's' Basketball. She began as Athletic Director 16 years ago.

Dr. Wolfe and members of the Board of Education saluted Chris Webster and thanked her for her major contribution to NB sports.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the Lady T Birds lost in triple overtime this year.

b. Communications

Dr. Wolfe distributed a copy of the NBHS Spring Sports schedule and shared several thank you notes from staff members with the Board.

c. Summer of 2007

The Summer of 2007 – “Classic Toys – Great Camps” brochure was released for distribution in both North Branford and North Haven on March 1st. As of April 4th, 900 program registrations have been received. Approximately two-thirds of the registrations are from North Branford and one-third from North Haven.

Superintendent Wolfe remarked that Laser Tag, Bowling Camp and Ping-Pong camp are the favorites at this time.

d. Graduation Date

In accordance with State Statute the North Branford Board of Education may establish a firm graduation date after April 1st of the school year. In as much as the school system has experienced three snow days this moves graduation to Wednesday, June 20th, 2007.

MOTION: Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to establish the 2007 North Branford High School graduation for Wednesday, June 20, 2007.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

e. Professional Development

Certified staff members were involved in a full day of professional development activities on Monday, March 26th. The activities spanned a wide range of building-based and system initiatives K-12. Joan Follo, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, was available to highlight the successful day's activities.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned the site-based planning at NBHS with Michele Saulis, Todd Stoeffler and Howard Fedemma. He remarked that he was very pleased with the work that was done at NBHS on this day. He also thanked Joan Follo for all her work in planning and coordinating Professional Development Day for all schools.

Joan Follo mentioned many of the activities that went on at the various schools: curriculum based activities, web design, IEP data, etc. Joan mentioned that second grade and fifth grade teachers attended workshops at historical locations. The second grade teachers went to the Little Red Schoolhouse and fifth grade teachers went to the

Reynold Beers House. Joan Follo also mentioned members of the historical society and thanked them for all their help and support. (Mary Bigelow, Joan Finch, Grace Marx, Janet Gregan, Fran Conant)

f. Health and Physical Education Implementation Phase Report

As part of the Curriculum Management Cycle (CMC), the end of the year summative reports for Health and Physical Education are brought to your attention. During the 2006-2007 school year, Health K-12 has been in the first phase of implementation and Physical Education has been in the second phase. Carter Welch, Department Chairperson for Health and Physical Education, authored both reports. Joan Follo, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, was available to answer any questions the Board had regarding these reports.

Joan Follo mentioned that Carter Welch presented this curriculum to the sub-committee and did a marvelous job. She remarked that the curriculum to be integrated for k-5 health presented a slight problem and various ways were being developed and looked at for future development.

g. “Arts In the Middle”

Mr. David Holland, art educator at NBIS, has selected fourteen children to bring to the “Arts in the Middle” Conference at Hartford University’s Art School on Tuesday, May 22nd. Mr. Holland will be a presenter (for sculpture) at this conference. The students will attend their choice of two workshops. They will meet and work with peers from around the State and learn first-hand the importance of the visual arts.

Below are list of the students who will be attending the conference.

Grade 8

Raychel Decker
Carly Donath
Sara Gecter
Victoria Hultgren
Jackie Ferraro
Chris Selander
Joe Lynch
Miranda Vogt

Grade 7

Kristina Otfinoski
Jessica Wharton
Tiffany Mongilio
Danielle Roberts

Grade 6

Connor Sullivan
Eric Otfinoski

We thank Mr. Holland for providing this opportunity to our middle school students and wish him much success in presenting at this conference.

Alan Davis remarked that NBIS was very proud of Mr. Holland and that he was a real dynamo with the Art Club. Mr. Davis stated that many NBIS students are members of the Art Club.

h. Future Problem Solving Program of Connecticut

For the first time, North Branford Intermediate School students participated in the 24th annual Future Problem Solving (FPS) Connecticut Conference in Storrs, March 30th-31st. Science teacher Richard Burke initiated the program at NBIS this year. He has been working with seventh grade students Gregory Marak, Jason VanLeeuwen, Kristina Otfinoski, Matthew Levine and Lauren Manna in preparation for this special conference.

The FPS Program of CT is a non-profit educational program that prepares students for the future by teaching them the essential problem solving skills they need today. The program teaches students *how to think*, not *what to think*. Teams of Future Problem Solvers have been studying the topic of "Caring for our Elders" for the past two months in preparation for the state conference. On March 30th, the first day of the competition in Storrs, student teams and individuals were presented with a possible future problem scenario that relates to the topic of "Caring for Elders". Then, students used the program's six-step problem solving process to analyze the potential situation, determine the challenges, describe the underlying problem, outline solutions, evaluate solutions and detail their best solution. A panel of judges evaluated the students' work.

On Friday, March 30th, the students registered, enjoyed opening remarks and wrote their solutions to the challenge. On Saturday, March 31st, our team began preparing a skit for the competition later in the afternoon. The awards ceremony took place on Saturday evening after Senator Edith Prague addressed the group and honored the top FPS teams and individuals, along with the winners of the *creative writing* competition. Connecticut's winners will move on to the next round of the competition at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, May 31st – June 3rd. Though our team did not win the competition, the students did exceptionally well for their first year in the program.

Alan Davis stated that Mr. Burke does an unbelievable job at NBIS and he is looking for this program to expand in the future.

Cheryl Smith questioned if students at NBIS have seen the performance on "Caring for Elders" developed by FPS students.

Alan Davis stated not at this time but he would discuss this with Mr. Burke.

i. Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for Stanley T. Williams School and Jerome Harrison School are currently at 70 students each. If it is necessary to add an additional section it will be added to Stanley T. Williams School first due to the transportation system.

j. Recycling Update

Recycling occurs at every level of the school system. The Superintendent provided an update to the Board of Education on the recycling efforts that have been initiated in the North Branford Public Schools. Students are actively involved in collection of recycling materials. At several schools, recycling committees assist in the pick-up and distribution of recycling materials.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that bottles and cans are separated from waste paper and corrugated cardboard. He remarked that Life Skills students are very involved with recycling at various schools.

Cheryl Smith questioned if we have hazardous materials in our Science Labs and how they are handled.

Donald Winnicki stated that we have a licensed contractor who comes in once a year to do hazardous waste removal. He mentioned that we have recently gone through NBIS and NBHS extensively.

V. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations

The negotiations committee set the next meeting for April 26, 2007.

b. Budget

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the Town Council cut his proposed budget from 5.15% to 4.20 % and that resulted in a \$250,000 cut and \$103,000 for security was cut from the Capital Improvements Budget. At the last meeting \$80,000 was reinstated to the Capital Improvements Budget for security. Dr. Wolfe mentioned he appreciated this step from the Town Council but \$42,000 came from the operating budget. This makes a total of \$292,000 cut from the operating budget. This brings the Board of Education increase request down to 4.03% that is below what we need to maintain existing programs and personnel.

Cheryl Smith questioned if we still need a .5 kindergarten teacher with the numbers we now have.

Dr. Wolfe stated not at this time but we will have to watch the numbers.

Cheryl Smith questioned when the next budget sub-committee would be held.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that it was set for May 8, 2007 but the Board might consider moving it as the Town Referendum is on May 8th.

The sub-committee set their next meeting for May 9, 2007.

Cheryl Smith questioned what the rise in the mill rate would be for next year if budgets passed.

Joanne Wentworth stated under a mill (.99).

Elisabeth Caplan questioned the note on the 300 accounts.

Donald Winnicki remarked that he carried the 323 and the 330 objects for many years the way he received them. He met with Suzanne Wright these past few months and decided that many services should have been in the 323 account instead of the 330. There is no difference in the monies when the two lines are added together just a recategorization of accounts.

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

c. Buildings & Grounds

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that design documents for NBIS have been received. He remarked that it is very crucial that this project begin prior to June 30, 2007. He discussed a few of the changes. Dr. Wolfe mentioned that there is a planning meeting in Hartford on Monday, April 23rd. Dr. Wolfe stated that he appreciates the Town Council's support on moving forward with this project.

d. Curriculum

Bonnie Symansky remarked that Joan Follo has done a wonderful job with professional development. She mentioned that the professional development team is researching how professional development standards are changing and developing strategies for these changes.

Elisabeth Caplan mentioned some strategies being developed for implementing Health and Physical Education into the curriculum. (Health Fairs, Community Projects with Park & Recreation and PTO, etc.)

Mrs. Caplan remarked that Carter Welch, Joan Follo and various staff members are developing great ways to face these challenges and thanked them for all they do.

e. Pension

No report at this time.

f. Policy

The Board of Education received the following policies for first reading:

Policy #P2130	Professional Development (Rev. from P2130 – C.E.U.'s)
Policy #P5000	Administration – Basic Concept
Policy #P5010	Organizational Chart
Policy #P5020	Hiring School Administrators
Policy #P5030	Administrative Councils and Committees

Bonnie Symansky questioned the Professional Development policy remarking that it seemed to only address administrators. She questioned if there was another professional development policy for teachers.

Dr. Wolfe stated he would have the committee look at it and make sure it addresses everyone. He mentioned that the next policy meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2007.

g. ACES

Cheryl Smith remarked that ACES governing board met last week and Peter Smith (RISK) gave a presentation. She mentioned education being a tax burden on taxpayers was discussed and ways were mentioned on how to cut costs on school systems and the taxpayers. (bulk buying between school systems, sharing resources by school systems, etc). Mrs. Smith mentioned that the Foundation event raised \$27,200. She mentioned money from the state that would go into the town's general fund was discussed.

h. Strategic Planning

Dr. Wolfe remarked that building based initiatives are continuing to be developed and the Board would receive a report in the future on all schools.

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

Bonnie Symansky remarked that new equipment has been ordered and Board meetings should be on the education channel shortly.

Don Winnicki stated Steve is working on the problem.

VII. New Business

No new business at this time.

VIII. Visitors and Press

No visitor comments at this time.

IX. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2007 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.

IX. Adjournment

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

ALL VOTED AYE

Sincerely submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk