

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**September 20, 2007**

The North Branford Board of Education meeting of September 20, 2007 was called to order at 6:09 p.m. in the Conference Room of Totoket Valley Elementary School. 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
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**MOTION:** Moved by Elisabeth Caplan 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, personnel and legal matters.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**MOTION:** Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to reconvene to Public Session at 6:55 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**I. Visitors**

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

Jim Bouchard	Chris Manna	Lisa Albert
Christin Baldwin	Marie Pietrandrea	Marie Diamond
Robert Aments	Donna Aments	Donna Amento
Vincent Caprio	Laura Anastasio	Michael Lucibello
Doreen Currie	Amy Currie	Eilidh Currie
Nicole Bouchard	Julia Allain	Lisa Morris
Jessica Morris	Andrew Barbaro	Margaret Barbaro
Todd Ingarra	Mary Ingarra	Mr. & Mrs. Stan Slubowski
Kevin Currie	Ariana Acquarulo	Rose Angeloni
Ann Grogan	Sara Gaechter	Ralph Acquarulo
Cathy Acquarulo	Jacqueline Hemstock	Kim Neubig
Jared Neubig	David Neubig	Jacob Neubig
Emily Neubig	Kyle Combs	Douglas Combs
John Flanagan	Christine Flanagan	Carol Grasso
Al Johnson	Rhonda Johnson	David McMahon
J. P. Missett	Emma Missett	Laura Missett
Roxanne Bouchard	Birgetta Johnson	Robert Emerson
Ashley Slubowski	Olivia Hemstock	Silvestro Pietrandrea
Jessica Ingarra	Penny Seaman	

Rose Angeloni asked the Board to take another look at the proposed 08-09-school calendar. She remarked that the April vacation was before Easter and she felt there would be too long of a stretch until June and we might run into problems with other school districts that have a different spring break.

Lisa Albert stated that she knew the Superintendent's contract was up for renewal tonight. She remarked that despite a public outcry the Board was considering extending Dr. Wolfe's contract regardless. She mentioned that Dr. Wolfe has contributed many positive things to the school district but he has made many questionable decisions regarding our children. She stated that with his free time he works with other districts and is well compensated for this. She suggested that the Board bring in an advocate to support our children in special education needs. She remarked that the State Department of Education has received many complaints regarding special education issues in North Branford. Ms. Albert spoke about not giving a teacher tenure, 2 votes of no-confidence, renewal of Superintendent's contract not being made public, poor decision making with football team members. etc. She questioned where the character education is within our school district and urged the Board not to renew Dr. Wolfe's contract for another year.

## **II. Student Representative**

The Superintendent introduced and welcomed the North Branford High School Student Representatives for the 2007/2008 school year.

Samantha Flanagan  
Kathy Gargiulo  
Chris Fraenza

The students reported on the following items:

### **Sports**

Boy's Soccer -	2-1
Girl's Soccer -	2-1-1
Field Hockey -	3-0
Football -	1-0
Volleyball -	1-3
Cross Country-	0-2

## **Social**

Homecoming Game:                   October 19, 2007  
Homecoming Dance:                 October 20, 2007

## **Academics**

Freshmen Orientation held on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

PSAT's held on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

SAT's held on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

ACT held on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

The freshmen class elected Student Council Officers and now the Student Council is complete. This year, for the first time, Student Council meetings will be held monthly on a Monday night and parents are invited to attend.

### **III.    Consent Agenda**

#### a. Minutes

Minutes of the August 7, 2007 – Special Meeting

Minutes of the August 16, 2007 Board of Education meeting.

#### b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Ms. Jean Sunny, world language teacher at North Branford High School, effective August 27, 2007.

#### c. Appointments

The Superintendent has received recommendations from NBHS for 2007/2008 Department Chairs, Advisors and Coaches. The Superintendent has also received recommendations from NBIS for stipend positions. Special thanks are extended to administration and the athletic director for their efforts in filling these positions. The Superintendent is pleased with the personnel that will be guiding these activities. All of the positions are stipends in accordance with the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers. As such all appointments are renewed annually.

September 20, 2007

Motion: To accept the attached lists of Department Chairs, Advisors, Coaches and stipend positions as submitted.

See Superintendent's report for additional appointments.

d. Leaves - None at this time.

e. Field Trips

The field trip request of the NBHS baseball team can be found in the Superintendent's Report as it was removed from the Consent Agenda at the August 16, 2007 Board of Education Meeting.

f. Donations – None at this time.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Ron Haskin to amend and add the following items to the Consent Agenda of the September 20, 2007 Board of Education meeting:

The Superintendent has received recommendations and is recommending approval of the following stipend positions for the 2007/2008 school year.

Donnamarie Carboni	STW	A/V Coordinator
Eileen Chupron/Pam Kohler	JHS	A/V Coordinator
Stephanie DeFrance	TVES	A/V Coordinator
Deborah Welton	TVES	Lead Teacher
Elizabeth Battaglia	NBHS	Transition Coordinator

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Deanna Hafidi to the position of .6 music teacher at STW to be paid at Seventh Year, Step 4 per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers effective September 24, 2007

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

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

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

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

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

a. Recognition

2007/2008 District Calendar Artists

This evening we had a number of exceptional artists whose artwork appears in the 2007/2008 school calendar. Each student was presented with a certificate from the Board of Education for his or her efforts. Joan Follo and Board Chair Cheryl Smith presented the awards to the students.

These students are:

Kristen Combs	August '07
Birgetta Johnson	August '07
Lindsey Hottin	September '07 & May '08
Kristina Otfinoski	Oct. 07
Tiffany Mongillo	Oct. 07
Brittnie Batter	November '07
Jessica Morris	December '07
Robert Emerson	January '08
Sarah Flanagan	February '08
Sara Gaechter	March '08
Ashley Slubowski	April '08
Emily Neubig	April '08
Olivia Pietrogallo	June '08
Olivia Hemstock	June '08
Eilidh Currie	July '08
Silvestro Pietrandra	August '08
Jessica Ingarra	August '08

Dr. Wolfe and the Board of Education congratulated these students for their outstanding artwork. Superintendent Wolfe mentioned that 250 pieces of artwork was submitted and 17 were selected. Extra copies of the calendar were available for parents and relatives.

September 17, 2007

### North Branford High School Students – CAPT Scores

Nine North Branford High School students have distinguished themselves by performing at the advance level on all four of the 2007 Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPT) subtests. By so doing, their high achievement in mathematics, reading, writing and science makes them among the academic best in the State of Connecticut. The Commissioner of Education, Dr. Mark McQuillan, is recognizing each of the nine students with a letter of congratulations. Michele Saulis and Board Chair, Cheryl Smith presented each student with this letter from Dr. McQuillan.

Ariana Acquarulo  
Julia Allain  
Nicole Bouchard  
Andrew Cottiero  
Madelaine Fargeorge  
Robert Mercier  
Emma Missett  
Xinyou Peng  
Jake Seaman

Superintendent Wolfe read the letter that was presented to each student. Congratulations to these student on this high achievement.

#### b. Communications

Interdistrict Magnet School Parent Choice Legislation

Dr. Wolfe remarked that if seats at Magnet Schools were available our students could apply and this would have an impact on our budget.

A copy of the North Branford High School Fall Sports Schedule.

An addition to the NBHS yearbook.

Letter from the Connecticut Association Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance stating Babby Nuhn would be receiving a Pathfinders Award. The letter stated that Ms Nuhn was truly a leader and ground- breaker. Dr. Wolfe stated that Ms. Nuhn has been a role model for over 3 decades.

Cheryl Smith asked Dr. Wolfe to send a letter of congratulations to Ms. Nuhn from her and all Board members.

Dr. Wolfe stated it would be an honor. He mentioned that Babby would be presented with the award on November 15, 2007.

c. Opening Convocation

The Opening Convocation of the North Branford Public Schools was held on Monday, August 27, 2007. Dr. Mark McQuillan, Commissioner of Education, was the featured guest speaker. Dr. McQuillan highlighted new initiatives within his department. Board Chair, Cheryl Smith, NBFT President, Phil Palma, and Teacher of the Year, Brian Bodner, also spoke. Part of the Opening Convocation was a retrospective look-back at the 2006/2007 school year produced by Barbara Girard against a backdrop of music by Jim Brickman. This presentation was shared with the Board.

Dr. Wolfe thanked Barb Girard for the presentation at tonight's meeting and for all her efforts and hard work over the summer developing the presentation. He stated that thousands of pictures from each school were submitted for viewing.

d. Adult Education

The North Branford Public Schools is one of five school districts that make up the regional Adult Education Program (ERACE). North Branford is in partnership with Branford, Guilford, Madison and Clinton in providing a wide-range of educational opportunities to the adult population of our community. These opportunities include both academic and recreational programming.

Adult Education Director, Paul Dzialo, provided the Board of Education with an overview and statistical analysis of North Branford's participation. This was also an opportunity for the Board to ask any questions they had regarding ERACE.

Mr. Dzialo stated that the High School Credit Program has grown 90 percent in the past two years because of the influx of teens from 16 to 18. The program is a basic alternative high school. He mentioned that the Branford program has a social worker and he would like to add guidance counselors if funding is found.

Mr. Dzialo spoke on the various ERACE Programs:

1. Mandated Programs

- AHSCD – Adult High School Credit Diploma
- GED - General Educational Development
- ABE – Adult Basic Education
- ESL – English as a Second Language
- Americanization / Citizenship
- EDP – External Diploma Program

2. Enrichment Programs

- Dance, Yoga, Spanish

3. Workplace programs

Unilever  
Cintas

Mr. Dzialo stated that of the 1800 students, 450 are North Branford citizens.

He mentioned that Connecticut certified teachers teach all academic courses and the program has a year - round open enrollment. He spoke about on-line tutorials for CAPT, SAT and College entrance exams (Accuplacer).

Paul Dzialo remarked that advisory meetings are held three times a year with all Superintendents to discuss student enrollment, budget, initiatives and grants. Mr. Dzialo remarked that Dr. Wolfe is a huge support to him and the program.

Cheryl Smith questioned if the program accepted special education students.

Mr. Dzialo remarked that they couldn't ask if a student is regular education or special education. All students can attend the program but they cannot provide special education teachers or aides.

Dr. Wolfe stated that many of the enrichment programs are held at North Branford High School.

e. Field Trip Request

The North Branford High School Boys Varsity Baseball team has filed appropriate paperwork for a spring trip to Florida. The North Branford squad will play several other teams who will be in Florida at the same time. The Board asked the Superintendent to obtain additional information regarding exposure to the Board. The Superintendent reported his findings stating that he supported the trip.

Michael Lucibello stated the students would be staying in a state-of-the-art facility and they would play two CIAC approved games against East Haven High and Morgan High. He mentioned that the players would attend Epcot Center, Magic Kingdom, etc.

Bonnie Symansky questioned funding for the trip.

Mr. Lucibello stated the team is doing many fundraisers that began last year. (car washes, selling fried dough pizzas, selling Christmas trees and wreathes, etc.) He remarked that all boys would have the opportunity to earn the money for the trip.

Elisabeth Caplan stated she was also concerned if a student or his parents could not afford the trip even with the fund raising.

Mr. Lucibello stated there would be a contingency fund for these students.

Bonnie Symansky questioned if Mr. Lucibello was requesting Board permission for the trip but that the team and their parents would cover all costs.

Mr. Lucibello stated, yes.

Cheryl Smith remarked that she thought this was a great trip and a terrific opportunity for these students but she had a concern how families on the trip doing their own thing would effect the Board of Education. (ordering beer in a restaurant, language, control of students, etc.)

Mr. Lucibello remarked that he has discussed this with the Superintendent and the Principal and the Board is absolved from all responsibilities as the students and their families are responsible for themselves as adults.

Ron Haskins questioned if the parents would be staying in the same facilities.

Mr. Lucibello stated that the families would not be staying with the players and he would have full control of the players and deal with them if there were any problems.

**MOTION:** Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve the North Branford High School baseball field trip request as submitted.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN SMITH:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>ELISABETH CAPLAN:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>RON HASKINS:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MOTION PASSED 6-0</b>	

f. Hire

The Superintendent under the authority granted at the June Board of Meeting has extended contracts to the following individuals:

Brett Joly	NBHS	World Language	6 <sup>th</sup> Year, Step 5
Caitlin McCormick	NBIS	Special Education (Bridges)	Bachelors, Step 2
Carrie Seiden*	TVES	Library Media Specialist	Masters, Step 6

\*Ms. Seiden will begin on or about October 1, 2007.

g. New Teacher Orientation

A successful two-day New Teacher Orientation occurred on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Orientation began with an overview of the Strategic Plan, the Fish and Giraffe Hero philosophies and mini-workshops in the essential elements of the following programs: BEST, Special Education, Professional Growth Educator Evaluation Program, the Curriculum Management Cycle and Technology. Pertinent information related to personnel and business was also shared with new staff members.

New staff members were provided with a welcoming breakfast and luncheon where they had the opportunity to meet one another and members of the BOE, the Superintendent and district and school administrators. Experienced staff from each school volunteered as a 'Buddy' to help new colleagues acclimate to their assignment. At the school level, new staff met with their building principal and began to establish their classrooms.

In-service activities will be offered to new staff members throughout the school year. Topics such as classroom management, differentiated instruction, technology integration, use of student data may be provided as well as preparation for the BEST portfolio. New teachers will also be assigned a BEST mentor who will guide and support them through the beginning phases of teaching and learning.

Dr. Wolfe thanked Joan Follo and Nancy Brittingham for their work with the BEST program.

h. Math Position

After a review of summer registrations, two sections of Algebra IIB contain class sizes of 29 and 32 students. This was in part due to 15 students new to NBHS who required this course as sophomores. High school building administration is recommending that an additional section (.2) be added to reduce the class size in this entry level math course. This will lower the class sizes to 17, 18 and 26.

The Board in its 2007/2008 approved budget had originally funded a .4 music position - .2 was utilized for increased enrollment in Spanish I. The Superintendent is recommending that the balance (.2) be utilized in the mathematics department to alleviate large class size. In so doing, the Board will stay within its parameters of approved fte's for the coming school year.

**MOTION:** Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to transfer .2 music position to .2 mathematics for the 2007/2008 school year.

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

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

i. August Professional Development

While a variety of learning opportunities were provided at the school level in reading and technology, other activities included first aid/CPR/AED/PMT training, curriculum planning, and action team meetings. The most significant work accomplished during the August In-service Days was the introduction of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Through PLCs, all educators will have the opportunity to work in collaborative planning teams. Collaborative teams will use student data to provide the information for 'meaningful conversations' about student learning. The August In-service Days provided educators with the time to begin their PLC work by developing the "norms" (rules) and goals for their teams. Educators will receive CEUs for their work on a PLC team.

Joan Follo stated that when teams collaborate they could review as to what is working and what is not. Most of these meetings will be held on Wednesdays each week.

Bonnie Symansky questioned if there were any over-crowded classrooms that the Board should be aware of.

Michele Saulis stated there were two P.E. classes with over 30 students.

Nan Brittingham stated TVES has nine classes of twenty-six students in fifth grade.

j. Enrollment

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the kindergarten enrollments were stable and we didn't have to hire as many aides as we thought.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the enrollment figures of October 1<sup>st</sup> are the enrollment figures that are distributed to the state. These figures are the official numbers that the state uses throughout the year.

k. CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test) and AYP Annual Yearly Progress

CAPT

Over half of our present junior class scored above the Goal level on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade CAPT3 in reading, math and science and nearly three-quarters of the class reached Goal level in writing. Goal level is the Connecticut State Department of Education's target for academic performance. Over ninety percent of the class scored at or above the Proficient level, the standard used to determine whether schools and districts are making adequate yearly progress under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Five levels of performance have been established for each of the four content areas: **Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, Goal and Advanced.**

The third generation CAPT3 is a new test with changes in content, format, length and scoring from the previous generation. The expectation of what students should know and be able to do have increased from the previous generation of the CAPT, based on changes in the state's curriculum frameworks, therefore, providing a new baseline for monitoring student progress. When reviewing CAPT3 results it must be noted that these data cannot be compared with the first two versions of the test. True comparisons of CAPT3 results will only be possible after the second administration of the test in 2008.

Joan Follo mentioned that most schools see a drop in scores when they first implement block scheduling but that didn't happen in North Branford. She saluted Michele Saulis and the entire NBHS staff.

Dr. Wolfe stated these scores are also the result of the entire systems efforts.

Bonnie Symansky stated that she was amazed at how high the scores were and stated the entire North Branford staff is doing a great job.

AYP

AYP was met in all areas with the exception of students with disabilities at two of our schools. The Superintendent and the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Joan Follo, were available to answer any questions that the Board had.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that eventually more sub groups in all school systems wouldn't meet the AYP.

John Bozzuto questioned if we are going in the right direction.

Joan Follo stated that we are.

I. Community Round-Up

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Round Up is scheduled for Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. This day is critical for the stocking of the two food closets in the North Branford Community. The success of this event is in large part due to the number of North Branford students and faculty who contribute their time and energy towards this event. Dr. Wolfe encouraged everyone to check their calendars to see if they can give of their time.

Superintendent Wolfe remarked that the elementary students contribute by collecting health care items and the middle school and high school students collect food items.

He mentioned that he is very proud of North Branford students and staff and he is planning to video tape the event this year.

m. Connect-ED

The school system has begun the process of updating and collecting data for emergency contact through the Connect-ED system. The system will allow us to notify parents via telephone and/or email in the event of an emergency. The school system can send a message to the entire district or a specified school or subset of parents. The system can also be used for notification of regular school events.

While the system will be utilized for early dismissals or closings, it will not be utilized for school cancellations or late openings due to the significant difference in start times for the schools. Several schools have already utilized the system for welcome back messages.

This is the latest initiative in our efforts to improve communications/security in the school district.

Superintendent Wolfe remarked that we have the capability of communicating with the parents of 2400 students in ten minutes.

n. Curriculum Management Cycle Update

Included for the Board review was a copy of the Child Development portion of the Family and Consumer Science Curriculum Guide for grades 9-12 for first read. A special thanks to Lynn Lanzoni, teacher of Family and Consumer Science, for her work in development of this portion of the guide. The Foods portion of the guide was developed by Lynn last year. The Family and Consumer Science Guide is now fully complete with both the Foods and Child Development sections.

As part of the Curriculum Management Cycle (CMC), the following reports are also included for Board review:

Implementation 1 Phase Reports:

Social Studies K-5 –  
Music K-12 –  
Business & Finance Technology Education 6-12 -

Implementation 2 Phase Report:

Social Studies 6-12 –

Dr. Wofle mentioned that the Curriculum Management Cycles began in 2001.

Dick Terrill remarked that the Technology Phase allowed him to teach computer applications at NBIS.

Joan Follo stated that second graders will attend the Little Red Schoolhouse and fifth graders will attend the Reynold-Beers House as part of the Social Studies Implementation. Teachers have already met with members of the North Branford Historical Society during the District-In-Service Day.

o. SAGE Grant

The Superintendent was pleased to learn that Project SAGE has been extended for one year by the State of Connecticut. The grant provides for school adjustment support for students in kindergarten through grade 3 at Jerome Harrison and Stanley T. Williams Schools. While funding is based on a competitive grant application, North Branford has been successful in obtaining funding in the past for this program. A copy of the SAGE grant application was distributed to Board Members.

**MOTION:** Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve the SAGE Grant Application for the 2007/2008 school year.

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

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

September 20, 2007

Dr. Wolfe thanked Pat Mulrain and Kathy Klocek for all their help with the grant.

John Bozzuto asked if we received the same amount of funding from the State as last year.

Dr. Wolfe stated the grant was \$25,000 last year but this year the state is asking the school systems to contribute \$5,000 towards SAGE so we will receive \$20,000.

p. Strategic Planning Workbook

Enclosed for Board review was a copy of the 2007/2008 Strategic Planning Workbook. This workbook highlights the Action Plans and Steps which were approved by the Board of Education as goals at the August 16, 2007 meeting. The Strategic Planning Workbook also provides the complete Plan as well as a new index which highlights which Plans and Steps have become operational.

q. Athletic Regulations

High school administration and faculty have developed new regulations for students participating in athletics. The regulations are intended to be an additional tool in our efforts to curb underage drinking and drug use. This information has been communicated to all student athletes and their coaches. It is effective at the beginning of the school year.

Michele Saulis stated that convocation was held for all coaches of all sports at NBHS and new regulations were identified and discussed. She mentioned that they also went over all rules and consequences of using drugs or alcohol.

Cheryl Smith questioned if all new rules and regulations would be implemented this year.

Michele Saulis stated, yes and all students playing a sport and their parents had to sign off that they read all rules and regulations.

r. Do You Zoo?

Plans are well along in the development phase for the summer program for 2008. The theme for the summer will be entitled "Do You Zoo?" and will feature a number of zoo related camps. Each of the zoo camps will include a trip to the zoo. The board will receive a preliminary copy of the 2008 summer program brochure to see just how the brochure evolves. The Superintendent shared with the Board a copy of the graphic design that will be utilized on t-shirts and the brochure cover. Brochures will be distributed on or about March 1, 2008.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that of the 1800 students 1200 were from North Branford and 600 from North Haven. He also mentioned that this year we had use of the Shoreline YMCA Hospice Pool. He remarked that that Wet & Wild and Ping-Pong camps were very popular.

Elisabeth Caplan stated that her son enjoyed the Survival Camp.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that he heard from many parents that the summer camp provided a safe, fun summer for their students.

## **V. Committee Reports**

### **a. Negotiations**

1. The North Branford Board of Education and the Secretaries' union have reached agreement on a new contract commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2010. Director of Personnel and Business, Don Winnicki, will highlight the new features of the contract. The secretaries ratified the contract on August 27, 2007.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to approve the new collective bargaining unit agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and the Local 1303-228 Connecticut Council #4 AFSME/AFL-CIO Secretaries - for the period commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2010.

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

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

2. Discussion and action regarding the contract for the Director of Personnel and Business.

**MOTION:** Moved by Ron Haskins and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to extend the Contract of the Director of Personnel and Business, Donald Winnicki, one additional year, making a three-year contract commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2010.

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

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

3. Discussion and action regarding the contract for the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:** Moved by Elisabeth Caplan and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to extend The Superintendent's contract one additional year, making a three-year Contract commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2010 and increasing the Superintendent's salary by 3.5% for fiscal year 2007/2008.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN SMITH:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO:</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
<b>ELISABETH CAPLAN:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>RON HASKINS:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 4-0-2**

John Bozzuto said he was not ready to vote on the Superintendent's contract and it wouldn't hurt not to vote on the contract tonight. He wanted more time to absorb the newest information from Attorney Blumenthal's office. He remarked that he supports everything Dr. Wolfe has done for the district but he must support the people of this community.

Marcey Onofrio stated she agreed with John and needed more time to study the report. She also mentioned that she is not a fan of a three- year contract.

Bonnie Symansky stated she was also on the fence about making a decision but we must forget about the past and move forward. She remarked that what we should look at are CAPT scores, British Museum, Strategic Planning, Special Education, etc. She stated that there were no improprieties found and Dr. Wolfe is doing a good job.

Elisabeth Caplan stated she was very respectful of John and Marcey's decision but she read the reports from Marsha Moses and Attorney Blumenthal and they both stated that there was no grade tampering. She remarked that it comes down to he said –she said and we owe it to our children to move forward. She mentioned that concerns of the people in the community are always heard by the Board. She remarked that you couldn't run a district without collaboration and there is great collaboration between Donald Winnicki, business manager, Dr. Wolfe, superintendent and Karl Kilduff, town manager. She stated that they are all doing a great job of working together for the community

Cheryl Smith stated she agree with Elisabeth Caplan and the Board has put off signing Dr. Wolfe's contract for too long. She stated she also read the report and nothing new was reported.

Bonnie Symansky stated that the people who think the Board is not responsive should attend Board of Education meetings.

#### b. Budget

The Superintendent enclosed a copy of the September 1 financial statement for Board review.

Elisabeth Caplan stated the Septic System account is in the red because of the situation at STW. She remarked that we could bring up the current area and add new soil, leave system alone and dig a new septic field or connect to the sewer system.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that he is waiting to hear from the engineers. They stated we should get their report in ten days. He mentioned that he asked the engineers to do test at TVES also as they have an older system. If we connect to the sewer system we might as well do both schools but we will wait until we get the engineer's report.

Donald Winnicki stated it could be expensive to connect to the sewer system as the tap is over by Ardsley Avenue.

c. Buildings & Grounds

John Bozzuto stated that no meeting has been held but at the last Town Council meeting there was a discussion on the Board's promise to put \$10,000 towards the fire station project.

Dr. Wolfe stated we would either put \$10,000 from this year's budget if there is funding or put a request for \$10,000 into next year's budget.

d. Curriculum – No report at this time.

e. Pension - No report at this time.

f. Policy – Cheryl Smith stated that there are two policies submitted for first read.

Policy #P2130 – Professional Development (Revised)

Policy #P4130 - Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

g. ACES – No report at this time.

h. Strategic Planning – No report at this time.

i. Building Committee

Dr. Wolfe stated that the NBIS project is awaiting state approval and it is hopeful that they will sign off by October 20<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned that the Town Council voted 9-0 to go out to bid on the project for 37.4 million.

September 20, 2007

j. Calendar Committee - No report at this time.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to move the Thursday, November 15, 2007 Board of Education meeting to Wednesday, November 14, 2007.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN SMITH:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>ELISABETH CAPLAN:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

The North Branford Public Schools' 2008/2009 proposed school calendar is attached for Board review. This calendar was developed in part to maximize construction time at NBIS.

k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee- No report at this time.

l. Communication – No report at this time.

## **VI. New Business**

No new business at this time..

## **VII. Visitors and Press**

Penny Seaman commended the Board of Education on how they handled themselves. She remarked that we must listen to our educators and administrators and their district achievements. She stated that this Board of Education deserves our commendations for not fearing the public outcries

**VIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2007.**

September 20, 2007

**IX. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Elisabeth Caplan to adjourn this North Branford Board of Education meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine  
Account Clerk.