

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 20, 2007

Bonnie Symansky called the meeting of the North Branford Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Totoket Valley Elementary School on Thursday, December 20, 2007. The following members attended:

Board Secretary:	Marcey Onofrio
Board Members:	John Bozzuto
	Nancy Lappie
	Debbie Prunier
	Christopher Manna
	Bonnie Symansky
Superintendent of Schools:	Dr. Robert K. Wolfe

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by John Bozzuto 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 legal matters, personnel and negotiations.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Debbie Prunier and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to reconvene to Public Session at 7:00 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

December 20, 2007

In accordance with Board Policy P9040, the first order of business at the first meeting in December succeeding each biennial election is the election of the Chairperson, Vice Chair and Secretary of the Board of Education.

MOTION: Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Christopher Manna to elect Debbie Prunier as Chairwoman of the North Branford Board of Education.

DEBBIE PRUNIER:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
NANCY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Nancy Lappie and seconded by John Bozzuto to elect Marcey Onofrio as Vice-Chair of the North Branford Board of Education”

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
NANCY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANKSY:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by John Bozzuto to elect Nancy Lappie as Secretary of the North Branford Board of Education:

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:	AYE
NANCY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Prunier.

I. Visitors

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

Alice Chittenden	Elisabeth Caplan	Rose Angeloni
Joe Tenczar	Christine Imperato	Marci Prinz
William Della Camera	Jerry Juliano	Brett Joly
Christin Baldwin	Dolina Potter	Cliff Potter
Heidi Ahlstrom-Miller	Andrew Esposito	Cheryl Smith
David McMahon	Todd Stoeffler	Sam Flanagan
Chris Fraenza		

The meeting was called to order by the newly elected Board Chairwoman, Debbie Prunier.

December 20, 2007

II. Student Representatives

Sam Flanagan and Chris Fraenza reported on the following:

Academic

Mid-Terms start on January 16, 2008.

Seniors who applied for early decision or early action have received replies from the colleges of their choice.

Students in grades ten and eleven received the results of their PSAT's this past week.

Alumni breakfast will be held on January 3, 2008

Winter Concert was held on December 12th and will air on Channel 19 after Christmas break.

Athletics

Hockey - 0-2 Home game Friday December 21, 2007.

Boys' Basketball – 0-3

Girls' Basketball - 2-2

Fencing – 0-1

Swimming – 0-3

Indoor Track hasn't had any meets yet this year and the team consists of 38 members.

Social

The Coat and Sweater Drive is underway.

The Salvation Army has collected all presents that were donated from the Angel tags.

The Student Council and Select Chorus entertained our senior citizens at the Senior Center with pizza, cookies, gifts and music.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by John Bozzuto to remove the field trips from the Consent Agenda.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the November 14, 2007 Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations – None at this time.

c. Appointments - None at this time.

d. Leaves - None at this time.

e. Field Trips

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Mrs. Heidi Ahlstrom-Miller, English teacher at NBHS, for a trip to England from April 10, 2008 through April 19, 2008. Details for the trip are attached.

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Mr. Brett Joly, world language teacher at NBHS, for a field trip to Quebec City, Canada, from February 29, 2008 through March 2, 2008.

f. Donations

The Superintendent has received notification from the North Branford High School Booster Club confirming a donation in the amount of \$5,000 to be used towards the cost of the proposed new scoreboard for the soccer/field hockey fields at NBHS. The donation will be split - \$2500 in 2007/2008 school year and \$2500 in the 2008/2009 school year.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by John Bozzuto to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

IV. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wolfe congratulated all newly elected officers of the Board of Education

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that a representative of the North Branford Booster Club would attend the next Board of Education meeting to formally present the check for scoreboards to the Board of Education. He explained that there are three phases to the scoreboard project and tonight's donation was phase two. Phase one was for the football field, phase two was a two- sided scoreboard for field hockey and soccer and phase three will be for the baseball scoreboard.

a. Recognition - None at this time.

b. Communications

The Superintendent attached a copy of the North Branford High School Winter Sports Schedule for Board members.

The Superintendent received a copy of a letter sent to the North Branford High School cross-country Team from Luisa Breen, Director of Social Services of the Town of North Branford. This letter thanks the team for adopting a family in need and providing them with their Thanksgiving dinner.

The Superintendent attached a copy of an article in the Yale Bulletin regarding the North Branford Public Schools' Museum School partnership with the Yale Center for British Art.

b. Board Subcommittees

The work of the Board of Education is primarily completed through a subcommittee structure. It is important that members of the Board of Education determine their areas of interest. A listing of the Board of Education Subcommittees was attached for Board review. We have also shown returning members. This did not mean that returning members must remain on these subcommittees. Interest is communicated to the Board Chair who ultimately makes the decision as to membership. In addition, the Superintendent provided times and dates of committee meetings. Many subcommittees meet at a time and date that is set by the Town or outside organizations.

The Board of Education must also designate an individual who will sign the weekly warrants for payroll and accounts payable.

Dr. Wolfe explained each of the committees and the duties of each committee member.

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

- Negotiations: Marcey Onofrio, Debbie Prunier
(John Bozzuto, alternate)
- Budget: John Bozzuto, Marcey Onofrio, Nancy Lappie
- Building & Grounds: John Bozzuto, Christopher Manna
- Curriculum: Bonnie Symansky, Nancy Lappie
- Pension: **OPEN**
Meets Quarterly – Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Policy: Bonnie Symansky, Christopher Manna,
Nancy Lappie

ACES: **OPEN**
Meets 2nd Thursday of month – 12:00 p.m.

Strategic Planning: Bonnie Symansky, Debbie Prunier

Building Committee: John Bozzuto, Debbie Prunier

Calendar Committee: Marcey Onofrio

Transportation/Bus Safety: Marcey Onofrio, Christopher Manna
(Nancy Lappie-alternate)

Communications: Bonnie Symansky, Marcey Onofrio

PAC Liaison: **OPEN**
Meets monthly – Friday - 9:30 a.m.

Warrants: Bonnie Symansky
(Debbie Prunier, alternate)

c. Budget Formation/Budget Calendar

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the formation of the 2008/2009 budget calendar. A copy of the Budget Calendar was provided for Board reference.

d. 2007 High School Team Academic Award Winners

The Superintendent has received notification from Coach Richard Geremia that the NBHS Girls Soccer Team was chosen for the 2007 High School Team Academic Award. A total of 411 soccer teams from throughout the United States have earned the NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America) Team Academic Award for exemplary performance in the classroom as a team during the 2006-2007 academic year. Among these programs are 60 schools receiving honors for both their boys and girls teams.

To qualify for the award, the team must have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 for the entire academic year.

Dr. Wolfe will write a letter to each of the team members with his and the Board of Education members' congratulations.

Debbie Prunier asked if a plaque would be displayed at the high school.

Michele Saulis stated that a plaque would be forthcoming.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the team could be invited to a future Board of Education meeting.

f. Curriculum Guide

In November, the Board received a copy of the Art Curriculum Guide for grades K-12 for first read. The Superintendent is requesting approval of this curriculum guide.

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by John Bozzuto to approve the Art Curriculum Guide for grades K-12 as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Dr. Wolfe shared a letter with Board members by a JHS student, Andy Kendrick, thanking Dr. Wolfe for noticing his artwork. Dr. Wolfe mentioned that this student's artwork was outstanding.

Superintendent Wolfe mentioned North Branford has outstanding artists and outstanding art teachers such as Marci Prinz, Alice Chittenden, Joseph Roberti, David Holland and Nilda Gagliardi.

Nancy Lappie remarked that she was very impressed with the Art Curriculum and the thoroughness of the curriculum.

Bonnie Symansky stated that any new art teacher starting in our system has a model curriculum to follow.

Dr. Wolfe distributed a formal binder on the Family and Consumer Science Curriculum that was already adopted by the Board of Education.

g. NBIS Project Update

An update on the NBIS project was provided to the Board of Education. Alan Davis, Principal of NBIS, and Don Winnicki, Director of Personnel and Business, as well as the Superintendent were available to answer all questions.

Superintendent Wolfe remarked that the Town Manager, Karl Kilduff, has been extremely helpful with this project and it has really been a team effort between the Town Office and Central Office.

Dr. Wolfe explained issues with the State Traffic Commission on easements. He explained the issues with used portables and the agreement not to use them again after the NBIS project is completed. Dr. Wolfe mentioned that by using used portables we will save \$120,000.

V. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations – No report at this time.

b. Budget

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the pumping fees for STW septic would be included in the Sewer Project when we do go out to bid. He also explained the vacancies of a Speech Therapist and a School Psychologist and the buying of services.

c. Building and Grounds

Bids were opened and information was reported to the Board of Education for a contractor to pump the Stanley T. Williams septic system.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Debbie Prunier to award Bid 01-2008 Pumping Septic System – Stanley T. Williams School to Sanitrol Services of North Branford for the base per gallon- price of \$0.115

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTTO:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Bonnie Symansky questioned how long we would be pumping at STW.

Dr. Wolfe stated probably through the current school year. He remarked that it is a good decision to hook STW and TVES to the Town sewer system.

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

- d. Curriculum – No report at this time.
- e. Pension - No report at this time.
- f. Policy

The Superintendent provided the Board with a copy of a revised policy for approval. This policy had been sent back to the policy subcommittee for review and changes.

Policy #P3200 – Uniform System for Assignment and Changing of Student Grades

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve Policy #P3200 - Uniform System for Assignment and Changing of Student Grades as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	NAY
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 5-1

Christopher Manna questioned if teachers would have the final say on student grades.

Dr. Wolfe stated no, that the principal would have the final say.

Marcey Onofrio stated that there would be proper documentation, electronic record and a paper record.

Christopher Manna questioned if the principal can overturn a teacher's grade.

Dr. Wolfe stated yes.

Debbie Prunier questioned if a grade was changed if it would be in the students' file.

Bonnie Symansky stated yes, that once the electronic copy is made it cannot be altered.

- g. ACES – No report at this time.
- 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

Bonnie Symansky stated that Channel 19 is fixed and online.

VI. New Business

Debbie Prunier stated she thought the England trip would be a wonderful trip, reasonable price and a terrific company overseeing the trip as she has dealt with this tour group before. She questioned who would supervise medical conditions on this trip.

Michele Saulis stated at this time a staff member has safety training.

Bonnie Symansky stated she would be more comfortable with two staff members on the England trip.

Michele Saulis stated they are trying to get another staff member for this trip.

Nancy Lappie questioned if activities were planned for the nights.

Heidi Ahlstrom-Miller stated there certainly could be.

Debbie Prunier stated she would be willing to okay the trips as long as there were qualified medical staff involved.

MOTION: Moved by Debbie Prunier and seconded by John Bozzuto to approve the field trip to England, pending first aide certification of Heidi Ahlstrom-Miller and another adult chaperone and the field trip to Quebec City, Canada as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 6-0

December 20, 2007

VII. Visitors and Press

Joe Tenczar thanked Michele Saulis, Donald Winnicki and Richard from Totoket Television in obtaining video decks. They now have eight decks for the educational channel with one deck per school.

VIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2008.

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to adjourn this North Branford Board of Education meeting at 7:50 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk