

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**May 15, 2008**

The North Branford Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Totoket Valley Elementary School on Thursday, May 15, 2008. The following members attended:

<b>Board Chairwoman:</b>	<b>Deborah Prunier</b>
<b>Board Vice-Chairwoman:</b>	<b>Marcey Onofrio</b>
<b>Board Secretary:</b>	<b>Nancy Lappie</b>
<b>Board Members:</b>	<b>John Bozzuto, Jr.</b>
	<b>Christopher Manna</b>
	<b>Bonnie Symansky</b>
<b>Superintendent of Schools:</b>	<b>Dr. Robert K. Wolfe</b>

**MOTION:** Move by John Bozzuto 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 legal and personnel matters.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

Superintendent Wolfe left executive session at 6:30 p.m. and returned at 6:38 p.m.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by John Bozzuto to reconvene to public session at 6:48 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**I. Roll call vote for attendance.**

<b>CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTTO:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>

## II. Visitors

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

Kathy Garguilo	Chris Fraenza	John Fontenault
Ann Parisi	Christine Imperato	Cindy Conforte
Tom Morak	Linda Proto	John Meagher
Cheryl Otfinoski	Deborah Willis	Dan Willis
David McMahon	Ann Marshall	Rose Albin
Joan Williams	Bruce Williams	Ryan Williams
Beth Dombrose	Judy Hall	Deborah Faust
Gwynmar Fraser	Yolanda Fraser	Joseph Tenczar
John Tetzo	Joanne Wentworth, Deputy Mayor	

There were no visitor comments at this time.

Dr. Robert Wolfe introduced John Tetzo and the NBIS Jazz Band who performed for the Board of Education. Dr. Wolfe mentioned that over one thousand people attended the NBIS concerts on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> (two concerts) that were performed by the NBIS band, chorus and jazz band. John Tetzo is the NBIS band educator and Joseph Tatta is the NBIS Choral educator. Dr. Wolfe remarked that listening to this jazz band is comparable to a high school or college jazz band.

The band performed five jazz numbers for the audience that included: All of Me, Bubbert Takes the Train, Street Fights, Bubbert goes Retro and the Theme from Rocky.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that in the next issue of the Totoket Times there would be an article about the growth of the arts in North Branford Public Schools. With our new auditorium, new music space at NBHS, new upcoming music space at NBIS, incredible support from parents, NBPOPS and the Mamas and the Papas North Branford has seen an incredible growth in the arts in the last seven years. He mentioned there would be a North Branford jazz band next year. He congratulated and saluted all for the growth of the arts in North Branford.

### **III. Student Representatives**

Kathy Garguilo and Chris Fraenza reported on the following:

#### **Academics**

Students in AP classes have taken their final exams  
NBHS final exams will be taken June 10<sup>th</sup> through June 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Student Academic Awards will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Scholarship Awards will be presented on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Graduation will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Social**

Junior Prom was held on April 25<sup>th</sup>.  
Senior Prom will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Cascades.  
Student Council had a very successful Talent Show.  
Student Council will host a Friendly's Family Fun Night Fundraiser.  
The Kaleidoscope Literary Magazine will be distributed soon showcasing NBHS students' talent.  
Seniors will attend a class trip to Lake Compounce.

#### **Sports**

Boys Tennis 15-3  
Girls Tennis 12-4  
Golf 3-6  
Softball 16-3  
Girls Track 7-1  
Boys Track 5-0

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that tonight's meeting would be the last one for our current student representatives. He thanked them for all of their time, energy and efforts.

### **IV. Consent Agenda**

#### **a. Minutes**

Minutes of the April 24, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Ms. Linda Girard, grade 1 teacher at Stanley T. Williams School effective at the end of the 2007/2008 school year. Ms. Girard has served the students of North Branford for the past 37 years.

c. Appointments - None at this time.

d. Leaves – None at this time.

e. Donations – None at this time.

f. Field Trips – None at this time.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted

<b>CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO, Jr.:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>YES</b>

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

**V. Superintendent's Report**

- a. Recognition – None at this time.
- b. Communications - None at this time.
- c. Retirement Dinner

The Annual District Retirement Dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at the Country House in Foxon. The event will honor eleven (11) employees who have retired in the last year or have announced their retirement. The dinner will begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. and be followed by dinner and program beginning at 7:00 p.m.

A list of honorees follows:

Nancy Brittingham	Principal	TVES
Mary Christoforo	Family Resource	TVES
Janet Crouse	Grade 4 Teacher	TVES
James Dwyer	Grade 5 Teacher	TVES
Karen Esposito	Speech/Language	TVES
Linda Girard	Grade 1 Teacher	STW
Daniel Keyes	School Nurse	TVES
Linda Lyon	Reading Teacher	STW
Joseph Roberti	Art Educator	NBHS
Marilynn Tufano	Cafeteria Manager	NBHS
Michael Votto	Social Studies	NBIS

d. Curriculum Management Cycle Update

As part of the Curriculum Management Cycle (CMC), the following end-of-the-year summative reports were presented for Board review.

- *Mathematics K-5 Evaluation Phase Report*: developed by Deborah Welton, Curriculum Coordinator for Mathematics K-5 and the Mathematics K-5 Curriculum Committee

Joan Follo thanked Deborah Welton for her work on the K-5 Math Curriculum. Joan stated that the committee began their work by creating and administering a survey to all K-5 teachers. The queries were focused on what teachers were using to plan and implement their instructions. The purpose of the CMC and the committee was to determine what is working and what aspect needs to be changed or modified.

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- *Technology Education Review Phase Report.\** developed by Technology Education teachers John DeNunzio, 9-12 and Gerald Carlone, 6-8

\*Technology Education, Communications, and Family/Consumer Science now comprise the newly formed Career Education Department.

The core subjects of Technology Education, Construction and Drafting integrate academic and problem-solving skills while developing occupational and vocational skills.

Joan Follo thanked John DeNunzio and Gerald Carlone and remarked that they would like to make sure the Board explores the feasibility of implementing the Engineering by Design program and periodically update media and software resources.

Joan Follo remarked that this is the last curriculum to be developed and presented to the Board of Education. They wanted to make sure all state standards are being met.

Under separate cover the Board received a copy of the Language Arts Curriculum Guide for grades K-5 for their first read. An extraordinary amount of work was invested by language arts consultants, elementary language arts curriculum team members and elementary administrators in the development of this comprehensive balanced literacy curriculum guide. The guide is grounded in the national and state literacy standards and state grade level expectations. A K-5 pacing guide assists educators as they collaborate about teaching and learning and in monitoring student progress toward grade level expectations.

Joan Follo stated that if any Board member had questions on the Language Arts Curriculum they could call her.

Dr. Wolfe gave a special thanks to all staff members for all their hard work.

e. MADD Presentation

MADD provided Jerome Harrison School Grades 1-3 with an assembly covering a broad spectrum of safety sponsored by the Jerome Harrison PTO who also made a donation to MADD. Principal Shawn Parkhurst provided the Board with information on the areas of safety that were highlighted. Board Chair, Deb Prunier, was in attendance at this assembly.

Shawn Parkhurst stated that the event was a multi-media presentation putting students in different situations. (strangers, bullies, car safety, etc.)

Deborah Prunier remarked that it was a great presentation and the students had a major accomplishment.

Shawn Parkhurst stated the students raised over one thousand dollars for MADD and STW staff was in attendance to see if they would like this program presented at STW.

Marcey Onofrio questioned how the money was raised.

Shawn Parkhurst stated by the collection of coins and the JHS-PTO made a contribution.

f. Field Trip Reports

Michele Saulis, Principal of North Branford High School, provided the Board with a brief summary of two out-of-state trips. The Boys Baseball Team completed a successful spring training trip to Florida as well as the high school trip to England.

Michele Saulis remarked that the trip to England provided a wonderful world experience and the baseball team got to play on the best field in the world. (Walt Disney field)

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the baseball team played two Connecticut towns, East Haven and Clinton.

Nancy Lappie stated they both sounded like wonderful trips and she was glad the students attended.

g. End of the Year Activities

Listed below for Board member information is a schedule of year-end activities:

NBHS Academic Awards Ceremony Auditorium	Thursday, May 29 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 p.m.
NBHS North Branford Scholarship Assoc. Awards - Auditorium	Tuesday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:00 p.m.
Ecumenical Breakfast and Service Auditorium	Monday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.
NBIS Promotion Ceremony Auditorium	Monday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 a.m.
NBHS Graduation Ceremony	Monday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that during the NBIS Promotion Ceremony there would be off-site parking and shuttle buses.

h. STW Read to Grow

Students from Stanley T. Williams School collected 2,747 books for the Read to Grow organization, which distributed books to children without books in their lives. Students collected new and slightly used books for two weeks and ended with a celebration with grade 5 students from Mrs. Golia's and Mrs. Sabetta's classes at TVES who visited STW and read to individual classes on Read Across America Day. Both the book drive and the celebration were organized by Mrs. Linda Lyon, STW reading teacher.

Dr. Wolfe saluted both STW staff and students.

08/09 Budget Reductions

The administrative team has been working on recommended budget reductions for the 08/09 school year. As a result of action prior to the referendum the 08/09 budget must be reduced by \$500,000. The Superintendent made recommendations for the first phase of budget reductions at the May meeting. Final budget reductions will be made at the June meeting. By taking this action now, it will allow administration to move forward with the 2008 Step-Up Day.

<b>FTW</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>SAVINGS</b>
1.0	Grade 2	JHS	\$82,129
1.0	Grade 3	TVES	\$93,329
1.0	Consumer Ed	NBHS	\$66,607
.5	Custodian	STW	\$42,445
.4	Vocal Music	NBHS	\$21,243
	Healthcare		\$11,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$316,753</b>

Dr. Wolfe remarked that it would be another month before the impact of all retirements.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by John Bozzuto to accept the budget reductions as submitted.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### a. Negotiations

There was no report at this time.

### b. Budget

Marcey Onofrio stated that transportation is still in the red because of the high cost of diesel fuel and the STW septic system is also in the red. She mentioned that this will all balance out in the end.

A copy of the May 1 financial statement was attached for Board review.

### d. Buildings & Grounds

There was no report at this time.

### e. Curriculum

There was no report at this time.

### e. Pension

Donald Winnicki remarked that he attended the pension committee meeting on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Winnicki stated there was a presentation by Susan Rogers from Morgan Stanley on alternate investments. Updates of funds were discussed and one retirement was accepted.

Deborah Prunier questioned if the pension committee changed their minds on the time of meetings.

Donald Winnicki stated not at this time and he would gladly represent the Board at this time.

Deborah Prunier thanked Mr. Winnicki.

f. Policy

Under separate cover the Board of Education was provided the following policy for first reading:

Policy #P5110 Professional Standards for Administrators

The Board of Education was provided the following policies for second reading and approval:

Policy #P5050 (Revised) Superintendent of Schools

Policy #P5060 Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent

Policy #P5100 Site Based Planning

**MOTION:** Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Nancy Lappie to approve Policy #P5050 – Superintendent of Schools as submitted.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

Christopher Manna stated that he is more comfortable with the language.

Bonnie Symansky stated she is comfortable with the revisions.

**MOTION:** Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Nancy Lappie to approve Policy #5060 – Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent as submitted.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

**MOTION:** Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Nancy Lappie to approve Policy #5100 – Site Based Planning as submitted.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

g. ACES

Nancy Lappie remarked that she attended the last ACES meeting and there was a quorum. She mentioned that the executive board would vote on the strategic plan next month. Wage increases and policies were also discussed.

i. Strategic Planning

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the administration would attend an all day retreat on June 20<sup>th</sup> on Strategic Plan for the next school year.

i. Building Committee

Deborah Prunier stated that John Bozzuto regretfully cannot serve on the building committee and Bonnie Symansky will take his place with Christopher Manna as an alternate.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that additional asbestos abatement is going on in the area of the old cafeteria and music room. Once this work is completed they will begin demolition of the old cafeteria and music room. Progress is being made on the portable sites and the State Traffic Commission has granted approval for the building.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the middle school staff and middle school students have been absolutely wonderful and are very resilient.

j. Calendar Committee

Marcey Onofrio stated the 2009-2010 calendar is almost resolved.

k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

There is no report at this time.

l. Communication

Deborah Prunier mentioned the article Dr. Wolfe wrote for the last Totoket Time.

Marcey Onofrio asked that the agenda be amended to discuss a personnel issue.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to amend the agenda to discuss a personnel issue.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

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**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to accept the retirement resignation of Superintendent of Schools Robert K. Wolfe, at the Superintendent's request, effective July 1, 2008 with regrets. Also move to employ Dr. Robert K. Wolfe on a pro-rated basis through December 31, 2008.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:</b>	<b>REGRETFULLY AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>REGRETFULLY AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>REGRETFULLY AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

**VII. Visitors and Press**

There were no visitor comments at this time.

**VIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2008 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.**

**VIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Nancy Lappie to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:03 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine  
Account Clerk