

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

July 17, 2008

The July 17, 2008 Thursday meeting of the North Branford Board of Education was called to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Conference Room of Totoket Valley Elementary School. The following members attended:

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Board Chairwoman: | Deborah Prunier |
| Board Vice-Chairwoman: | Marcey Onofrio |
| Board Secretary: | Nancy Lappie |
| Board Members: | John Bozzuto |
| | Christopher Manna |
| | Bonnie Symansky |
| | |
| Superintendent of Schools: | Dr. Robert K. Wolfe |

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio 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 personnel and legal matters.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Nancy Lappie to reconvene to public session at 6:55 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Director of Personnel/ Business: | Donald Winnicki |
| Joseph Tenczar | |
| David McMahon | |
| Joanne Wentworth, Deputy Mayor | |
| Rachael King, New Haven Register | |

No visitor comments at this time.

II. Student Representative

No student report at this time.

III. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to amend the Consent Agenda to add the following items to the Agenda of the July 17, 2008 Board of Education Meeting under the Superintendent's Report.

1. Superintendent's report on transportation to ECA.
2. Board Chair's report on Superintendent's Search Committee.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

a. Minutes

Minutes of the June 19, 2008 Board of Education meeting with the following correction:

The previous appointment of Elisabeth Caplan to the position of art educator at North Branford High School should read "placed on Bachelors, Step 1," instead of Bachelors, Step 4.

Minutes of the June 26, 2008 Special Meeting of the Board of Education.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent is in receipt of a resignation from Elizabeth Battaglia, special education teacher at North Branford High School effective at the end of the 2007/2008 school year.

c. Appointments – *(See Superintendent’s Report.)*

d. Leaves - None at this time.

e. Field Trips – None at this time.

f. Donations – None at this time.

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

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|----------------------------|------------|
| 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

a. Recognition - None at this time.

b. Communications

c. Authority to Hire

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

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kimberly Olins | NBIS | Special Education | Masters, Step 7 |
| Allison Tetreault | District | Speech Pathologist | 6 th Year, Step 1 |
| Jacqueline Lavoie | NBIS | Art Educator | Bachelors, Step 2 |
| John Congo | NBHS | .4 Music Educator | TBD |
| Carrie Esposito | NBHS | Guidance Counselor | 6 th Year, Step 2 |
| Karen Anthony | NBIS | .5 Speech-Language Pathologist | 6 th Year, Step 11 |

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that four positions remained open, two special education, one instrumental music at NBIS and one library media.

d. Summer of 2008

The Superintendent provided the Board with an update on the record-breaking enrollment of the Summer of 2008 – “*Do You Zoo?*” Camp program.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that we have over 2060 camp registrations so far this summer. He gave credit to Camp Directors Tippi Chupron and Chris Nuzzo and Central Office personnel: Lisa Coughlin, financial; Gail Pearson, payroll; Terri Rienzo, registration; and Anna DeMatteo, administration.

Dr. Wolfe encouraged all Board of Education members to attend the various camps to see all the exciting happenings. He mentioned that Board member Nancy Lappie was a guest of the Fairy Tale Camp and read Cinderella to the campers.

Nancy Lappie remarked that she is very proud to be a part of this wonderful camp and also encouraged Board members to attend. She also mentioned that she received thank you letters from the campers that she will cherish.

e. Nutrition

Public Act 06-63, *An Act Concerning Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools*, requires that all Connecticut Public School Districts eligible to participate in the Healthy Food Certification take action to certify whether all food items sold to students separately from reimbursable meals *will* or *will not* meet the Connecticut State Department of Education’s Connecticut Nutrition Standards. After review and discussion the North Branford Public Schools has decided not to meet the standard and receive the 10 cent per meal reimbursement. Certification as to the school district’s intention for the coming school year must be made and submitted to the State Department of Education no later than Friday, August 31st, for the coming school year. The Superintendent is recommending the approval of the following motion:

July 17, 2008

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by John Bozzuto pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes the North Branford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the North Branford Public Schools and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education *will not* meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

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|----------------------------|------------|
| 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 stated that our Food Service Supervisor has made great strides to the lunch program before Public Act-06-63. He has met all standards or exceeds their standards. The elimination of all snacks at TVES alone would lose a profit of \$18,000.

Nancy Lappie questioned if snacks were available everyday.

Dr. Wolfe stated no, not everyday but if all snacks were eliminated we would have to raise lunch prices.

Christopher Manna questioned if lunch prices were raised at the June Board of Education meeting why would we raise them again?

Dr. Wolfe stated the prices would have to be raised by another twenty-five to fifty cent to cover costs.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that if the reimbursement rate was larger we would consider participating but at this time it is only ten-cents a meal.

Nancy Lappie questioned how many towns did not participate.

Dr. Wolfe stated mostly the smaller systems as the larger cities almost all of their students were on free or reduced lunches.

f. Assignment Changes

The Superintendent provided assignment changes for the 2008/2009 school year. These assignment changes involve existing staff and do not require Board of Education action.

| <u>Employee</u> | <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| John Tzetzco | NBIS Music | NBHS Music |
| Diane Artaiz | TVES Special Education | NBHS Special Education |

g. Enrollment

The enrollment numbers to date continue to support the plan previously presented to the Board of Education. Kindergarten enrollment will be closely monitored over the summer.

JHS 83
STW 85

Superintendent Wolfe mentioned that there would be 20 to 21 students in each class at JHS and 21 to 22 at STW.

h. ECA - Education Center for the Arts

Superintendent Wolfe remarked that North Branford has five students who auditioned and gained acceptance into the Education Center for the Arts. He remarked that it has been the Board's practice to share cost with the state. The Board of Education is responsible for \$1,500 and parents are responsible for \$1,500 with the rest of the tuition paid by the state. No monies are available for transportation. Dr. Wolfe mentioned that he felt the most cost effective and safe way to transport these students is the use of the kindergarten bus. We would have to tack on one-hour to the kindergarten bus route at a cost of \$5,900. The kindergarten bus would pick these students up at NBHS after their kindergarten run and transport these five students to ECA. Parents would be responsible to pick them up. These students would attend ECA four days a week from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Wolfe remarked a motion was not needed but a Board consensus was.

Bonnie Symansky questioned the cost of putting another bus on to transport these students to ECA.

Dr. Wolfe stated \$45,000 to \$50,000 yearly.

The Board gave their consensus and directed Dr. Wolfe to send letters to the parents of these five students.

Deborah Prunier thanked Dr. Wolfe for researching this matter.

I. Superintendent Search Committee

Deborah Prunier mentioned that the Board met with the search consultant and three public forums have been set for September 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. September 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Prunier mentioned that the locations of these forums have not been finalized.

Deborah Prunier remarked that public participation would be an important component of this Superintendent search and will include parents, students, teachers and administrators. She mentioned that if residents could not make any of these meetings then they could fill out a leadership profile form and return them by September 16, 2008. These forms will be available at all schools, Town Hall, senior center, community center and the library.

V. Committee Reports

The Board of Education will review and take possible action on committee reports.

a. Negotiations

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that negotiations are ongoing with the nurses and the next meeting will be on July 23, 2008 at five o'clock.

b. Budget

Mr. Donald Winnicki, Director of Personnel and Business, presented a report of recommended line item transfers. Line item transfers must be completed at this first meeting following the close of the fiscal year.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to accept 2007/2008 line item transfers as provided by the Director of Personnel and Business.

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

MOTION PASSED 60

Donald Winnicki reviewed each line item and explained various items to the Board.

Donald Winnicki remarked that the subtotal balance to be returned to the town was \$32,739.86 but because of grants for services to the blind, FRC medical, payroll adjustments and life skills we would be returning the final balance of \$78,448.65.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that he has met with the Town Manager and he was very pleased.

Bonnie Symansky questioned how we were doing with energy.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that he would be meeting with the Town Manager, Town's financial director, financial committee and Donald Winnicki in September or October. Dr. Wolfe remarked that we budgeted what the town asked us to budget and we have to meet with the town to see how this will be managed. He mentioned that the school system would have to face the rising fuel prices the same as homeowners are doing.

Christopher Manna questioned what the set temperature is for schools in the winter.

Donald Winnicki stated 68 degrees during the day and lowered at night.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that there is a problem at NBHS as some rooms could be freezing cold and other rooms very hot. The temperature at NBHS is almost impossible to regulate.

Donald Winnicki stated NBHS has only one power plant and they should have two for a building that size.

John Bozzuto questioned any changes or fuel surcharges.

Donald Winnicki stated that there is a limit on the amount of gallons we can be charged for but the price is the price.

Marcey Onofrio questioned if bus routes at NB HS could be consolidated.

Consolidating bus routes would make for longer bus routes and we still have to cover all streets.

c. Buildings & Grounds

The Superintendent was pleased to report the results of the bid for track repair at NBHS. This repair is an approved capital project by the Town Council. Awarding this bid will ensure that our major investment in the track is maintained.

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by John Bozzuto to award Bid 01-2009 North Branford High School Track Repair/Resurface, to Tracklite Systems of Andover Mass in the amount of \$50,367.00.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Marcey Onofrio questioned if there was a guarantee on the track.

Donald Winnicki stated there was a two- year guarantee on the resurfacing
If anything was wrong with the application it would come up before two years.

Christopher Manna questioned the original price for the track.

Donald Winnicki stated that it was originally budgeted for \$45,000 with a \$20,000 contingency to begin to create a reserve.

Christopher Manna remarked that our athletes, Relay for Life and the public utilizes the track. He questioned if anyone else has the use of this facility.

Donald Winnicki stated not that he was aware of. We do try to protect the track at the entry- way for those teams that are using the stadium fields. (football, soccer, etc.)

d. Curriculum

No report at this time

e. Pension

Donald Winnicki stated the next meeting of the Pension Committee would be in August at The Mooring in Guilford. He stated that three different firms would do presentations.

f. Policy

Christopher Manna stated they are trying to schedule the next meeting.

g. ACES

Nancy Lappie stated the next meeting would be on September 11, 2008.

h. Strategic Planning

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the administrative team met with Dr. Howard Feddema to review the action plans and steps that were worked on during the 2007/2008 school year. Also, to make preliminary determination on which action plans and steps will be recommended to the Board as goals for the 2008/2009 school year. This information will be provided to the Board of Education at its August meeting.

i. Building Committee

Deborah Prunier stated NBIS is moving along and the work is ahead by two or three weeks.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the sixth grade wing is down and the portables are almost complete. He remarked that the steel structures for the cafeteria are up.

i. Calendar Committee

No report at this time.

k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

No report at this time.

l. Communication

No report at this time.

VI. New Business

Related only to items removed from the Consent Agenda.

No new business at this time.

VII. Visitors and Press

David McMahon questioned if solar panels were considered or explored for NBIS.

Deborah Prunier stated that the district she works in has solar panels in a school with five hundred students. She remarked that it cost ten million dollars and the district won't see any savings for twenty-five years.

Deborah Prunier stated that the public is welcomed to attend the building committee meetings and it meets in council chambers.

XIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2008 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 7:40 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk