

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
September 18, 2008**

The September 18, 2008 meeting of the North Branford Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room at Totoket Valley Elementary School. The following members attended:

<b>Board Vice-Chair:</b>	<b>Marcey Onofrio</b>
<b>Board Secretary:</b>	<b>Nancy Lappie</b>
<b>Board Members:</b>	<b>John Bozzuto, Jr.</b>
	<b>Dr. Christopher Manna</b>
	<b>Bonnie Symansky</b>

**Superintendent of Schools:** **Robert K. Wolfe**

**Absent:** **Deborah Prunier, Board Chair**

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio 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 personnel and legal matters.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**MOTION:** Moved by Bonnie Symansky and Christopher Manna to reconvene to the Library Media Center for Public Session at 7:00 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**I. Roll Call**

<b>CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:</b>	<b>NOT PRESENT</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>

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## II. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:  
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:  
Principals:

Donald Winnicki  
Joan Follo  
Michele Saulis, NBHS  
Alan Davis, NBIS  
Dr. Kristine Lindsay, TVES  
Shawn Parkhurst, JHS  
Douglas Hammel

Todd Stoeffler  
Jessica Tang  
Laura Nuterangelo  
Liam Stone  
Tiffany Jones  
Gregory Scheiber

Christine Imperato  
Alexa Nuterangelo  
David McMahon  
Ron Ragozzino  
Andrew Kendrick  
Joe Tenczar

Phil Palma  
Mark Nuterangelo  
Debra Stone  
Marcia Staffa  
Deseray Peterson

Marcey Onofrio welcomed North Branford High School representatives, Deseray Peterson and Gregory Scheiber, to the Board of Education. They reported on the following:

### **Academics**

Freshmen Orientation was held on August 20<sup>th</sup> and all freshmen received their schedules and toured the high school. On August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> they went to Deer Lake for activities with their assigned buddies.

Senior Night parents and students met with their guidance counselors and viewed the college process. All seniors received their class rank and GPA.

SAT's will be held on October 4, 2008.

Curriculum Night will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> and parents will follow their child's schedule and visit students' classes for ten minutes each.

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## **Social**

Student Council Food Drive - Students will be collecting food items for the North Branford Food Bank, as many items are low at this time.

The parking situation at NBHS is much improved as only seniors have parking privileges and there is more space and the situation is less hectic.

FBLA is now known as NBHS Helping Hands and they will be working on community services.

## **Athletics**

Football 1-0

Boys' Soccer 2-1-1

Girls' Soccer - 3-0

Field Hockey 2-1

Cross Country 1 meet - Kellie Walker placed first, Alyssa Selmquist placed 6<sup>th</sup> and Coleen Kelleher placed 11<sup>th</sup>.

Volleyball 2-2

The student representatives thanked the Board of Education for the new scoreboards for field hockey and soccer.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that we also had to thank the Booster Club for the scoreboards and he presented to the Board of Education a check for \$2,500 towards the scoreboards from the Booster Club. Dr. Wolfe stated that the new scoreboards are totally solar and he is very proud of all the accomplishments at the NBHS complex for all athletics.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

### **a. Minutes**

Minutes of the August 14, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

### **b. Resignations**

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Mr. Thomas Ermini, physical education teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, effective September 30, 2008.

c. Appointments

The Superintendent has received recommendations from Joan Follo, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, to appoint the following individuals to the respective Department Chair and Leadership positions. These positions are paid in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

Marci (Prinz) Hart	Art K-12 Leadership
Tracy Wootton	Mathematics 6-8 Department Chair

The Superintendent has received recommendations from Alan Davis, Principal of North Branford Intermediate School, to appoint the following individuals to the respective advisor positions. These positions are paid in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers:

Beth Lazzari	Character Education (NBIS)
Mark Torrente	Newspaper (NBIS)

- d. Leaves - None at this time.
- e. Field Trips – None at this time.
- f. Donations

The Superintendent will provide information regarding the donation of a batting cage for the varsity baseball team.

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

<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 5-0**

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### **III. Superintendent's Report**

#### **a. Recognition**

##### 2008/2009 District Calendar Artists

This evening we had a number of exceptional artists whose artwork appears in the 2008/2009-school calendar. Each student was presented with a certificate from the Board of Education for his or her efforts. These students are:

Jessica Barrachina  
Nancy Bush  
Maria Clark  
Emily Dryzgula  
Justin Girard  
Julia Jerominek  
Tiffany Jones  
Andrew Kendrick  
Aryana Mansi  
Patrice Alexis Nelson  
Alexa Nuterangelo  
Antonio Pavic  
Santino Rubano  
Liam Stone  
Jessica Tang

#### **b. Communications**

Copies of the North Branford High School and North Branford Intermediate School Fall Sports Schedules were distributed.

The Superintendent received a letter and a donation in the amount of \$57.50 from Kiducation.

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b. Community Round-Up

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Round Up is scheduled for Saturday, October 25<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. I encourage everyone to check their calendars to see if they can give of their time.

Alan Davis remarked that because of renovations at NBIS Community Roundup would be held at Totoket Valley Cafeteria this year.

c. New Teacher Orientation

A successful two-day New Teacher Orientation was held on August 25 – 26, 2008. Orientation began with a welcome by Superintendent Wolfe and an introduction to the Strategic Plan and the Fish, and Giraffe Hero philosophy. Mini-workshops were presented by various administrators in the areas of the BEST program, Special Education, the Professional Growth Educator Evaluation Program, the Curriculum Management Cycle, Technology, as well as information related to personnel and business.

New staff members were treated to breakfast and a luncheon where they met one another, members of the Board of Education, the Superintendent and district and school administrators. Experienced staff from each school volunteered to be a 'Buddy' to their new colleagues and helped them acclimate to their assigned school. New teachers met their principals and readied their classrooms in preparation for the opening of school.

Appreciation is extended to the entire administrative team and to the many faculty members who shared their time, energy, and expertise in the support of our new employees.

Dr. Wolfe also thanked Joan Follo, Donald Winnicki and Tim Hartigan.

New teachers were assigned a BEST mentor who will guide and support them through the beginning phases of teaching and learning.

d. Curriculum

As part of the Curriculum Management Cycle (CMC), Tamre Mockus, with assistance from the Science 6-12 Curriculum Review Team, developed the end of the year Science Review Phase Report. The Review Phase is the first phase of the CMC. The work of this phase is to determine the status of the instructional program compared to current

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national and state trends and best practices that will influence the next phase of the CMC; the Development/Revision phase. Recommendations made in the Review Phase Report will be considered by members of the Development/Revision Team.

Joan Follo thanked Tamre Mockus and her committee for a very informative report including internal and external audits.

Joan remarked that science classrooms must be updated with equipment and materials and many of the science rooms have to be renovated.

Bonnie Symansky mentioned that the whole team did a marvelous job with this report and it is clear to her that the Board of Education must set aside monies for science classrooms if we are to be successful with this curriculum.

e. August Professional Development

Professional Development Days for staff were held on August 27, 28, and 29, 2008. Over the three days, K-5 teachers participated in the launch of the new Language Arts comprehensive balance literacy program called StoryTown and were introduced to the district's three-tier intervention initiative called Response to Intervention.

Joan Follo remarked that grades 6-8 teachers attended training on web-page development and on the philosophy and procedures for Response to Intervention. Grades 9-12 teachers trained on SmartBoards and web-page development and worked in their site-based strategic action teams on the development of school-wide rubrics.

The Special Education staff received physical management training and offered training to all staff in the support of students with Autism in general education classrooms.

Dr. Wolfe thanked Joan Follo and Alexis Christina for their hard work and support of the new K-12 Resource Center. He also mentioned the opening reception hosted by the Yale Center of British Arts and stated staff, parents and students attended.

f. Enrollment

A snapshot of enrollment from September 1 was distributed at the Board meeting.

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g. 2008 Graduation Follow-Up

Seven NBHS seniors did not graduate in June of 2008 as a result of lacking credit. These students continue to receive counseling and assistance from the school system. Four students attended summer school in North Haven, completed the necessary credits and have now graduated. A fifth student attended Gateway Community College and completed the necessary credits to graduate and will receive her diploma as soon as official transcripts have been received. The two remaining students are receiving support and choosing alternative routes to graduation.

The Strategic Plan sets a goal that 100% of all students will graduate from NBHS.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that this goal was misinterpreted by the news media that led to bad press for North Branford. He stated that any school system that doesn't want to graduate 100% of their students shouldn't be in the education business.

Michele Saulis stated that the two students are attending NBHS and are doing well. They will both graduate in January 2009.

Dr. Wolfe commended Michel Saulis, Principal NBHS and Todd Stoeffler, Assistant Principal NBHS.

g. Strategic Planning Update

The North Branford Public Schools will hold a Strategic Planning Update Session on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be the second time that the plan has been updated. Up to two members of the Board of Education are invited to sit on this Planning Team. The sessions will be led by Dr. Howard Feddema who began working with the school system in 2001.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that Strategic Plans had been updated in 2005 and we are now scheduled for an update. He remarked that it is very important that a Board member serve on this committee and asked if any Board member was interested to let him know.

Dr. Wolfe presented Joe Tenczar with a birthday cake and best wishes. Mr. Tenczar was taping tonight's meeting.

Dr. Wolfe distributed materials to the Board including the Superintendent Search Brochure and the ACES financial report.

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#### **IV. Committee Reports**

##### a. Negotiations

Donald Winnicki stated that negotiations are ongoing with the custodian and cafeteria groups.

##### b. Budget

The Superintendent provided the Board with a copy of the September 1 financial statement.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the finance committee of the Town Council wants to reduce the FRC account. He will have more details at a later date.

##### c. Operations

Christopher Manna remarked that there has been significant progress in all our schools and he mentioned the NBHS art room renovations, gym lights, track and security.

Dr. Wolfe thanked Bill Choti, John Florio and all the custodians for a very busy and hectic summer.

##### d. Curriculum

No report at this time.

##### e. Pension

No report at this time.

##### f. Policy

Christopher Manna remarked that the committee met on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 to discuss various policies.

##### g. ACES

No report at this time.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned the new Sleeping Giant Book and Toy Company started by ACES will be opening on October 4, 2008. Everyone in education will receive a 20% discount on opening day. Profits from this store will allow ACES to develop new revenues for workshops, grants, etc. This store will be an exciting adventure for ACES.

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h. Strategic Planning

No report at this time.

i. Building Committee

Bonnie Symansky stated this committee meets every other week and at the last meeting a boiler issue was discussed and resolved. She mentioned that Town Manager, Richard Brannigan, was very satisfied with the project manager from Turner Construction.

Alan Davis stated the walkway is in place and the students seem to be enjoying it. Bonnie Symansky stated that NBIS has been tested for asbestos and the tests were clean.

Dr. Wolfe thanked Alan Davis, Christine Imperato and NBIS staff for their understanding and help with the NBIS renovations.

Marcey Onofrio stated she watched the students boarding the buses at NBIS and their staff has it down to a science.

i. Calendar Committee

No report at this time.

j. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

No report at this time.

k. Communication

No report at this time.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned the new batting cage at NBHS, at the cost of \$ 6,000, stating the cage enhances the complex.

**V. New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

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**VI. Visitors and Press**

There were no comments from visitors.

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**The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2008.**

**VII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Bonnie Symansky 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