

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**October 16, 2008**

The 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 on Thursday, October 16, 2008. The following members attended:

<b>Board Chairwoman:</b>	<b>Deborah Prunier</b>
<b>Board Vice-Chair:</b>	<b>Marcey Onofrio</b>
<b>Board Secretary:</b>	<b>Nancy Lappie</b>
<b>Board Members:</b>	<b>John Bozzuto</b>
	<b>Christopher Manna</b>
	<b>Bonnie Symansky</b>

<b>Superintendent of Schools:</b>	<b>Dr. Robert K. Wolfe</b>
<b>Director of Business/Personnel:</b>	<b>Donald Winnicki</b>

**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 legal, personnel and negotiation matters.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**MOTION:** Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by John Bozzuto to reconvene to Public session at 6:55 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**I. Visitors**

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Joan Follo
Principals:	Michele Saulis, NBHS
	Alan Davis, NBIS
	Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES
	Douglas Hammel, STW
	Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

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Todd Stoeffler  
Sara Robertson  
Ron Ragozzino  
Nathaniel Dziuba  
John Flanagan  
Kimberly Williams  
Daniel Katz  
Nancy Streeter  
Bruce Robertson  
Joanne Wentworth

Gerry Ifkovic  
Keena Mavani  
Briana Bogue  
Justyna Dziuba  
Stephanie Flanagan  
Ryan Williams  
Joe Katz  
Diane Steinke  
Rachel Robertson

Jackie Steinke  
David McMahon  
Marcia Staffa  
Thomas Dziuba  
Joan Williams  
Bruce Williams  
Tyler Flanagan  
Cheryl Robertson  
Deseray Peterson

There were no visitor comments at this time.

## **II. Student Representative**

Deseray Peterson, student representative NBHS, report on the following items:

### **Sports**

Boy's Soccer - clinched a spot to compete in the state tournament.

Girl's Soccer – also guaranteed a spot in the state tournament. 11-1-1

Volleyball – 7-7

Field Hockey –confirmed a spot in the state tournament.

Cross-Country competes tomorrow in their shoreline conference, which will determine where they are placed.

Senior nights of all sports will be held within the next few weeks. These are all the last home night games of each sport. Girl's Soccer, Boys Soccer, Volleyball and Field Hockey will be held next week.

### **Academic**

The Student Council will be holding a mock presidential election and Senior President Joe Lasko will represent the Democratic Party and Deseray Peterson will represent the Republican Party. The first debate will be aired on the public morning announcements on October 17, 2008

PSAT's will be held at North Branford High School on October 18, 2008. This test is usually taken by sophomores and juniors. SATs will be held on November 1, 2008.

The Shoreline Music Festival Concert is tonight and numerous band members from

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NBHS are attending.

Academic Bowl is doing very well and their next meet is the first week in November.

### **Social**

National Honor Society hosting the annual haunted house located at the NBHS small gym on October 25, 2008. This is for all elementary and middle school students.

Homecoming game will be November 6<sup>th</sup> and the homecoming dance will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be a spirit week the week of homecoming where students show their spirit in a variety of ways.

Student Council held their food drive on Tuesday collecting over 650 cans of food for the North Branford Food Bank.

Helping Hands ended their water bottle collection, which benefited the victims of Hurricane Ike. Over 80 gallons were collected and are being sent to the Salvation Army.

A "Hole in the Wall" day camp maintenance trip is being planned where students will involve themselves in community service to help clean up different areas and buildings.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **a. Minutes**

Minutes of the September 18, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

Minutes of the October 1, 2008 Board of Education Special Meeting.

#### **b. Resignations**

#### **c. Appointments**

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Mr. David Carpenter to the position of physical education teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School and Jerome Harrison School for the 2008/2009 school year to be placed on Bachelors, Step 1 per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

The Superintendent has received a recommendation from Alan Davis, Principal of NBIS, for the appointment Mr. John Prete to the position of a Volleyball Coach at North Branford Intermediate School.

d. Leaves - None at this time.

e. Field Trips

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Mr. David Borkowski, social studies teacher at North Branford High School. Mr. Borkowski is recommending a trip to the United Nations in New York City on November 6, 2008 where students will tour the United Nations Building.

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Mrs. Jennifer Marenga, world language teacher at North Branford High School. Mrs. Marenga is recommending a trip to New York City on May 20, 2009. World language students will experience first-hand cultures associated with world language.

f. Donations

The Superintendent has received a proposal from North Branford Youth Basketball for the generous donation of two basketball scoreboards. One scoreboard will be designated for Jerome Harrison School and the second one will be designated for Totoket Valley Elementary School. This proposed donation totals \$6,612 which includes the scoreboards, controls, receivers, shipping and installation.

**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:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>YES</b>

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

##### a. Recognition

##### NBHS 2008 CAPT – Student Recognition

Fifteen North Branford High School students have distinguished themselves by performing at the advance level on all four of the 2008 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 fifteen students with a letter of congratulations. The Superintendent, Michele Saulis and Board Chair Deborah Prunier presented each student with this letter from Dr. McQuillan.

Catherine-Mary Baiocchi  
Briana Bogue  
Nathaniel Dziuba  
Tyler Flanagan  
Daniel Katz  
Joseph Katz  
Alex Lamarche  
Heena Mavani  
Matthew McNamara  
Kelsey Platner  
Sara Robertson  
Jaclyn Steinke  
Stephanie White  
Ryan Williams  
Chelsea Wilson

##### b. Communications – None at this time.

##### c. Superintendent Search

On Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Board of Education received a report from Eliza Holcomb of CAFE Search Services identifying the Leadership Profile that was developed with input from administration, faculty and town citizens. The Board conducted first round interviews on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Board Chair, Deborah Prunier, provided an update of the Board's efforts. She stated that the Board of Education, acting as the Search Committee and assisted by CAFE Search Services, began an intensive search in August. The search team visited North Branford Schools and held

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public forums to define the Leadership Profile for North Branford's next Superintendent. The search consultants screened dozens of potential candidates and presented six highly qualified candidates to the Board of Education in first round interviews. After narrowing this field to two, Mr. Schoonmaker was selected as candidate of choice. Deborah Prunier, Marcey Onofrio and Christopher Manna visited Old Saybrook and spoke with many groups and they are even more comfortable in their choice of Mr. Schoonmaker.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that a special meeting would be held shortly for the appointment of Mr. Schoonmaker.

d. Enrollment

A snapshot of enrollment from October 1 was attached for Board review. The October 1 enrollment is the benchmark for all State information.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that there was a decline of 1% in students then what was expected.

e. Student Acknowledgement

Long Island Sound 2009 Calendar

The Superintendent shared with the Board that two students from North Branford have artwork featured in the Long Island Sound 2009 Calendar. "The Sound and Its Watershed – What it Means to Me." The students are:

Jennifer Gaudio – Grade 6 NBIS - January 2009

Nicholas Gaudio – Grade 1 JHS – May 2009

The Superintendent commended these students for their exceptional artwork and participation in the Long Island Sound Foundation's publication.

Commended Student in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program

A Letter of Commendation from North Branford High School and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation was presented by Principal Michele Saulis to Robert Mercier, a senior at NBHS. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended students are placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2009 competition by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The principal hopes that this recognition will enhance Robert

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Mercier's educational opportunities and that he will continue to diligently pursue his professional goals. Robert is a member of the National Honor Society and plans to study engineering when he attends college next year. He took two advanced placement courses last year and is currently taking four more advanced placement courses. Robert Mercier is also an NBHS athlete in Soccer and a Captain on the Track and Field team. He is one of the top ranked students in the class of 2009 and we are very proud of his accomplishments!

f. Kindergarten Task Force

A Kindergarten Task Force has been developed to explore alternatives for the delivery of kindergarten instruction. The task force includes administrators, Shawn Parkhurst, Doug Hammel and Joan Follo as well as representatives from the kindergarten teaching staff, Claudia Faughnan (STW), Michelle Cook (JHS). The task force has met once and is in the review phase collecting data on other towns and analyzing research. The task force is on a fast track so that recommendations may be included in the 2009-2010 budget if the Board so desires. Shawn Parkhurst is Chair of this committee.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that the school district is looking at the possibility of moving to a full-day kindergarten. He stated that our district is one of the few districts in Connecticut that has half-day kindergarten classes and it is possible that the state will mandate full-day kindergarten in the future. Dr. Wolfe remarked that he would prefer to do it in a logical fashion and in the matter we desire.

g. 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. Dr. Wolfe encouraged everyone to check their calendars to see if they can give of their time.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that middle school and high schools students do the main collecting of food for the food banks and elementary students collect personal hygiene items. Because of the construction of NBIS the round-up will be held at TVES this year.

Dr. Wolfe stated that it would be nice if we could receive press coverage of this event.

Alan Davis stated that student teams are being formed and Mark Torrente is coordinating this event along with over twenty staff members.

Superintendent Wolfe also mentioned that gift cards are accepted.

Dr. Wolfe also mentioned the Senior Citizen Dinner that is held on Make a Difference

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Day at JHS. Staff members and Ed Slubowski coordinate this dinner and all senior citizens are invited to attend.

h. Blue Jupiter

Tickets are now on sale for the December 6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Tour of Blue Jupiter. The concert is presented by the North Branford Education Foundation. Blue Jupiter was well received and sold out at its concert last year. Tickets are \$20 each and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Order forms are available at all school offices.

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that Blue Jupiter is on an international tour from Singapore to North Branford, Connecticut.

**V. Committee Reports**

a. Negotiations

Donald Winnicki stating he is still working with two groups.

b. Budget

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

John Bozzuto stated the committee has not met this month.

Dr. Wolfe stated that the calendar for the 2009-2010 budget year is being developed.

c. Operations

Donald Winnicki stated that United Illuminating Company and the Wallingford Electric Company provided incentives to change the lights in our gymnasium. UI also provided some funding. The high school received brighter fluorescent fixtures and the small gym at NHBS, JHS gym, TVES gym and the STW cafetorium replaced sodium vapor lights for fluorescent lighting.

Bonnie Symansky questioned who disposed of the old light fixtures and if they were more energy efficient.

Donald Winnicki stated that the companies took care of the disposal and the lighting was more energy efficient.

Dr. Wolfe stated that all schools that had personal microwaves and refrigerators in their buildings had them removed and were replaced with energy efficient appliances in the schools.

d. Curriculum

No report at this time.

e. Pension

No report at this time.

f. Policy

Christopher Manna stated that the Bullying Policy was discussed at the last meeting and the committee is working on improving the policy and incorporating new state standards.

g. ACES

Nancy Lappie stated that autism and the draft audit were discussed. She remarked that we might think of inviting ACES to host programs at North Branford.

h. Strategic Planning

Dr. Wolfe mentioned there would be an update on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. He hopes to brief the new Superintendent on this update so North Branford doesn't miss a beat.

i. Building Committee

Christopher Manna stated the project is moving forward and is still ahead of schedule.

Deborah Prunier complimented the project manager stating he is doing a remarkable job.

Dr. Wolfe remarked that the Construction Manager is our eyes and ears on a project.

j. Calendar Committee

No report at this time.

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k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

No report at this time.

l. Communication

Dr. Wolfe mentioned that Michele Saulis, Marcey Onofrio, Bonnie Symansky, Joe Tenczar and himself would meet after the Board meeting to set a date to talk about channel nineteen.

**VI. New Business**

No new business at this time.

**VII. Visitors and Press**

No visitor comments at this time.

**VIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2008.**

**XIV. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 7:35 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine  
Account Clerk