

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 15, 2009

The North Branford Board of Education met on Thursday, January 15, 2009 in the Board of Education Conference Room at Totoket Valley Elementary School at 6:02 p.m. The following members attended:

Board Chairwoman:	Deborah Prunier
Board Vice-Chair:	Marcey Onofrio
Board Secretary:	Nancy Lappie
Board Members:	John Bozzuto, Jr. Dr. Christopher Manna Bonnie Symansky
Superintendent of Schools:	Scott Schoonmaker

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 Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to reconvene to the Library Media Center for Public Session at 6.55 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Roll Call Vote

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

I. Visitors

Director of Business / Personnel: Donald Winnicki

Rachael King, New Haven Register
Cliff Potter
Marcia Staffa
Theresa Franksen

David McMahon
Dolina Potter
Jennifer Carroll

II. Student Representative

The student representatives of NBHS were not present at this meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the December 18, 2008 North Branford Board of Education meeting.

- b. Resignations - None at this time.
- 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 John Bozzuto to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUIER:	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 of Schools', Scott Schoonmaker remarked that he had the pleasure of touring North Branford High School today with Donald Winnicki and Bill Choti. The Superintendent stated that NBHS was operating with one boiler at this time as the second boiler had cracked. He mentioned that if the remaining boiler shut down we would have to go to a rental.

Christopher Manna questioned the cost.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated \$350 per day.

Donald Winnicki remarked that he has filed with our insurance carrier and he is now waiting for the report. Mr. Winnicki remarked that hopefully the insurance carrier will make a significant contribution towards the boiler.

Bonnie Symansky asked that Mr. Winnicki keep the Board informed on this matter.

John Bozzuto questioned if new boilers could be a capital improvement project and questioned the cost and guarantee.

Donald Winnicki stated about \$100,000. and boilers are usually guaranteed for twenty to thirty years.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that a number of other items were discussed. (lighting in hallways, ceiling tiles, classroom lighting, etc.)

Donald Winnicki remarked that some ceiling tiles and lighting fixtures have been replaced.

Deborah Prunier questioned if UI could help us.

Donald Winnicki mentioned that UI has helped with some of our gymnasium lights and we will now move on to the hallways.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that a UI representative would meet with them next week.

- a. Recognition - None at this time.

- b. Communications - None at this time.

c. School Child Nutrition Program

The Connecticut State Department of Education is requiring the approval of Authorized Signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs. The program allows the school system to enter online applications and submit claims for reimbursements. Security enhancement procedures have also been implemented in this program. This form will require the signature of the Board Secretary.

MOTION: Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve the attached Authorized Signatures Change Form for the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program 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

d. Open Choice

The Superintendent provided the Board an update on its commitment to Open Choice. Open Choice is a major component of our ability to provide diversity within our schools, which is required by State law. The Superintendent provided a chart that detailed the 26 seats by grade level. Twenty of the 26 seats will be filled by returning students as part of our commitment that once a student begins in Open Choice, they are allowed to continue. This will leave 6 vacancies for the 2009/2010 school year. The Superintendent recommended continuation of the commitment as in the past – 26 seats.

MOTION: Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Marcey Onofrio that the Board of Education endorses Open Choice for the 2009/2010 school year with its continuation of 26 seats.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Bonnie Symansky questioned the grade levels that were open.

Donald Winnicki stated grades 1, 6, and 9.

Christopher Manna questioned where most of the Open Choice students come from.

Donald Winnicki stated most from New Haven.

Deborah Prunier questioned if it was still a lottery.

Donald Winnicki remarked that it was.

e. Proposed 2010 Board of Education Meeting Dates

The Superintendent is providing Proposed 2010 Board of Education Meeting dates for Board action.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by John Bozzuto to approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates 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

f. Superintendent's Budget Request

The Superintendent presented his budget request for the 2009/2010 school year to the Board of Education. Tonight's presentation was an overview of the assumptions on which the budget was constructed. The Board will have the opportunity over the next few weeks to review the information. The following dates have been developed for additional presentations and information.

January 21, 2009	Special Meeting/Budget Workshop	7 p.m. – TVES
January 28, 2009	Special Meeting/Budget Workshop	7 p.m. – TVES
February 12, 2009	Board Meeting	7 p.m. – TVES

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Superintendent Schoonmaker extended thanks to former Superintendent Dr. Robert Wolfe, Donald Winnicki, all administrators, department chairs, lead teachers, faculty, staff and central office personnel who played a role in developing this budget as well as the Board's Budget Subcommittee.

Donald Winnicki presented an overview of each section of the budget. He mentioned that the two largest increases in this budget were labor costs and employee benefits that will account for 3.23% increase. The total proposed increase in this budget is 3.66%.

Donald Winnicki remarked he would have a power point presentation on Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. Winnicki stated that there was only two Capital requests at this time:

Track maintenance reserve
System truck

John Bozzuto questioned if a copy of this budget was given to the Town Council.

Donald Winnicki stated not yet but he could send via interoffice mail.

Deborah Prunier remarked that the first budget workshop would be on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Totoket Valley Elementary School Cafeteria (cafetorium)

V. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations

Donald Winnicki and the negotiations subcommittee schedule a meeting for Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

b. Budget

A copy of the January 1 financial statement was enclosed for Board review.

c. Operations

John Bozzuto asked to schedule an Operations subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2009. Donald Winnicki, Superintendent Schoonmaker and Bill Choti will also attend this meeting.

d. Curriculum

No report at this time.

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e. Pension

The Town of North Branford Pension Committee requires representation from the Board of Education. This position does hold voting rights on the committee and therefore requires a formal appointment by the Town Council

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to appoint John Bozzuto to the Town of North Branford Pension Committee representing the Board of Education.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0-1

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to appoint Bonnie Symansky as an alternate to the Town of North Branford Pension Committee representing the Board of Education.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0-1

f. Policy

Christopher Manna remarked that the committee met on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 and the committee reviewed policies on emergency situations and media reporting.

g. ACES

Nancy Lappie remarked that ACES met last week and there were discussions on state funding, future of the Wintergreen Magnet School and a Tech report.

h. Strategic Planning

No report at this time.

i. Building Committee

Deborah Prunier stated the NBIS project is behind schedule because of the weather, as foundation cannot be poured in real cold weather.

Bonnie Symansky remarked that furniture has been ordered.

j. Calendar Committee

No report at this time.

k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

Deborah Prunier mentioned a minor bus accident last week and commended Donald Winnicki and Superintendent Schoonmaker for their handling of the situation

She complimented Superintendent Schoonmaker for sending letters to the North Branford Fire Chief and the North Branford Police Chief commending them and their staff on the wonderful job they did. She also mentioned that Superintendent Schoonmaker rode the bus with the students after the accident.

l. Communication

No report at this time.

VI. New Business

No new business at this time.

VII. Visitors and Press

Cliff Potter questioned if Board of Education members would attend the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 and invite them to the Board of Education's first budget workshop

Deborah Prunier stated the budget was a work in progress and the workshops are open to the public and all are invited to attend.

Mr. Potter remarked that he didn't think Town Council members would attend all three workshops of the Board of Education and Board members should keep them aware of

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the proposed budget by attending the Town Council meeting, as he believes face to face is a good way to go.

Christopher Manna questioned if the Board could invite them to the workshop.

Deborah Prunier stated that there is a Board liaison and he is always welcomed at all Board of Education meetings as well as any Town Council member.

John Bozzuto and Christopher Manna stated they would attend the Town Council meeting next Tuesday.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated he would also attend.

Mrs. Prunier thanked Cliff Potter, on behalf of the Board, for always supporting them.

**XIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for
February 12, 2009 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.**

XIV. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine