

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 21, 2009
2009-2010 First Budget Workshop

The North Branford Board of Education met on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 for their 2009-2010 first budget workshop at Totoket Valley Library Media Center. The following members attended:

BOARD CHAIRWOMAN:	DEBORAH PRUNIER
BOARD VICE-CHAIR:	MARCEY ONOFRIO
BOARD SECRETARY:	NANCY LAPPIE
BOARD MEMBERS:	JOHN BOZZUTO
	DR. CHRISTOPHER MANNA
	BONNIE SYMANSKY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:	SCOTT SCHOONMAKER

I. Visitors

Director of Business / Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Director of Curriculum / Instruction:	Joan Follo
Supervisor of Technology:	Tim Hartigan
Supervisor of Operations:	William Choti
Principals:	Michele Saulis
	Alan Davis
	Dr. Kris Lindsay
	Doug Hammel

Joe Tenczar
Cliff Potter
Dolina Potter
Richard Brannigan, Town Manager
Todd Stoeffler

Scott Schoonmaker thanked all administrators and Donald Winnicki for all the time and effort that went into developing the proposed budget. He also thanked former Superintendent Wolfe.

II. Power Point Presentation

Donald Winnicki, Director of Business / Personnel, stated that although the 2009-2010 requested budget was designed to support our mission, in all candor this year's budget request is designed to stay where we are as opposed to moving forward.

Mr. Winnicki remarked that from the 3.66% budget request 3.23% is for fixed cost and 0.43% is for program improvement. He mentioned that the state may reduce aid to public education but salary and employee benefit costs are already in place. Don stated that administration has removed a considerable number of important requests and deferred most capital projects. He remarked that all day kindergarten, STW custodian and requested staff positions at NBHS were not in this budget request. Administrators cut their budget request by \$613,751 or 2.16%.

Mr. Winnicki mentioned that diesel fuel was taken at \$2.50 a gallon and heating oil at \$2.50 a gallon.

Donald Winnicki remarked that the only program improvement in this budget request was for a .6 elementary world language teacher; Don also spoke on technology lease costs and outside tuition costs. Don mentioned that the extra sixth grade position would be a seventh grade position next year because of the large sixth grade class size this year which will have no budgetary impact.

Mr. Winnicki stated that \$75,000 for Capital Improvement was \$20,000 for continuation of track reserve and \$55,000 for a new truck with plow and a lift-gate. He remarked that Fran Merola, Public Works, was still working on this matter.

Don mentioned that our facilities continue to age (boilers, roofs, floor tile removal (asbestos, etc.)). He remarked that we are behind in our original facilities study.

Nancy Lappie asked what the time line was for asbestos floor tile removal.

Donald Winnicki stated that we do triennial inspections and when tiles deteriorate or carpeting wears exposing damaged tiles then we have to remove the tiles.

Bonnie Symansky questioned block scheduling at NBHS and students who carry more than one study hall.

Michele Saulis stated that seventeen students carry two study halls but she has increased electives, (music, art, and technology) and greatly reduced more than one study hall for students at NBHS.

January 21, 2009

Christopher Manna questioned how many of the seventeen students were seniors.

Michele Saulis stated fifteen students are seniors.

Mrs. Saulis also mentioned that soon the state would mandate a senior project.

Deborah Prunier questioned if there were class limits at NBHS.

Michele Saulis stated not officially but she councils with Department Chairs on class sizes every year and how many students could classes accommodate. She mentioned that the Food Service class could only accommodate fifteen students for each class.

Nancy Lappie questioned what a Big Toy was?

Donald Winnicki stated that Big Toy was a generic name for playground equipment at JHS, STW, TVES and the FRC program at NBHS.

Deborah Prunier asked Suzanne Wright if 309 students for Special Services was an estimated or true number.

Suzanne Wright stated that was the number of students with Special Services on October 1, 2008 which is the number they use for the year.

Bonnie Symansky questioned the Technology program line item.

Tim Hartigan replied that the money was not just for computers but also for all equipment in the server rooms.

Donald Winnicki mentioned that we are trying to maintain a four year replacement cycle.

Nancy Lappie questioned if we had to pay to dispose of old computer equipment.

Tim Hartigan stated that Bill Choti has found a company that will dispose of the equipment for free.

Dr. Manna questioned the life cycle of a computer.

January 21, 2009

Tim Hartigan stated between four and six years. He remarked that he and his Technology team exchange parts from old computers to save other computers.

Nancy Lappie questioned if the lease- company takes computers back when the lease is up.

Tim Hartigan stated that we are actually purchasing computers and not leasing them.

Donald Winnicki explained that we are using a municipal lease to purchase computers.

Christopher Manna remarked that he was very disappointed to see the all day kindergarten cut from the budget requests.

Deborah Prunier questioned how many students attended virtual high school.

Michele Saulis stated that they went from six students to twenty students and all are doing very well.

Dr. Manna asked who pays for virtual high school.

Mrs. Saulis remarked that the school district pays.

Bonnie Symansky questioned if there was a fund for roof repairs.

Donald Winnicki stated there was not.

III. Visitors and Press

Cliff Potter questioned if the high school and the auditorium were on the same power plant. He asked if NBHS, NBIS and the auditorium would one day be on the same power plant with super, mega boilers.

Donald Winnicki stated that each of these buildings had their own power plants and the power plant at NBHS will be our next major issue.

Mr. Winnicki remarked that he is still trying to contact our insurance company on the cracked boiler at the high school.

January 21, 2009

Deborah Prunier mentioned that there is not a lot of wiggle room in this budget request stating it is a very conservative budget.

Donald Winnicki remarked that Board members could call Central Office if they have any questions on this budget request before next Wednesday.

The second budget request workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009.

IV. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Nancy Lappie to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 7:55 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk