

North Branford Board of Education

Board of Education Meeting

December 17, 2009

This meeting of the North Branford Board of Education was called to order at 6:04 pm in the conference room at Totoket Valley Elementary School on Thursday, December 17th. The following members attended:

Deborah Prunier

Shannon Querfeld-Miscio

Marcey Onofrio

David McMahon

Nancy Lappie

Dr. Christopher Manna

Superintendent of Schools: Scott Schoonmaker

Director of Personnel & Business: Donald Winnicki

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Christopher Manna 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.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to reconvene to the Library Media Center for public session at 6:15.

ALL VOTED AYE

The public session of the North Branford Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm in the Library/Media Center at Totoket Valley Elementary School on Thursday, December 17.

I. Salute to the Flag

II. In accordance with Board Policy P9040, the first order of business at the first meeting in December succeeding each biennial election is the election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Board of Education.

MOTION: Moved by Christopher Manna and seconded by Deborah Prunier to nominate

Marcey Onofrio as Chairperson.

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Querfeld-Miscio and seconded by David McMahon to nominate Nancy Lappie as Chairperson.

Results of the Ballot vote:

Marcey Onofrio – 3 votes

Nancy Lappie – 3 votes

Tie Vote

Deborah Prunier stated the Board will allow one more vote and if the results are deadlocked again, the Town Council will appoint the new Board of Education Chairperson.

Christopher Manna stated he nominated Marcey Onofrio because of his personal experience working with her and he is proud of her accomplishments and confident in her abilities.

Shannon Querfeld-Miscio stated she nominated Nancy Lappie due to her fiscal restraint to balance the budget and for her open communication.

Second Ballot Vote results:

Nancy Lappie – 3 votes

Marcey Onofrio – 2 votes

Abstain – 1 vote

Deborah Prunier stated the votes are public record for 48 hours.

The meeting was turned over to Nancy Lappie, the newly elected Board of Education Chairperson. Nancy Lappie stated she will do everything in her power to work together and will do her best to be a good Board Chair.

Marcey Onofrio thanked Deborah Prunier for all her hard work over the last two years. Nancy Lappie also thanked Deborah Prunier for her work.

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Nancy Lappie to nominate Shannon Querfeld-Miscio to Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Christopher Manna to nominate Marcey Onofrio to Vice-Chair.

Ballot Vote Results:

Marcey Onofrio – 3 votes
Shannon Querfeld-Miscio – 3 votes

Tie Vote

Marcey Onofrio withdrew her name from the voting, and Shannon Querfeld-Miscio was named Board Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Querfeld-Miscio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to nominated David McMahon as Secretary.

No voting necessary, David McMahon is Board Secretary.

III. Visitors

Director of Personnel & Business:	Donald Winnicki	
Director of Instruction & Curriculum	Joan Follo	
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright	
Principals:	Michele Saulis, NBHS	
	Alan Davis, NBIS	
	Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES	
	Shawn Parkhurst, JHS	
	Alexis Christina, STW	
Carter Welch	Cliff Potter	Dolina Potter
Rose Angeloni	Susan Misur	Al Rose
Heena Mavani	Kelsey Platner	

No Visitor comments at this time.

IV: Student Representative

Heena Mavani and Kelsey Platner reported on the following items:

Academic: Many students have already participated in job shadows in the career

resource center with Ms. Cangiano and in January, there will be an assembly for the seniors about making college and career count.

Four NBHS students were selected for the southern regional music festival for choir and band. These students include Sara Gaetcher, Eliscia Picard and Alyssa Hoyt for chorus and Greg Marak for band.

The winter concert has been rescheduled for January 7th due to a snow day. This year's band is the largest it has ever been with 80 members and is the debut for the new NBHS choir director, Michael Carnaroli.

Ms. Nunh's gym class has been doing projects that spread awareness throughout school on such issues as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Great Smoke-out and World AIDS awareness day.

Athletics: Many NBHS students were honored for their excellent performances of the 2009 fall sports teams.

The NBHS seniors won the powder-puff game, over the juniors and sophomores, with a shut out on November 22nd. Powder-puff is a great project graduation fundraiser that began 4 years ago with the class of 2007.

Social/Clubs/Civics: The Drama club has begun preparing for this year's musical "Into the Woods"

Student Council, National Honor Society, Helpings Hands, Interact and many high schools students are donating to the toy drive for Yale New Haven's Children's Hospital.

December 12th, Interact members went to the Branford community dining room to serve food to those in need and are also collecting gently used coats.

Helping Hands organized an event on December 10th, where preschoolers came and wrote letters to Santa and will soon receive personalized messages back from the North Pole.

December 17, Student Council visited The North Branford Senior Center and the select chorus sang Christmas songs.

Student Council's "Big Give Challenge" is based on the popular program "Oprah's big give", whereby Oprah presented each member of her audience with one hundred dollars and challenged them to make it grow. Student Council Members were presented with one dollar and they have until January 25th to make that dollar grow for a charity organization or worthy individual of their choice.

IV. Consent Agenda:

a. Minutes

Minutes of the November 19, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations – None at this time.

- c. Appointments – None at this time.
- d. Leaves - None at this time.
- e. Field Trips

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from John Tzetzto, NBHS music educator, for a trip to Washington, DC. The trip will be from April 22 to April 25, 2010 (4/22 and 4/23 fall during April vacation). NBHS band and choral students will have the opportunity to be adjudicated by professional musicians and educators in an authentic setting. Details of the trip are attached for Board review.

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Alan Davis, Principal of NBIS, for a trip to Boston, Massachusetts on Friday, May 21, 2010. This is a one-day excursion to supplement and enhance the 8th grade U.S. history and science curriculum.

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from the NBIS Music Department for a one-day trip to Agawam, Massachusetts, on Friday, June 4, 2010. This is the annual PAC adjudication festival and is followed by a day trip to Six Flags New England.

- f. Donations - None at this time.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by David McMahon to remove the NBHS Field Trip request from the consent agenda for further review.

Chairperson Lappie:	AYE
Vice-Chair Querfeld-Miscio	AYE
Secretary McMahon	AYE
Christopher Manna	AYE
Marcey Onofrio	AYE
Deborah Prunier	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Querfeld-Miscio and seconded by David McMahon to remove the minutes from the November 19th meeting from the consent agenda.

Chairperson Lappie:	AYE
Vice-Chair Querfeld-Miscio	AYE
Secretary McMahon	AYE
Christopher Manna	AYE
Marcey Onofrio	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

V. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Schoonmaker welcomed the new Board Members and thanked the Student Council Representatives.

a. Recognition***MSSA Student Recognition Luncheon***

North Branford High School seniors, Heena Mavani and Dwight Boatman, received the "Superintendent's Award of Excellence" through the Middlesex Shoreline Superintendents Association (MSSA) in recognition of their community service, academic achievement and leadership in the school community. We are very proud to have Heena and Dwight represent the North Branford Public Schools. They received their awards on Monday, November 16th at the Saybrook Point Inn. The event recognized students from neighboring shoreline communities. ***Congratulations and thank you to Heena and Dwight for representing North Branford!***

Student Artwork Gallery Opens at Town Hall

Congratulations to TVES art educator, Marci Hart, on receiving and successfully launching her Education Foundation Mini Grant. Marci's vision of sharing student artwork with the community became a reality through a Mini Grant from the Education Foundation. On the evening of December 1, 2009, members of the Education Foundation, Town Council, administrators, teachers, parents and students celebrated the opening of a permanent student art gallery housed in the main corridor of the North Branford Town Hall. An exhibit of student artwork and refreshments, provided by the high school's Culinary Arts Department, were enjoyed by all. Student artists were formally recognized by the Town Council.

Artwork will rotate every three months for the enjoyment of the entire community. Education Foundation Mini Grant funds allowed Marci to purchase the large presentation boards that are now affixed to the walls of the town hall's center corridor. ***Many thanks to Marci Hart, all the North Branford art educators, and the NBHS Culinary Arts Department for contributing to the success of this event!***

b. Communications

The Superintendent attached the Board of Education Briefs for December 2009.

The Superintendent has attached a copy of a letter to Diane Artaiz, special education (Bridges) teacher at NBHS. The letter confirms Mrs. Artaiz's placement in the Distinguished Educator Phase of the Professional Growth Program for the 2009/2010 school year.

Superintendent Schoonmaker congratulated Diane on her commitment to the students. Michele Saulis also congratulated Diane on her commitment.

The Superintendent has attached a copy of the North Branford High School Winter Sports Schedule.

The Superintendent has attached a letter from Kiducation regarding a donation of \$87 which represents the proceeds from clothing donation container located in Northford.

Chairperson Lappie stated she was unaware the Board received money from Kiducation. Superintendent Schoonmaker stated these funds are used to assist students in need or can be used towards field trips. Vice-Chair Querfeld-Miscio stated we may want to increase awareness by putting information in the Totoket Times.

c. Board Subcommittees

The work of the Board of Education is primarily completed through a subcommittee structure. It is important that members of the Board of Education determine their areas of interest. A listing of the Board of Education Subcommittees was attached for review. Interest is communicated to the Board Chair who ultimately makes the decision as to membership. In addition, the Superintendent will provide times and dates of committee meetings. Many subcommittees meet at a time and date that is set by the Town or outside organizations.

The Board of Education must also designate an individual who will sign the weekly warrants for payroll and accounts payable.

The following is a list of the standing committees for the North Branford Board of Education:

Negotiations:	Marcey Onofrio, David McMahan, Shannon Querfeld-Miscio, alt
Budget:	Marcey Onofrio, Shannon Querfeld-Miscio, David McMahan
Operations:	Christopher Manna, David McMahan
Curriculum	Nancy Lappie, Christopher Manna
Pension:	Nancy Lappie
Policy:	Christopher Manna, Shannon Querfeld-Miscio, Nancy Lappie
ACES:	Nancy Lappie, Shannon Querfeld-Miscio, alt
Strategic Planning:	Deborah Prunier
Building Committee:	David McMahan
Calendar Committee:	Marcey Onofrio
Transportation:	Marcey Onofrio, Christopher Manna, Shannon Querfeld-Miscio, alt, David McMahan, alt
Communication:	To be further defined.

David McMahan is responsible for signing weekly warrants with Nancy Lappie as an alternate.

d. Full-Day Kindergarten Proposal

As part of the North Branford Public Schools' Strategic Plan, a task force was formed last year to explore the realities of expanding the existing Kindergarten half-day program to a full-day program. The proposal is in this Board packet for you to reexamine the research related to the premise that extending student time in kindergarten could increase their ability to master the extensive literacy and numeracy expectations of the K curriculum. This proposal was presented to the Board last December, 2009. At that time Board members appeared enthusiastic about the prospect of a full-day kindergarten in the NBPS, yet the budget was unable to support this

initiative.

The purpose of the present Kindergarten Report is to reconsider the needs of the kindergarten student in the NBPS and to offer the Board several options and a recommendation that could increase student learning, better prepare students for the beginning of first grade expectations, and potentially increase student performance on grade 3 CMTs.

Joan Follo reviewed the presentation with the Board. When asked which plan she supported, Joan stated she supports option A. She stated it is most important to have quality program meeting all standards and integrating all skills.

Chairperson Lappie thanked Joan and her committee.

Joan Follo also presented the Board with a copy of the new report card being sent home with all elementary level students.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations

The North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Paraprofessionals have reached agreement on a new contract commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012. Director of Personnel and Business, Don Winnicki, will highlight the new features of the contract. The Paraprofessionals ratified the contract on December 8, 2009.

Motion: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by David McMahon to approve the new collective bargaining unit agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and the Local 6152 of the AFT-CT/AFL-CIO - for the period commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012.

Chairperson Lappie:	AYE
Vice-Chair Querfeld-Miscio	AYE
Secretary McMahon	AYE
Christopher Manna	AYE
Marcey Onofrio	AYE
Deborah Prunier	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Deborah Prunier thanked Don Winnicki for all his hard work.

b. Budget

The Superintendent enclosed a copy of the December 1 financial statement for Board review.

The Board of Education determined two dates for the 2010/2011 Budget workshops. Tentative dates of *January 27th* and *February 3rd* (7 p.m. at TVES) were chosen. Superintendent

Schoonmaker asked the board to confirm these dates given the change in membership. The Board has confirmed these dates.

- c. Operations – nothing at this time
- d. Curriculum – covered under Full-day kindergarten
- e. Pension - Don Winnicki reported there was a recent meeting with minor changes to some allocations and the pension funds are recovering slowly.
- f. Policy – Christopher Manna stated the Technology policies have been given to the Technical Department for review.

The Superintendent attached, for Board review, two policies for first read:

Policy #P2300 Privately Owned Vehicles **EXHIBIT N**

Policy #P4025 Video Surveillance **EXHIBIT O**

- g. ACES – nothing at this time
- h. Strategic Planning – nothing at this time
- i. Building Committee – Don Winnicki stated there was a meeting with security bidders and they are looking at a couple of different vendors. The tentative completion date to turn the remaining areas under construction over to the Town is mid-January.
- j. Calendar Committee – nothing at this time
- k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee – nothing at this time
- l. Communication – nothing at this time

Chairperson Lappie asked about Special Education funding with the State. Suzanne Wright, Director of Special Services stated the State has reduced excess costs; however, North Branford does not have many students who qualify, so the impact is not large.

VII. New Business

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Deborah Prunier to accept the minutes from the November 19th meeting.

Chairperson Lappie:	AYE
Vice-Chair Querfeld-Miscio	Abstain
Secretary McMahan	Abstain
Christopher Manna	AYE
Marcey Onofrio	AYE
Deborah Prunier	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4-0-2.

There will be subtle changes made to the NBHS field trip request to Washington DC and will be addressed again in the January meeting.

VIII. Visitors and Press

Cliff Potter congratulated the new appointees and thanked the tenured members for acting responsibly by filling all positions without conflict.

Claudia Faughnan thanked the Board for their consideration of the Full-Day Kindergarten proposal and offered to address any questions.

Al Rose stated he and Paul Calamita are the Town Council liaisons, and they will try to attend every Board meeting. He stated it is important for open communication. Mr. Rose requested a Board packet be sent monthly. Superintendent Schoonmaker commented the Board pack is also available on the Board's website.

IX. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Shannon Querfeld-Miscio to adjourn meeting at 8:21pm.

ALL VOTED AYE