

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 17, 2009

This 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, September 17, 2009*. The following members attended:

Deborah Prunier:	Board Chair
Marcey Onofrio:	Board Vice Chair
Nancy Lappie:	Board Secretary
Board Members:	John Bozzuto, Jr. Dr. Christopher Manna

Superintendent of Schools:	Scott Schoonmaker
Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki

Absent:	Bonnie Symansky
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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 Statute to discuss negotiations and personnel.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by John Bozzuto to reconvene to public session at 6:45 p.m. in the Library Media Center at Totoket Valley Elementary School.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Salute to the Flag

II. Visitors

Director of Instruction / Curriculum:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Building and Grounds:	Bill Choti
Principals:	Michelle Saulis, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Alexis Christina, STW
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Assistant Principals:

Todd Stoeffler, NBHS
Christine Imperato, NBIS

Joanne Wentworth, Deputy Mayor
Brett Joly
Marci Prinz
Joe Tenczar
Marie Diamond

There were no visitor comments at this time.

III. Student Representatives

Student Representatives from North Branford High School have been selected and will be present at the Board of Education meeting in October 2009.

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the August 20, 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 Mr. Brett Joly, World language teacher at NBHS. The trip is scheduled for Friday, February 26th through Sunday, February 28th, 2010, to Quebec City, Canada.. Mr. Joly states that this trip is an effort to promote international and intercultural understanding. The field trip request and itinerary were attached for Board review.

- f. Donations- None at this time.

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MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE:	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO:	AYE
CHRIS MANNA:	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned the field trip request of Brett Joly, World Language Teacher, and NBHS to Quebec City, Canada. Mr. Schoonmaker stated that there are five chaperones assigned to this trip.

Deborah Prunier stated that it sounded like a marvelous trip.

Marcey Onofrio asked what is the most exciting event that the students were looking forward to.

Brett Joly remarked snowshoeing and visiting Old Quebec, and thanked the Board for supporting the trip.

V. Superintendent's Report

a. Recognition

North Branford Education Foundation

Marie Diamond, President of the North Branford Education Foundation, awarded Marci Hart, chairperson of the K-12 Art Dept., with a mini-grant for her application entitled: "Make ART a pART of our Community". This initiative will utilize the very public space at the Town Hall in North Branford as a showcase for the talented artists in the NBPS. The initiative will include:

- The installation of two large display boards (4'x16' each) in the main hallway at the Town Hall to showcase two-dimensional student artwork from every school. Sixty to eighty pieces of mounted student work can be displayed at one time.
- A target audience that consists of the entire community of North Branford
- All six art educators who are dedicated to this initiative
- Artwork from each school will be represented on a rotating basis.

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- A 'grand opening' event will introduce parents, students, educators, and community members to the student artwork and the new display area

Superintendent Schoonmaker and Board members congratulated Marci Hart for this award.

Marci Hart invited all Board of Education members to attend the grand opening when the first art work is displayed at Town Hall.

Marie Diamond reminded everyone of the pasta dinner being held at NBIS cafeteria on October 2, 2009 to benefit the North Branford Education Foundation. She mentioned that many town celebrities will act as servers at the dinner.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Marie Diamond for all that she does to benefit North Branford students.

b. Communications

Attached for Board review were BOE Briefs from each school for the month of September.

Deborah Prunier stated that she missed reading them over the summer break.

Joanne Dobransky, CT Consultant for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers, sent a letter of congratulations to NBPS Director of Curriculum and K-5 Principals and educators for their highly successful implementation of StoryTown. Some highlights of the letter included:

- "The leadership that you so skillfully executed was truly outstanding."
- "I have not seen this excellence of execution of a new program in many years and talk about you and your team all over the State."
- "This you achieved through the wonderful mentoring of Alexis Christina throughout the process."

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Alexis Christina for her work and compassion for StoryTown.

The Superintendent received a letter from Dr. Craig Edmondson, Executive Director of ACES, regarding the reorganization of CAMS.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that CAMS would not be offering a middle school program after the 2009-2010 school year. He stated that we are already making arrangements for our students for the next school year.

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The Superintendent shared with the Board a memorandum from the State of Connecticut Bureau of Educator Standards & Certification.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that the letter stated effective July 1, 2009 any substitute teacher must hold a bachelors degree. He mentioned that this ruling would have an impact on our school system but more so on larger school systems.

c. Community Round-Up

The 20th Annual Community Round Up is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th. 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. Superintendent Schoonmaker encouraged everyone to check their calendars to see if they can give of their time. He also remarked that he was very proud of all staff members who contributed to the North Branford Food Bank at the Opening Convocation.

Deborah Prunier asked that each Board member contribute to the Food Bank at the October 2009 Board meeting.

d. Graduation follow-up

Six NBHS seniors did not graduate in June of 2009 as a result of lacking credit. Five students have since completed the necessary credits and have now graduated. The sixth student (from CAMS) and is currently at ERACE in Branford. The Strategic Plan sets a goal that 100% of all students will graduate from NBHS.

e. Enrollment

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

f. Annual Report

Each year the Superintendent presents the Board with a copy of the annual report. This report is a synopsis of the year in review at the district, department and school level.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Joan Follo, administrators and staff members for their efforts in obtaining information for this report remarking it was great teamwork.

Joan Follo thanked Anna DeMatteo, secretary to the superintendent, for a job well done in organizing the information and getting it printed.

Marcey Onofrio remarked that the report was a very professional job.

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g. Revised Professional Growth Educator Evaluation Program (PGEEP)

Over the 2008-2009 school year the administrative team worked diligently on revising the district's Professional Growth Educator Evaluation Program. The program needed to be updated to meet the current curriculum, instructional and professional practice expectations as noted in both research and CSDOE guidelines. Through its transition, the document has become more user friendly for both educators and supervisors. A team of educators, representing each school, reviewed the document and met with administration to give feedback and suggestions. As a result of educator input, adjustments were made. For the Board's review, PGEEP was presented to them under separate cover. Changes in this document when compared to the last PGEEP can be noted in the "PGEEP Cover Letter to Staff." Appreciation was extended to Carter Welch, Dick Terrill, Stephanie DeFrance, Anita Pantalena, and Patricia Darragh for their time and expertise in reviewing this document and giving such constructive feedback. Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Joan Follo for all her efforts.

Joan Follo thanked Dr. Kris Lindsay for co-chairing the committee and mentioned that six major changes were made. She mentioned performance indicators and how changes were made. (attached)

Deborah Prunier remarked that she appreciated that staff were included in these decisions and not just dictated to.

h. Curriculum

School Opening: Convocation, Activities, and Training

The opening of school began with a 'welcome back' breakfast in the new and amazing NBIS cafeteria on August 31, 2009 followed by a convocation lead by Superintendent Schoonmaker in the auditorium. During this event, Superintendent Schoonmaker took us on a tour of our 2008-2009 year in review focusing on student accomplishments and school building improvements. Marcey Onofrio, Vice-Chair of the BOE and Phil Palma, President of the Teacher's Federation, welcomed the faculty back to a new school year. Principals introduced their new staff and everyone followed by recognition of our building level Teachers of the Year, closing this portion of the convocation with an inspiring and motivating speech by Michele Cook, Kindergarten Teacher at JHS and this year's District Teacher of the Year. Opening festivities ended with a celebration of faculty members who have reached milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30+ years of service in the NBPS.

Educators returned to their schools where they spent the rest of the day and the next two days in the preparation of classrooms, reading of student files, planning instruction with colleagues, attending staff, department, and curriculum meetings, and attending training sessions in areas such as: Differentiated instruction for Tier I Rtl, Physical Management Training, IEP electronic management, Rtl electronic management, Rtl

electronic assessment development and management, grading student work in a
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standards-based classroom, webpage development, intervention plan development and PLC Data Team training.

Summer Workshops and Training Sessions attended by staff:

Each summer the district focuses on summer learning opportunities that are tied to the strategic plan and/or the delivery of curriculum. This past summer the following individuals attended the conferences or training sessions noted below.

Lauren Maghini	Art Workshop/TAFT Educational Center ~ <i>“AP Studio Art”</i>
Nilda Gagliardi	Art Workshops/Guilford Art Center ~ <i>“Experimental Watercolor”</i> and <i>“ABC’s of Beading”</i>
Marci Hart	Art Workshop/Creative Arts Workshop ~ <i>“Painting form the Heart”</i>
Jacqueline Lavoie	Art Workshops ~Creative Arts Workshop ~ <i>“Tile Relief”</i> and <i>“Sculpture”</i>
Cindy Genzano	CONFRATUTE 2009 UConn Summer Institute
Marcella Ardine	CONFRATUTE 2009 UConn Summer Institute
Katie Leining	CONFRATUTE 2009 UConn Summer Institute
Kate Fleming	Visual Literacy Institute/YCBA
Helena McKee	Visual Literacy Institute/YCBA
Cathy Elrick	Visual Literacy Institute/YCBA
Janice DeAngelo	Visual Literacy Institute/YCBA
Mary Ellen Barrett	Visual Literacy Institute/YCBA
Patti Darragh	Visual Literacy Institute/YCBA
Todd Stoeffler	Standards Research Based Interventions Two-Day Basic Training/ACES
Jen Marena	Standards Research Based Interventions Two-Day Basic Training/ACES

Summer Curriculum Work Accomplished

The summer months provide the opportunity for educators to work on developing or improving curriculum. This past summer the following educators worked on the initiatives noted below.

Alexis Christina	Developed K-2 Writing Curriculum
Patti Darragh	
Betty LaPointe	
Alexis Christina	Developed 3-5 Writing Curriculum
Shelly Thompson	

Stephanie DeFrance	Developed standards based report card guide for teachers, September 17, 2009
Megan Peterson	Comprehensive portfolio of reporting standards Pacing, benchmarks and rubrics
Shawn Parkhurst Stephanie DeFrance Megan Reyher	Developed math pacing and benchmarks PinPoint data collection sheets (Rtl supplemental math materials)
Kris Lindsay Shawn Parkhurst Alexis Christina Joan Follo Stephanie DeFrance Megan Reyher Betty LaPointe	Finalized Report Cards, K-5 and connections to teacher guides for Standards-based reporting
Shelly Thompson Carrie Seiden Katie Leining Sue Moore	Creative Learning: Broke out work for highest level performers by trimesters Trimester 1: focus on Product by using Challenge Kit activities to review reading response skills & strategies Trimester 2: focus on Process of project management ... students participate in a grade-level group project by adding their own piece of the project Trimester 3: focus on total project management as student selects and creates own contribution to a NB Elem News Program Revised Creative Learning Proposal and Tier 1 Rtl pacing guide for Challenge students Developed plans to implement a 'Battle of the Books' competition at the end of grades 4 & 5. Library Media Specialists are compiling a list of books that will have a sticker on them so high level readers who finish their work early can select a book and take notes to prepare for the competition.
Kris Lindsay Joan Follo	Finalized revisions to the Professional growth Educator Evaluation Plan and cover letter to Staff.
Tech Staff for Rtl Support	Scantron overview of Performance and Achievement Series half day
Math Team, K-5	PinPoint Math overview – half day

i. Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)

Each year the State Department of Education reports on the AYP of Connecticut Schools and Districts under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). About 60% of CT schools met this year's performance standards required under the federal NCLB Act of 2001. The results are based on student performance in reading and mathematics on the 2009 CMT and CAPT. The standards for AYP success are as follows:

- Mathematics: CMT - 82% at or above proficient; CAPT – 80% at or above proficient
- Reading: CMT – 79% at or above proficient; CAPT 81% at or above proficient
- Test Participation: 95% of students enrolled in the tested grades must participate in CMT and CAPT testing
- Other: 70% must be at or above the basic performance in writing on the CMT and 70% of high school students must graduate

For a school to achieve AYP, standards must be met by the whole school and by each subgroup of 40 or more students, including white, black, Hispanic, American Indian, and

Asian students; students with disabilities; English language learners; and economically disadvantaged students. If a school or subgroup does not achieve AYP in the same content area for two consecutive years, the school is identified as "in need of improvement."

AYP Status for 2009 at the state level:

- Of the 804 elementary and middle schools, 334 did not make AYP (15 more than last year)
- Of CT's 187 public high schools, 72 did not make AYP (13 more than last year)
- Of the state's 172 school districts, 55 did not make AYP (11 more than last year)
- 296 elementary and middle schools identified as "in need of improvement" (an increase of 57 schools over last year.

AYP Status for 2009 at the district level (NBPS):

- Made AYP for participation rate on CMT & CAPT
- Made AYP for math and reading on the CAPT
- Made AYP at the District Level in math and reading and writing
- AYP at JHS – made AYP in math and writing, did not make AYP in reading (the standard was 79 and JHS received 75.4
- AYP at TVES – made AYP in math and writing, did not make AYP in reading (the standard was 77 and TVES received 75.7
- AYP at NBIS – made AYP in math, writing and reading
- Did not make AYP at TVES for our special education population in reading and math and in reading for our economically disadvantaged
- Did not make AYP at NBIS in math and reading for our special education population
- TVES is identified as 'in need of improvement'
- TVES and JH are identified as Title 1 Schools

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j. CMT/CAPT Action Plans

Results of CMT and CAPT testing were presented to the Board at the August 20, 2009 meeting.

At that time, it was announced that each principal would present an action plan to address their school's specific areas of concern. Board members received a copy of the PowerPoint presentation along with a more detailed account of each action plan. (attached)

Shawn Parkhurst – Principal JHS

Dr. Kris Lindsay – Principal TVES

Alan Davis – Principal NBIS

Michele Saulis – Principal NBHS

presented power point presentations of their plans for improving CMT / CAPT scores.

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Shawn Parkhurst remarked that students loved the “clickers” they use in their classrooms. Teachers are getting great feedback by using them with their students and can rate students quicker on how they are learning.

Dr. Kris Lindsay stated she is looking forward to working with her staff to improve scores remarking that they are on the right path.

Alan Davis remarked that NBIS needs to improve in writing and it will be the responsibility of all teachers and not just the Language Arts Department. He stated that we are moving in the right direction. Every day all students will have a math problem of the day and he is encouraged that scores will improve. He remarked that we have great students and a great staff.

Michele Saulis reported that some of her graduated students are suggesting that more work should be done with research papers as they feel the high school could do more to help college bound students. Michele also remarked that every sophomore must take geometry.

Deborah Prunier and Chris Manna questioned if block scheduling had a direct affect on CAPT scores.

Mrs. Saulis remarked that teachers felt block scheduling was good for writing, labs, etc. but math teachers, especially freshmen math teachers, felt block scheduling was a hindrance.

Nancy Lappie stated she was pleased to see that even though scores were not what we would like she could see our staff was ready to go and plans were in place.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that we all own the scores and we have set

goals to raise them.

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k. NBPS Going Green

In an effort to move in the direction of becoming environmentally more responsible as a district, the Superintendent proposed the transition to an electronic board packet for the general public. Beginning in October, the Superintendent proposed that the district posts the monthly packets on the district website. This packet will be available to the general public for viewing and/or printing. All Board members and administrators will continue to receive paper copies with exhibits.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations No report at this time.

b. Budget No report at this time.

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

c. Operations No report at this time.

d. Curriculum No report at this time.

e. Pension No report at this time.

f. Policy Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that he and Board members would meet with Marsha Moses, Board attorney to discuss several policies.

g. ACES Nancy Lappie remarked that she attended the ACES monthly meeting and the middle school closing at CAMS were discussed. She also mentioned that three principals from various magnet schools attended the meeting.

h. Strategic Planning No report at this time.

i. Building Committee Deborah Prunier stated that the new middle school was a sight to see and all construction is moving along.

Alan Davis remarked open house was held at his school last week and it was quite amazing to see the looks on parents faces as they toured NBIS, especially the parents who attended NBIS as students

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- j. Calendar Committee No report at this time.
- j. Transportation/Bus
 Safety Committee No report at this time.
- l. Communication No report at this time.

VII. New Business

No new business at this time.

VIII. Visitors and Press

Joanne Wentworth, Deputy Mayor, thanked Superintendent Schoonmaker, Board members and all North Branford Public School staff who contributed to the North Branford Food Bank.

Gino LaVorgna presented Board members with tapes of the 2009 Graduation ceremonies remarking that North Branford High School is the only school in the nation that does a ten - camera shoot. He thanked Superintendent Schoonmaker and all Board members for the equipment and their support. Gino also thanked Mr.Tenczar, the teacher responsible for organizing them.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Gino, stating that students like him make our hard work worth it.

Deborah Prunier welcomed back the recording secretary from medical leave.

The next regular meeting of the North Branford Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2009.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:40 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk

