

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 21, 2010

The North Branford Board of Education met on Thursday, January 21, 2010 in the Conference Room of Totoket Valley Elementary School at 6:00 p.m. The following members attended:

Board Chair:	Nancy Lappie
Board Vice-Chair:	Shannon Querfeld-Miscio
Board Secretary:	David McMahon
Board Members:	Dr. Christopher Manna Marcey Onofrio Deborah Prunier

Superintendent of Schools:	Scott Schoonmaker
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MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Marcey Onofrio 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 security and personnel at 6:10 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to reconvene to the Library Media Center for public session at 7:00 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Business and Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Instruction & Curriculum:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Operations:	William Choti
Principals:	Michele Saulis, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Alexis Christina, STW Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Todd Stoeffler
Rose Angeloni
Dolina Potter
Kelly Miller

Christine Imperato
Brandi Little
Clifford Potter
Heena Mavani

Carter Welch
Mary Ellen DiLella
Alfred Rose
Joseph Tenczar

II. Student Representative

Heena Mavani reported on the following events at NBHS.

Academic

The music departments' winter concert took place on Thursday, January 7, 2010. The concert featured the Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble Chorus, Select Chorus, and Concert Band. The night's music was very challenging, particularly choral pieces sung in Swahili, German and Latin.

On January 6, 2010 fifty-five returning members of the Class of 2009 attended an alumnae breakfast. They shared some of their experiences after NBHS and explained how some classes better prepared them for college. Many spoke about the more challenged level courses offered such as the AP courses and Contemporary Issues course that helped them succeed in the first year of college.

Members of the junior and senior classes and returning alumnae attended a dedication ceremony. The ceremony was for a new sign installed in the student parking lot with the message "Slow Down, Drive Safe". The family and friends of Matt Piccuito donated the sign.

Midterms started today, and will continue through Tuesday, January 26, 2010 and the first day of the second semester starts on January 27, 2010.

On Friday, February 5, 2010 forty NBHS students will embark on a three-day trip to Quebec City. French teacher Brett Joly coordinated the trip and Principal Michel Saulis will accompany them on the trip.

Athletics

Winter sports are halfway through their seasons. Every team has been training hard and hope to have a good season.

January 12, 2010 several students attended the Unified Sports Leadership Summit at Wesleyan University. These students work with our students with disabilities and at this leadership meeting they were able to collaborate with other students across the state in similar programs.

Project Graduation will sponsor an exhibition game on February 6, 2010 between the Harlem Rockets Comedy basketball team and the North Branford "Dream Team". This team includes a variety of NBHS staff, members of the Town and Superintendent of Schools, Scott Schoonmaker.

Social Clubs /Civic

Project Graduation is holding the second annual “Jam for Project Graduation” scheduled for January 29, 2010. This event will take place in the NBHS Cafeteria and will feature local bands with many NBHS students. This event aims to raise money for Project Graduation Class of 2010.

Helping Hands is organizing Valentine gifts of chocolate and candy to deliver to Hospice in Branford.

This past Friday the NBHS Interact Club initiated its H.E.L.P (Haiti Emergency Living Project). They had a goal of raising \$600 in twelve minutes during homeroom period. The students and staff contributed over \$1300 in this short time span. Hearing this great news, the Rotary Club of North Branford matched the Interact Club’s amount, bringing the final total to \$2600.

Students Council’s “Big Give” challenge is making a lot of progress. Originally, the students started off with \$1.00 each with the intent to make the dollar grow for their favorite charity. Some held fundraisers at Friendly’s Restaurant, some went Christmas Caroling for donations, some held a pancake breakfast to benefit UNICEF, some held a benefit for Autism Speaks and other benefits. They hope to raise \$5,000 for various charities. The amount will be unveiled on February 2nd in the NBHS cafeteria. This benefit has been featured in the Totoket Times, The Sound and will soon be in the New Haven Register.

Superintendent Schoonmaker and Board of Education members thanked all NBHS students for all their hard work and efforts. Superintendent Schoonmaker stated these students speak well of North Branford.

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the December 17, 2009 North Branford Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Dr. Grace Polivka, grade 8 language arts teacher at NBIS. Dr. Polivka has served the district for 39 years. We thank her for her many years of dedicated service to the North Branford Public Schools and children of North Branford.

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.

January 21, 2010

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to amend the Consent Agenda to remove the minutes of the December 17, 2010 meeting for further review.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Nancy Lappie and seconded by David McMahon to approve the December 17, 2010 Board of Education minutes as amended.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. Recognition - None at this time.

b. Communications

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned that NBPS badges were distributed and implemented in all our schools. Staff members are wearing lanyards or clips with photo identification on a daily basis and have supported this important initiative.

He remarked that over 300 hundred people attended the community H1N1 vaccination clinic that was held at JHS on January 5, 2010. He complimented nurse, Denise Judelson for her coordination of this clinic with East Shore Health.

Deborah Prunier questioned if the schools received feedback on the new report card.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that he has received very positive feedback and he is pleased that the program is up and running.

Nancy Lappie asked about the Parents Forum at NBHS and how many parents attended.

Michele Saulis stated ten parents attended and they talked about block scheduling and other various subjects concerning the high school.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that the first standard based report card (SBRC) was distributed to families on December 18, 2010 marking the end of the first trimester.

NBIS will be administering the mid-year benchmark for reading in January using the Scantron Performance Series.

The Superintendent shared a letter with the Board from Carter Welch who served as interim assistant principal at NBHS while Todd Stoeffler was on medical leave.

The Superintendent and Board of Education members thanked Carter for an outstanding job.

Superintendent Schoonmaker and Board members welcomed back Todd Stoeffler who returned from medical leave.

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. This is required by State law. The Superintendent provided a chart, which details 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 2010/2011 school year. The Superintendent recommends continuation of the commitment as in the past – 26 seats. The Board of Education endorses Open Choice for the 2010/2011 school year with its continuation of 26 seats.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and Deborah Prunier that the Board of Education endorse Open Choice for the 2010-2011 school year with its continuation of 26 seats.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated there is one first grade opening, one third grade opening, two sixth grade openings and two ninth grade openings for a total of six openings.

Marcey Onofrio stated that Open Choice is a very good program. Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked the Board for their continued support on behalf of our students and principals.

Yale Study

The Superintendent has received a request from Dr. Kris Lindsay, Principal of TVES, to participate in a research study through the Yale Cognition and Development Lab. The attached exhibit detailed the scope of the study and the students involved. Scott Schoonmaker answered all questions the Board had regarding participation in this study.

Marcey Onofrio questioned how the students would be chosen.

Scott Schoonmaker stated by lottery and parents of the student's chosen would have to sign off.

Shannon Miscio asked how long the session would be for each student.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated about fifteen minutes during non-academic time.

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned that this is a wonderful opportunity to work with Yale. He remarked that we would receive a small stipend such as a gift certificate for books, etc.

c. Proposed 2011 Board of Education Meeting Dates

The Superintendent provided Proposed 2011 Board of Education Meeting dates for Board action. **(attached)**

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Shannon Miscio to approve the 2011 Board of Education Meeting Dates as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	YES
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	YES
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	YES
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	YES
MARCEY ONOFRIIO:	YES
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	YES

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Marcey Onofrio questioned if the April 2010 meeting was during April vacation.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated it was not during April vacation.

d. Superintendent's Budget Request

The Superintendent presented his budget request for the 2010/2011 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 27, 2010 Special Meeting/Budget Workshop 7 p.m. – TVES

February 3, 2010 Special Meeting/Budget Workshop 7 p.m. – TVES

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated any questions Board members might have, they could contact Central Office

Donald Winnicki remarked that this proposed budget for 2010-2011 requires a 3.45% increase for a zero-growth budget. He stated that the Superintendent has elected to present this "status quo" budget to the Board of Education with no new positions or programs.

He mentioned that the various revenue streams included in the 2009-2010 budget such as the BOE contribution from FRC and various stimulus funds complicate the percentages contained in this budget. Therefore, all percentage comparisons are based upon the increase over the total expenditures for 2009-2010 (\$28,809,280).

The overall budget will require \$29,827,950 that is an increase of \$1,018,670. Or 3.54%.

Don Winnicki went over each category in the budget with Board members.

David McMahon questioned if the school system has considered an alternate source for electricity such as solar power.

Donald Winnicki stated we have not as with electricity we piggyback off the town.

Christopher Manna questioned if there was a grant that could be used for this purpose.

Donald Winnicki stated that the town did receive a grant but it was used for looking at a geo-thermal alternative for the Atwater Library.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that he realizes it is tough times but if the Board does not receive a 3.54% it would mean loss of staff.

Deborah Prunier questioned loss of staff at what level.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated to start it would probably be the elementary level.

Marcey Onofrio stated this is her fifth budget go-round and we don't seem to be making any headway. She mentioned this is very frustrating to her as some of the items on our wish list are the same items that were on the proposed budget four years ago.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Don Winnicki and all administrators for their help in developing this budget.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Negotiations - No report at this time.

Deborah Prunier questioned if all parties signed the Administrator's contract.

Donald Winnicki mentioned that state statutes cover the Administrator's contract. After the Board Chair signed the contract it went to the Town Council. If the Town Council doesn't act on the contract in thirty days it becomes binding.

- b. Budget - No report at this time.

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

- c. Curriculum - No report at this time.

- d. Pension - No report at this time.

e. Policy

Policy #P2300 Privately Owned Vehicles
Policy #P4025 Video Surveillance

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by David McMahon to approve Policy #P2300 Privately Owned Vehicles as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by David McMahon to approve Policy #P4025 Video Surveillance as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

f. ACES- Nancy Lappie stated that ACES is renovating the Little Theatre Project and will cost five million with a 95% reimbursement. She mentioned that CAMS is closing and they are not making money because of fewer students attending. She remarked that there was also conversation on options districts can use for these returning students.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated North Branford would have thirteen returning students and discussions are being held to see if these students will be taught in-house or pool our resources with surrounding districts.

g. Building Committee - Christopher Manna remarked that the NBIS project is coming to an end and they had conversations on security at their last meeting.

Scott Schoonmaker thanked Donald Winnicki for all his hard work on security issues.

VI. New Business

Shannon Miscio stated she was not an alternate on the Transportation Committee; Shannon is on the Curriculum committee as an alternate and is on the Strategic Planning Committee. Christopher Manna is on the Building Committee. David McMahon is on the Transportation as an alternate.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey and seconded by David McMahon to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2010 Board of Education minutes as amended.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	YES
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	YES
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	YES
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	YES
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	YES
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	YES

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

VII. Visitors and Press

No comments from press or visitors at this time.

VIII. THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2010 AT TOTOKET VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by David McMahon 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