

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
2010-2011 SECOND BUDGET WORKSHOP
February 3, 2010**

The North Branford Board of Education met on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at Totoket Valley Elementary School for their second budget workshop. 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
Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki

I. Visitors

Director of Curriculum / Instruction:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Building and Grounds:	William Choti
Principals:	Michele Saulis, NHBS Alan Davis, NBIS Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES Alexis Christina, STW Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Todd Stoeffler	Rose Angeloni	Cliff Potter
Dolina Potter	Ron Siena	Brandi Little
Kim Neubig	Maggie Augur Sherban	Michele Adinolfi-Lucibello
Al Rose	Keith Shadman	Christine Imperato

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Manna to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and communications at 6:22 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Dr. Manna and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to reconvene to public session at 6:58 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

II. 2010-2011 Proposed Budget

Donald Winnicki distributed information that the Board had requested at the first budget workshop. He explained that the handouts were information on organizational charts of instructional and non-instructional staff, Central Office staff breakdown, monies needed for full day kindergarten (\$315,000), NBHS position requests (\$200,000), K-5 World Language program (\$50,000), additional custodian (\$73,000) and a cost of an individual teacher (\$53,000 to \$73,000).

Shannon Miscio asked if the cost for a full day kindergarten included transportation.

Donald Winnicki remarked that transportation costs are negotiated and he would have to go back and renegotiate.

Mr. Winnicki distributed information on per student costs. He stated of the 169 towns in Connecticut only 149 were represented. He remarked that North Branford ranks 133 out of 149 towns. He stated that North Branford spends about \$11,000 per student and most towns spend about \$13,000 per student. North Branford is spending about \$2,000 less than most towns. We would need about five million to be on the same level as other towns.

Deborah Prunier remarked that she would like to see the NBHS music position increased and an SRO for the district in this budget.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated the cost for adding this position to the four-fifths music position at NBHS would be \$39,000, with benefits.

Deborah Prunier questioned if Donald Winnicki or Superintendent Schoonmaker has communicated with Chief Cannelli about an SRO for NBHS.

Scott Schoonmaker remarked that he has not had that conversation with the police department at this time.

Nancy Lappie stated that not every child at NBHS is athletic and we need to support the child who is not athletic.

Marcey Onofrio stated StoryTown is in place and in time our test scores should raise.

Superintendent Schoonmaker asked if the elementary principals would speak on RtI and what is happening in their classrooms.

Shawn Parkhurst stated we need time and professional development. Teachers need time to develop new programs. He mentioned that RtI is in place and we are on the right track, we just need time.

Joan Follo mentioned that K-5 World Language and all day kindergarten would be marvelous but right now we have to hold on to what works and make it better. We need to see improvement before we implement new programs.

Alexis Christina mentioned that there is a software program for math in school and at home with parents. She stated benchmark tests are given at the beginning of school to see if students are improving. They are also developing programs for the very bright children and remedial children. STW and JHS spend 90 to 120 minutes on Language Arts, 60 minutes on math, RtI literacy 30 minutes and RtI math 30 minutes every day.

Dr. Lindsay mentioned that TVES spend 60 minutes on math, 60 minutes on reading, 30 minutes on writing and social studies and science for 45 minutes on a 6-day cycle. The students have gym once a week for 90 minutes.

Deborah Prunier remarked that World Language for K-5 at this time would cut into RtI time.

Christopher Manna stated that block scheduling makes electives at NBHS imperative.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that NBHS tries to ensure that students have no more than one study hall per day.

Dr. Manna asked what Superintendent Schoonmaker concerns were if were under-funded.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked class sizes of twenty-five to thirty students.

Deborah Prunier remarked that she is very impressed that our staff is not asking for more but willing to work with what they have.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that this is a very reasonable budget.

Marcey Onofrio stated that all the other positions on the wish list, music teacher, tech-ed teacher, consumer-ed teacher, custodian, etc. would only cost the same as full day kindergarten.

Nancy Lappie questioned if all kindergarten classes were in the same building if there would be savings.

Donald Winnicki stated that he would have to work out the transportation. It might add mileage and diesel fuel.

Deborah Prunier mentioned that this could be presented at a later meeting.

Donald Winnicki cautioned the Board that our health care numbers could be low as he cannot get a hard number at this time.

Alexis Christina remarked that we should work with what is in place first. Children must be fluent in English first before we introduce another language.

Dr. Manna questioned if another language was easier to learn the younger the child was.

Shawn Parkhurst stated that was true and we don't want to eliminate World Language but the time is not right.

David McMahon questioned if there was enough custodial coverage with the additional square footage at NBIS.

Donald Winnicki remarked that Bill Choti has done some work on reassigning jobs and we are looking at a team approach.

Shannon Miscio asked if Mr. Schoonmaker is confident this team approach will work.

Scott Schoonmaker stated at this time, yes. We have a lot of tough decisions to make, music, SRO or custodian. All are important but we must have a priority.

Donald Winnicki stated we could look at the situation later on to see if the custodian team approach is working.

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to make the four-fifths music position at NBHS full-time position in this budget.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	YEA
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	YEA
SECRETARY MAMAHON:	YEA
CHRISTOPHER LAPPIE:	YEA
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	YEA
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	YEA

MOTION PASSES 6-0

Deborah Prunier asked Michele Saulis her opinion on a SRO position at NBHS.

Michele Saulis stated that just the presence of an SRO makes a big difference. She feels an SRO would have a positive relationship with students, work well with students and give students a feeling of safety and security.

Shannon Miscio asked if Superintendent Schoonmaker could get more information for the Board on an SRO.

Donald Winnicki remarked he would try to get a firmer number by the next Board meeting.

Mr. Siena asked if the position of a SRO and a guidance counselor would duplicate services.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that a guidance counselor and an SRO work as a team. Some subjects covered by an SRO would be date rape, internet safety, etc. The SRO answers to the police department.

A parent in the audience stated that her child has greatly improved because of RtI and she asked that the Board keep in mind class sizes and current staff as they go through this budget.

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Another parent questioned how beneficial it would be to merge all kindergartens stating he was not enthused about the merging.

Deborah Prunier stated it was educationally sound.

Joan Follo stated it would make it easier for all kindergarten teachers to meet at a specific time and increase their planning time. She remarked it would make for more fair class sizes.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated this matter is only a recommendation for now.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by David McMahon to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 8:25 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk