

North Branford Board of Education

Board of Education Meeting

February 18, 2010

Totoket Valley Elementary School
1388 Middletown Avenue – Northford, CT

I. Call meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of Totoket Valley Elementary School on Thursday, February 18, 2010.

II. Roll Call

III. Vote 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.

Attendance shall be limited to:

Board of Education Members
Superintendent of Schools

IV. Reconvene to the Library Media Center for Public Session at 7:00 p.m.

V. Salute to the Flag

VI. Visitors

(Visitor comments are limited to items on the Agenda.)

VII. Student Representative

VIII. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the January 12, 2010 North Branford Board of Education – Special Meeting.

EXHIBIT A

Minutes of the January 21, 2010 North Branford Board of Education – Regular Meeting

EXHIBIT B

Minutes of the January 27, 2010 - First Budget Workshop.

EXHIBIT C

Minutes of the February 3, 2010 - Second Budget Workshop.

EXHIBIT D

- b. Resignations - None at this time.
- c. Appointments - None at this time.
- d. Leaves - None at this time.
- e. Donations - None at this time.
- f. Field Trips

The Superintendent has received a Field Trip Request from Ms. Marie D'Alessio, world language teacher at North Branford High School. The trip is to New York City on May 12, 2010. The bus will depart North Branford at approximately 7:00 a.m. and return to the school at 8:00 p.m. The cost to each student is \$80.00.

EXHIBIT E

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

IX. Superintendent's Report

- a. Recognition - None at this time.
- b. Communications - None at this time.
- c. BOE Briefs

Attached for Board review are the Board of Education Briefs for February 2010.

EXHIBIT F

- d. Science K-5 Curriculum Guide

Under separate cover the Board has received a copy of the K-5 Science Curriculum Guide for a first read. Appreciation for the successful completion of this project is extended to Jeremy Rice, K-5 Science Curriculum Leader and his curriculum team consisting of Shelly Thompson, Beth Siena, Anita Pantalena, Katie Leining, and Jackie Thurston. This revised guide supports the K-5 science team's philosophy that "every student needs and deserves a rich and challenging education in science." The delivery of the curriculum will be supported by the continued implementation of three Science & Technology for Children science kits and one teacher designed kit per year. The guide is comprehensive yet "teacher friendly" in that a pacing guide indicates when units will be taught and a scope and sequence aligns the CSDOE frameworks and grade level expectations to the science units, instructional activities, and assessments per grade level.

A separate packet of common assessments will accompany the revised curriculum guide. Teachers will have access to the guide on an in-district curriculum web site. An 'essential curriculum' will be posted for parent and community access on the district web-site.

- e. Transition from BEST to TEAM

Legislation passed in October of 2009 has established a teacher education and mentoring program to provide support and professional growth to beginning teachers. **Implementation of this program will commence with the school year beginning July 1, 2010.**

Districts need time to transition from **BEST to TEAM**. They must create the infrastructure to support the requirements of TEAM. During the 2009-10 school year, districts will use the time to develop those structures; the development and delivery of training for mentors and district support personnel, and the state will develop professional growth modules to provide the context of support for beginning teachers. **EXHIBIT G**

f. North Branford Education Foundation Update

Members of the Education Foundation are presently involved in preparing for their first Shining Star Award Dinner honoring Vin Candelora, Fran Merola, Ed Slubowski, and Joanne Wentworth for their outstanding dedication and extraordinary service to the North Branford Public Schools and the community. The dinner will be held on Friday March 26, 2010 at Amato's Ristorante. Cocktail hour from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Dinner at 7:30 p.m. The cost of this event is \$45 per person and tickets can be purchased at each school.

The Education Foundation is accepting applications for their mini-grant program until February 19, 2010.

EXHIBIT H

g. Summer Camp 2010

Summer Camp offerings will be released on March 1, 2010 as the Summer Camp brochure is distributed. This summer the program obtains its name, *Prehistoric Days*, from a new dinosaur camp for students entering grades 3-6. In total there are 14 new camps being offered, including *Wet & Wild Jr. Edition; Fizz, Bubble and Goo; Camp's Got Talent; and Plundering Pirates*. Other camps have added new trips. Wet & Wild has added trips to the Portland Quarry. Swimming will again be offered in cooperation with the Shoreline YMCA. The Director of the Summer Program is Tippi Chupron. A total of 30 teachers, aides, college and high school students will provide services. It is anticipated that registration will top the 1,500 mark.

h. State of Our Schools Report

The North Branford Public Schools is in the process of developing a "State of the Schools" report. This report will be available to the public online in the near future. This report is a method of conveying the direction of the school system to the community. It will highlight programs, technology initiatives, goals, as well as state test score data within the district. It is an avenue for providing information to the public so that they can become informed partners in the education of the children of North Branford.

i. Superintendent's Budget Request

The Board must finalize its 2010-2011 budget request. The zero-growth budget requires \$1,018,670 increase in expenses over 2009-2010. An addition of 0.35 HS music (\$31,829), a reduction of \$15,000 for a central office server, and an SRO at the high school (\$43,621 with the remainder borne by the NBPD) increases the request to \$1,079,120, or a total request of \$29,888,400.

As mentioned in earlier presentations, all of the percentages previously discussed were based on the total expense budget of \$28,809,280 without regard to funding source. When we look to reconcile our numbers with the Town budget, it is noteworthy that the original BOE budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year includes a \$100,000 payment from FRC (included in the total expenses) and a \$56,068 reduction in the expense budget to reflect an additional contribution from FRC. So the budget originally approved by the Town Council was actually \$28,753,212. An additional reduction of \$1,158,029 was adopted to reflect the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund grant, making the final 2009-2010 BOE budget \$27,595,183.

So the percentage increase associated with this request is complicated by these unusual revenue sources in the 2009-2010 budget. The real net increase of the \$1,079,120 compared to the total expense budget of \$28,809,280 is 3.75%. However, the total budget request of \$29,888,440, less the SFSF funding of \$1,158,029, would actually be \$28,730,411 and appear as 4.11% increase in the Board expenditures in the Town budget. This difference is caused by two factors, the first is simply mathematical (reducing both the 2010-2011 request and the 2009-2010 budget by the same SFSF grant payment of \$1,158,029 results in a somewhat higher percentage); the second is the \$56,068 FRC contribution that is not deducted from the 2010-2011 request. It is also important to note that the first \$100,000 contribution from FRC was included in the expenditure budget (as a payment from FRC instead of a reduction), and that this will have an additional impact on the Town budget.

Motion: To approve an operating budget request of \$_____ for school year 2010/2011.

Motion: To approve a capital budget request of \$_____ for school year 2010/2011.

X. Committee Reports

The Board of Education will review and take possible action on committee reports.

- a. Negotiations
- b. Budget

A copy of the February 1 financial statement is enclosed for Board review.

EXHIBIT I

- d. Curriculum
- e. Pension
- f. Policy
- g. ACES
- i. Building Committee

XI. New Business

Related only to items removed from the Consent Agenda.

XII. Visitors and Press

XIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2010 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.

XIV. Adjournment