

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 18, 2010**

The Thursday, March 18, 2010 meeting of the North Branford Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Totoket Valley Elementary School. 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

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.

ALL VOTED AYE

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

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Business/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 Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES Alexis Christina, STW Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Todd Stoeffler	Carter Welch	Christine Imperato	Jeremy Rice
Paul Calamita	Elizabeth Siena	Ron Siena	Cliff Potter
Dolina Potter	Jennifer Carroll	Robert Altermatt	Raffaela Hunt
Kim Powell	Ben Powell	Jackie O'Connor	Richard Vitali

Michelle Vitali	Julie Shadman	Keith Shadman	Jennifer Melchiorre
Jaimie DeFelice	Sue Barile	Theresa Frandsen	Amy Cahill
Tara Becker	Joseph Tenczar	Lisa McCormack	Gina Cosgrove
Suzanne D'Albero	Mary Villano	Stephanie Martinik	Carolyn Pedersen
Marilyn Mullen	Brandi Little	Stacey Parente	Jennifer LaBree
Rosemary Phillips	Drew Girardi	Wendy Girardi	Jonathan Guiller
Ann Raymond	Kim Neubig	Michele Adinolfi-Lucibello	Michelle Provencher
Carolyn Candelora	Heena Mavani	Kelsey Platner	

Nancy Lappie spoke about the rumors on the kindergarten status. She remarked that the Board has received no recommendations and NESDEC is in the process of preparing a report as part of our Strategic Planning. They will be surveying school buildings, determining school capacities, analyzing data, interviewing staff and developing tentative options for the future of North Branford Schools. Everyone will be invited to make comments and offer their views at an April 13, 2010 public forum at the North Branford High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

The final NESDEC report will incorporate information obtained at this open forum and will be presented to the Board of Education on May 12, 2010.

II. Visitors

Stacey Parente spoke on the option to consolidate the kindergarten classes at STW and JHS and stated this action will not benefit our children. She asked the Board not to give our youngest learners the longest bus rides and to consider the children and not budget numbers.

III. Student Representatives

Heena Mavani and Kelsey Platner reported on the following:

Academic

On March 2,3,4,9,11,16 and 18 the sophomores and some juniors took the state CAPT exams. Freshmen participated in practice CAPT tests during five of the seven afternoons and on the other two afternoons they attended programs for the entire freshmen class in the auditorium.

On March 5th, the English department had their "Write the Night" event. Twelve students participated and wrote all night long. One student wrote over eight-thousand words.

On Saturday March 20th the NBHS jazz band and select chorus will perform at the Yale British Art Museum.

On April 14th at Parent Forum, Joanne Frieberg from the State Department of Education will speak to NBHS staff and parents about bullying.

The third marking period ends April 1st and report cards will be distributed on April 9th.

Athletics

The annual NHBS March Madness tournament is taking place this week. The first night was March 16th and it continues tonight and tomorrow night on the 19th. All eight teams were guaranteed games for Tuesday night as well as tonight and finals will be held on Friday. The tournament is being hosted by Project Graduation and many students have attended the games as spectators. They also will participate in various contests between games such as three points shooting, foul shots and more.

The winter season has come to a close. The girls and boys basketball teams, as well as the hockey team qualified and played in the first round of the state tournaments, ending their seasons on a positive note.

Unified Sports has wrapped up its basketball season with the final tournament yesterday in Berlin where they placed first and received a gold medal. On Monday March 8th they played at East Haven High School where they also won a gold medal and on Thursday March 11th they won the bronze at Bunnell High School in Stratford. The next sports they will participate in are volleyball and floor hockey.

Social/Clubs/Civic

The Interact Club collected tents for the citizens of Haiti to accommodate the monsoon season that is approaching. They were shipped in a container out of Norwich, CT last Friday. The students also brought in raincoats, etc.

The Gay/Straight Alliance Club held a field trip to an awareness conference at UCONN on Friday March 12th. Five members attended and came back with great ideas to help their club and are planning to collaborate with East Haven and Branford clubs in the future.

The NBHS blood drive was held on Friday March 12th in the high school gym. Over 51 pints of blood was donated and the goal was for 49 pints.

The Student Council's tropical theme semi-formal was moved from February to this Saturday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

The Student Council's Pizza Wars with the help of the Senior Center will take place on April 1st. Local pizza places work with a team of three students to design an original pizza. The community will vote on their favorite pizza and the event will also have entertainment, raffles and bake sales.

This year the NBHS drama production is "Into the Woods" and the dates of the performances are April 8,9, and 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the North Branford Auditorium. The play is a musical of fractured fairytales.

The National Honor Society will host their annual Senior Luncheon on March 24th, along with a performance by the Jazz band. The National Honor Society will serve beverages and food, prepared by Mrs. Lanzoni and students and will be entertained by the wind ensemble. After lunch the seniors will go to the auditorium where the jazz band will play a variety of songs.

On Friday, March 26th, approximately 30 North Branford students and staff members will choose to use a wheelchair throughout the school day. The event is called "Open Your Heart-See How We Roll" and its purpose is to heighten the school community's awareness of the challenges people face with physical handicaps. Each participant in a wheelchair is a member of a team of ten people who were required to collect \$100 worth of donations in order to participate. The donations will be given to the Open Your Heart Foundation who are supporting a North Branford family with two wheelchair bound siblings.

The Superintendent thanked the student representatives for all they do and remarked that he was very proud of the blood drive donating 51 pints of blood. He stated that the Tech-Ed class is also making custom fit furniture for the wheelchair siblings.

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the February 18, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Mr. Robert Dauster, science teacher at NBHS, effective at the end of the 2009/2010 school year. Mr. Dauster has served the North Branford Public Schools for 11 years.

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Ms. Concetta Misiti, mathematics teacher at NBHS, effective at the end of the 2009/2010 school year. Ms. Misiti is completing her third year in North Branford Public Schools.

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Mrs. Kelli Gorman Bachleda, guidance counselor at NBIS, effective March 9, 2010. Mrs. Bachleda has served the North Branford Public Schools for nearly 14 years.

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Ms. Grayce Perchaluk, business education teacher at NBHS, effective at the end of the 2009/2010 school year. Ms. Perchaluk has served the North Branford Public Schools for 28 years.

c. Non-Renewals

In accordance with State Statute, non-renewals of non-tenured certified staff members must be accomplished before the end of March. The Superintendent reports that there are no non-renewals planned as of this date with the exception of long-term substitutes and one-year only contracts which will expire at the end of the 2010 school year.

The Superintendent recommends the non-renewal of Kimberly DeLuca, kindergarten teacher at Stanley T. Williams School, for the 2010/2011 school year.

The Superintendent recommends the non-renewal of Lauren Trinkaus, grade 4 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, for the 2010/2011 school year.

The Superintendent recommends the non-renewal of Jessica Anderson, high school guidance counselor, for the 2010/2011 school year.

The Superintendent recommends the non-renewal of the one-year contract of Jennifer Podolak, grade 7 language arts teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, for the 2010/11 school year.

d. Appointments - None at this time.

e. Leaves - None at this time.

f. Donations - None at this time.

g. Field Trip - None at this time.

Deborah Prunier questioned if the New York City application was complete and if the medical requirements were satisfactorily in place.

Michele Saulis stated that they were.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and David McMahon to approve the Consent Agenda 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	

V. Superintendent's Report

a. Recognition – None at this time.

b. Communications

Board of Education Briefs from each school were attached for Board review.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Dr. Christopher Manna for introducing Derek Poundstone, the strongest man in America, to NBHS students. Mr. Poundstone talked to students about overcoming obstacles.

The Superintendent provided the Board with a copy of a letter from DATTCO regarding school bus inspections across the State of Connecticut.

Donald Winnicki mentioned that we have been with DATTCO for a long time and the company has always been very proactive with us. He remarked that the company is also very accommodating when needed.

c. NBHS Drama Production

Tickets are now available for the NBHS Drama Club's Production of *Into the Woods*. The performances will be held at the Auditorium on Thursday, April 8th, Friday, April 9th and Saturday, April 10th. All performances will be at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$8 for children *under* 12 years of age, \$8 for senior citizens and \$10 for adults. Ticket may be purchased at the Auditorium Box Office from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the following dates:

3/15	3/29
3/19	3/30
3/22	4/5
3/26	4/6 & 4/7

d. Nutrition

Public Act 06-63, *An Act Concerning Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools*, requires that all Connecticut Public School Districts eligible to participate in the Healthy Food Certification take action to certify whether all food items sold to students separately from reimbursable meals *will* or *will not* meet the Connecticut State Department of Education's Connecticut Nutrition Standards. After review and discussion the North Branford Public Schools has decided not to meet the standard and receive the 10 cent per meal reimbursement. Certification as to the school district's intention for the coming school year must be made and submitted to the State

Department of Education no later than Thursday, July 1st, for the coming school year. The Superintendent is recommending the approval of the following motion:

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by David McMahon that Pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes the North Branford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the North Branford Public Schools and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education *will not* meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

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 remarked that all our schools serve healthy, nutritious meals and he has received comments from many parents on the food served in our schools.

e. Fall 2009 Kindergarten Inventory (District Results)

The NBPS recently received a report from Commissioner Mark McQuillan, summarizing the results of the state required fall 2009 Kindergarten Entrance Inventory. The inventory indicates the percentage of our students falling into each of three performance levels in six domains (Language Skills, Literacy Skills, Numeracy skills, Physical/Motor Skills, Creative/Aesthetic Skills, and Personal/Social skills) based on teacher perception. As noted in the attached Exhibit, our incoming kindergarten students outperformed the state average in all domains. In fact, results suggest that better than 50% of our kindergarten students came to school already performing at Level 3 (requiring minimal additional instructional support). This means that our kindergarten classrooms need to be prepared to take the incoming students to higher skill levels prior to entrance into grade 1. The CSDE is currently designing an exit inventory for this spring, 2010.

Joan Follo mentioned that 90% of all our kindergarten students have attended preschool, daycare, etc. and are quite ready for kindergarten.

f. K-5 Science Curriculum

This was the Board's second read for the revised K-5 Science Curriculum Guide. Your adoption of this document is anxiously anticipated. Gratitude is extended to Jeremy Rice, K-5 Science Curriculum Leader and the K-5 Science Team (Shelly Thompson, Elizabeth Siena, Anita

Pantalena, Kate Leining, and Jackie Thurston) for their extensive and exemplary work in the development of this new document. Mr. Rice and the elementary science team preserved what works, using the same units of study and science kits to deliver the curriculum, and made a number of important improvements resulting in a state-of-the-art curriculum guide that is comprehensive, yet teacher-friendly. Improvements were made in the following areas:

1. a tighter alignment with CSDOE Standards and Grade Level Expectations
2. a pacing guide that allows the reader to note at a glance what units are taught in each trimester at each grade level
3. a Scope & Sequence that indicates the content and inquiry standards covered at each grade level
4. an Instructional Planning Guide for each unit in each grade level
5. appendices that connects GLEs to the state standards and CMT science objectives
6. common assessments to monitor student progress on state standards and expectations.

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by David McMahon to approve the revised K-5 Science Curriculum Guide as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
SECRETARY MCMANON:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE
MOTION CARRIED 6-0	

Nancy Lappie remarked that the team did an excellent job with the curriculum.

g. Professional Development

Certified staff members will participate in a full day of professional development activities on Monday, March 22, 2010. Activities include district, school, and curriculum initiatives K-12. Activities are based on professional learning needs and range from full-day update training for mentors (TEAM), reading strategies, strategies for differentiated instruction, and technology as a teaching/learning tool (smartboards, podcasting, document camera, itouch, snapp scan, nbvideo). Curriculum presentations and NEASC committee work will also be part of a busy day of adult learning.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Joan Follo for all her work putting together Professional Development day for all staff members. He commended her for her ability of getting our own staff members to be presenters on this day.

h. Director of Curriculum Posting

The Superintendent shared with the Board a copy of the brochure for the position of Director of Curriculum and Instruction. This position has been advertised via CT REAP, the district's website, an internal posting and also through a mass mailing to each Connecticut school district. The application deadline is Wednesday, March 31st. A committee, consisting of administrators and teachers, will be formed to review applicants and will ultimately present candidates to the Superintendent for final interviews.

i. CMT/CAPT Testing

The Connecticut General Statutes mandate a statewide assessment be administered to all public school students in grades 3 through 8 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and grade 10 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). Students are assessed in reading, writing and math in grades 3 – 8 (CMT) and grade 10 (CAPT). Students are also assessed in science in grades 5 and 8 (CMT) and grade 10 (CAPT). The testing window for both assessments is March 1-26, 2010. This window includes two weeks of formal testing and two weeks of make-up testing for those students who were absent.

Joan Follo remarked there were a few glitches with the computers, that some students used, but everything is now running smoothly.

j. SCASA Student Award Luncheon

On March 19, 2010, six North Branford students will be honored by the South Central Area Superintendents' Association. This award/recognition program is designed to provide a regional forum for students to have their service and achievements acknowledged by superintendents. Over 300 individuals are expected representing 16 towns. This year the students representing North Branford are:

TVES	NBIS	NBHS
Meredith Johnson	Deidre Reidy	Jaclyn Steinke
Connor Odell	Kyle Conklin	Matthew Proto

This year marks the third year that two scholarships are being awarded to individuals who plan on majoring in education. The scholarships are given in memory of Dr. Alida Beginna former Superintendent of Hamden and Martin DeFelice, Jr. former Superintendent of Schools in East Haven. Scholarship recipients are announced at the lunch.

k. Board of Education's 2010/2011 Budget Request

The Board of Education's 2010/2011 Budget Request was submitted to the Town Manager and Town Council on Friday, February 26th, 2010. The Town held a Public Hearing in the

Auditorium on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. and presentations were made on both the Town and Board of Education budgets.

Donald Winnicki stated three workshops are usually held on the budget requests. The first night is for the Town side of the budget, the second night for the Board side and Capital Improvements and the third only held if needed.

1. New England School Development Council (NESDEC) Study

On Thursday, March 11, 2010, the Administrative Team met with three representatives of the New England School Development Council to collect data and answer questions relevant to their feasibility study. Administrators were charged with providing information pertaining to enrollment, curriculum, facilities and grade alignment. NESDEC will hold a Town forum on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the North Branford Auditorium to review their findings and answer any questions. A final report will then be developed and submitted by May 12, 2010 at which time a representative will review the options for North Branford Public Schools.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated a flyer would go home with every student with information on the NESDEC public forum inviting all parents to attend. The information will also be available on our website.

Nancy Lappie asked if this information could also be put on our public access channel.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Negotiations - Don Winnicki stated he would soon be meeting with the secretaries' union to establish ground rules.
- b. Budget - Scott Schoonmaker commended the Board of Education for their time and efforts on the submitted budget.

A copy of the March 1 financial statement was provided at the meeting for Board review.

- c. Curriculum – Nancy Lappie stated the curriculum committee met today and discussed the submitted science curriculum, the Team program and RtI.
- d. Pension – No report at this meeting.
- e. Policy – Christopher Manna stated the committee would meet on April 5th and the Technology policy and the acceptable use policy would be discussed.

- f. ACES – Nancy Lappie remarked that the meeting was a quiet one and they honored students from the Arts Magnet School and passed several budgets.
- g. Building Committee – Christopher Manna remarked that the flooding issues at NBIS were discussed and hopefully would soon be resolved. He also mentioned that the Tech-Ed room has been occupied.

Superintendent Schoonmaker recognized William Choti for all his efforts last weekend at NBIS stating Bill spent an incredible amount of time with the flooding issues. He stated that Bill checked NBIS every two hours.

- h. Communication - Nancy Lappie stated a new committee would be formed.

Shannon Miscio asked if this could be redefined as to what the committee should be.

Marcey Onofrio mentioned that each Board member could come to the next meeting with their views.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated these views could be submitted to Central Office and would be put on the April Agenda.

The Town of North Branford is requesting the formal appointment and or removal of Board members to specific Town committees.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to approve the appointment of Board Member, David McMahon to the Town of North Branford Permanent Project Building Committee.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:	AYE
VICE- CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE
MOTION CARREID 6-0	

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to approve the appointment of Board Member, Christopher Manna to the Town of North Branford Permanent Project Building Committee.

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 Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to remove John Florio as member of the Town of North Branford Permanent Project Building Committee.

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 Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to approve the Appointment of Joe Tenczar, NBHS Video Production teacher, to the Seven-Town Cable Access Board.

CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
SECRETARY MCMAHON: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
MARCEY ONOFRIO: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE
MOTION CARRIED 6-0

VII. New Business

No new business at this time.

VIII. Visitors and Press

Keith Shadman asked if the Board could make a decision on kindergarten classes now. If we wait until public opinion in April and the presentation in May the Board won't have time to make a comprehensible decision by September.

Julie Shadman remarked that she reviewed two educational studies that she found on the internet about small schools. She stated that students in smaller schools take part in extra-curricular activities, have a better feeling of belonging being in a safer environment. She mentioned that whatever the Board decides she hopes that students don't visit schools at the end of the year that they will not be attending.

Amy Cahill stated that there have been many budget increases in the last six years with not much educational growth.

Wendy Girardi asked the cost of the NESDEC report.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated \$10,720 and this study was part of the Strategic Plan.

Nancy Lappie stated the monies for this study were already accounted for in the Strategic Plan and were not in this budget.

Stephanie Martinik stated in order for her to stay in town she needs to see improvements in the schools. She questioned if seven classrooms were filled at JHS there would be no room for full-day kindergartens and eventually we will be in conflict with the State.

Tara Becker stated that transportation for Northford children to JHS would result in longer bus times. She feels a kindergarten move from STW to JHS would not be positive. She questioned if JHS would be able to accommodate all parents from STW who would pick up their children instead of putting them on buses for an hour or more ride. She remarked that our children's education should not suffer because of financial concerns.

Brandi Little questioned if Superintendent Schoonmaker asked NESDEC to combine the schools.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that NESDEC would gather data only. They give us options and do not make decisions for the Board.

Carolyn Candelora thanked the Board of Education for looking into this matter, stating no matter which way it goes.

Jennifer Carroll questioned if parents would be included on the committee to choose a new Director of Instruction/Curriculum.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked not at this point. He mentioned that parents' voices are heard through the various PTO's and through building principals.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2010 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:10 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk