

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**April 15, 2010**

The North Branford Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Totoket Valley Elementary School on Thursday, April 15, 2010. The following members were present:

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

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

Absent: David McMahan

**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 Shannon Miscio to reconvene to the Library Media Center for Public Session at 7:00 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**I. Visitors**

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

Rosemary Phillips  
Lance Kilburn  
Jackie Steinke  
Maria Hoyt  
Jim Reidy  
Stacey Parente

Jan Cattaruzza  
Stephanie Kilburn  
Dolina Potter  
Jeff Hoyt  
Karen Reidy  
Heather Gott

Dave Cattaruzza  
Brandi Little  
Cliff Potter  
Jeanne Mullins  
Deirdre Reidy  
Mary Villano

Michelle Provencher  
Keith Platner  
Carter Welch  
Todd Stoeffler  
Benjamin Baumgaertner  
Michael Rebesch  
Greg Marak

Theresa Frandsen  
Larry Nero  
Christine Imperato  
Meredith Johnson  
Jocelyn Felten  
Brittany Cattaruzza  
Kirsten Kilburn

Laurie Platner  
Kelsey Platner  
Dwight Boatman  
Heena Mavani  
Sara Robertson  
Rebecca Ruggiero  
Kellie Walker

Cliff Potter remarked that the members of the Board of Education cares about our children. He stated that the members are our best friends and we must work with them. He asked members of the audience to work with the Board of Education and the Town Council and to support them at all times not when they just have a particular issue.

Nancy Lappie, Board Chair, mentioned that there were forms in the back of the room that the audience could write their comments about Tuesday's meeting and send to NESDEC.

## **II. Student Representative**

Heena Mavani and Kelsey Platner reported on the following items:

### **Academics**

Jo Ann Frieberg from the State Department of Education came to NBHS parent forum to speak to staff and parents about bullying prevention. Ms. Frieberg has organized dozens of workshops and seminars to make the school environment a more enjoyable one for all.

Chris Olsen, a retired school resource officer from Westbrook and Old Lyme High Schools, will be at NBHS monitoring the hallways for the rest of the school year.

An art show of the high school students' work was held at Edward Smith Library in Northford. The art show was complete with music by the NBHS wind ensemble and refreshments by Chef Ed. The library was full of different types of work from K-12 and the show was a great success.

Luke Gagliardi has been hired as the new Career Developer. Under his transition in his new position the juniors attended a college fair on April 8<sup>th</sup> to explore what options lie ahead for them. Students also went to the New England Institute of Technology and participated in workshops and went on tours. On April 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a Health and Science Career Fair open to our students.

During the final weeks of April and beginning of May, students enrolled in AP courses will be taking AP exams. The advanced placement courses offered at NBHS this year are U.S. History, Language and Composition, Psychology, Calculus, Biology and Spanish.

### **Athletics**

The Frisbee Club, created at NBHS by Morgan Ras and Mike Cassidy last year. Senior captains Jon Brouillard and Morgan Ras and an official coach, Mr. Switaj, lead the team. The team has thirteen members this year and hopes to have a successful season.

### **Social / Clubs/Civic**

NBHS Drama Club production “Into the Woods” took place on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the NBHS auditorium. The play is a musical based on traditional fairy tales such as Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel. The pit orchestra was comprised of professional musicians and student performers. Mr. John Tzetzko conducted and Mr. Michael Carnaroli was vocal director.

Junior Prom will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Woodwinds in Branford.

Open Your Heart fundraiser at N BHS raised money for the Bode family on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The event was a huge success and opened the hearts of many students and NBHS staff teachers and administrators. The team who raised the most money, Nerd Herd, will be honored at a dinner at Nataz on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The winner of the essay contest will receive a lap top computer from Advanced Office Systems and also be honored at Nataz.

The Pizza Wars, on April 1<sup>st</sup> was a great success. This event was collaboration with the NB Senior Center and over three hundred community members attended this event. Abates won the contest with their pulled pork pizza. Money raised at this event will be shared between the Senior Center and the Student Council.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> a 5k run will be held contributing to the Matt Mission Fund. This event is in memory of Matt Piccuito, who was a student of the class of 2009, and lost in a car accident last year. The Piccuito family has created a scholarship fund in his name.

Helping hands led by advisor Mrs. Travisano went to Hamden on Saturday morning, April 10<sup>th</sup> for their AmeriCare Homefront Project. Fifteen members participated and the painted rooms throughout the house and did work on the floors.

The Interact Club leased an acre of land, which will be used at the Interact Farm to grow produce and will be provided to the community center for North Branford local use.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **a. Minutes**

Minutes of the March 18, 2010 Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Mrs. Carol Evans, physical education teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, effective at the end of the 2009/2010 school year. Mrs. Evans has served the students of North Branford for 36 years. We acknowledge and commend her dedication and commitment to the North Branford community.

c. Appointments

The Superintendent has received a recommendation from Chris Webster, NBHS Athletic Director, for the following spring coaching positions.

- Peter Ramada – NBIS Softball Coach
- Elisabeth Caplan – NBHS Tennis Coach – Volunteer

d. Leaves

e. Donations

f. Field Trips

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MARCEY ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

Superintendent Schoonmaker recognized Carol Evans for her thirty-six years of service to North Branford students. He stated that she was a wonderful teacher and role model. He mentioned it was an honor and privilege to have Carol Evans in the district.

Superintendent Schoonmaker also recognized Heena Mavani and Kelsey Platner, NBHS student representatives, stating they were great role models for other students and thanked them for their service on the Board of Education.

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

##### **a. Recognition**

##### **Six North Branford Students Receive Honors At Annual SCASA Awards Luncheon**

The South Central Area Superintendent Association honored 75 students on March 19<sup>th</sup> at their fifth annual Student Recognition Luncheon held at Laurel View Country Club in Hamden. Over 300 people were in attendance with guest speaker, Mary Cortright, Superintendent of Meriden Public Schools. Students were selected for their overall academic achievement, extra-curricular involvement and community service. Each district was allowed to name six students, with the exiting grade at each level having two representatives.

<u>TVES - Grade 5</u>	Meredith Johnson	Connor Odell
<u>NBIS – Grade 8</u>	Deirdre Reidy	Kyle Conklin
<u>NBHS – Grade 12</u>	Jaclyn Steinke	Matthew Proto

##### **Middlesex Shoreline Superintendents Association**

North Branford High School seniors, Heena Mavani and Dwight Boatman, received the “Superintendent’s Award of Excellence” in recognition of their community service, academic achievement and leadership in the school community. They received their awards on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Saybrook Point Inn.

##### **CAS Scholar-Leader – NBIS**

NBIS eighth graders, Benjamin Baumgaertner and Jocelyn Felten, were selected to receive the CAS Middle-Level Scholar Leader Award. This program is designed to give public recognition to one boy and one girl, from each middle school in Connecticut, who has achieved a high level of scholarship and leadership in school and community. Benjamin & Jocelyn will be honored at a special banquet at the Aqua Turf Club, in Southington, on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

##### **CAS Scholar-Athletes – NBHS**

Dwight Boatman and Sara Robertson of NBHS are the 2010 CAS Scholar Athletes. This award is given to the top ranked student who has competed in three sports and at least one sport at the varsity level for two years. Both students are members of the National Honor Society. Dwight competed in soccer, indoor track and tennis. Sara competed in field hockey, indoor track and lacrosse. The Connecticut Association of Schools will present this award to Robert and Nicole at a ceremony on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at the Aqua Turf Club.

CAS Visual and Performing Arts Students – NBHS

The Connecticut Association of Schools will present this award to Michael Rebeschi and Brittany Cattaruzza at a ceremony to be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at the Aqua Turf.

Brittany has been involved in high school drama club productions all four years of her high school career. She has also been involved in various productions in the Theatre Arts Class. She is a member of the Select Chorus and a choral officer. She participated in the Shoreline Choral Festival and also plays the tuba.

This is Michael's fourth year involved in the high school drama club production. He is a member of the Theatre Arts Class for the past two years. Michael also plays the guitar.

Southern Region Music Festival

Alex Hassen (trumpet, grade 8) and Rebecca Ruggiero (flute, grade 8) auditioned and were selected to perform in the highly competitive 2010 Southern Region Music Festival, at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School (March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>). Alex and Rebecca did an outstanding job!

At NBHS, Greg Marak (trombone), Eliscia Picard, Alyssa Hoyt, and Sara Gaechter (chorus) participated in the Southern Region High School Musical Festival in January.

The Board would like to recognize these students who represented NBHS.

All-State Athletes

The following individuals have been chosen as all-state players in their respective sports.

Mary DeMatteo – Field Hockey  
Kirsten Kilburn – Field Hockey  
Sara Robertson - Field Hockey  
Kellie Walker - Cross Country  
Dwight Boatman – Boys Soccer

Academic All-State Athletes

The following individuals have been chosen as all-state scholar athletes in their respective sports.

Sara Robertson – Field Hockey  
Kelsey Platner – Girls Basketball

Board Chair, Nancy Lappie and Superintendent of Schools, Scott Schoonmaker, presented the plaques to the students. Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that all the parents should be very proud of their children and themselves, as it was them who guided their children to this moment.

b. Communications

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

c. Summer of 2010

The Summer of 2010 – “Prehistoric Days” brochure was released for distribution in North Branford, North Haven and Regional School District #13 – Durham & Middlefield Public Schools in late February. As of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 91 students have registered for summer camp.

d. Graduation Date

In accordance with State Statute, the North Branford Board of Education may establish a firm graduation date after April 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year. In as much as the school system has experienced three snow days this moves graduation to Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to establish the 2010 North Branford High School graduation for Monday, June 21, 2010

<b>CHAIRWOMAN LAPPIE:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE CHAIR MISCIO</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DR. CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MARCEY ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

e. Curriculum Management Cycle Update

As part of the Curriculum Management Cycle (CMC) the following end-of-the year curriculum review reports are enclosed for your perusal. The Review Phase of the CMC can be considered an external audit of the state of the curriculum since implementation.

Joan Follo stated that the curriculum team researches national and state changes, guidelines, and/or mandates as well as best practices in research that have occurred since the last curriculum revision that could impact the next curriculum revision. The Review Phase Report connects the external findings (Review Report) with the internal findings (Evaluation Report) and makes recommendations based on the difference between what is (internal and external audits) and what should be (recommendations made by the team that ‘fill’ the gap between ‘what is’ and ‘what should be’.

April 15, 2010

Thank you to Richard Terrill and Carter Welch and their respective curriculum Review Phase teams for excellent products that will assist next year's Curriculum Revision Phase team.

Business & Finance Review Phase Report: developed by Richard Terrill, Curriculum Leader for Business and Career Education, 6-12.

Joan Follo stated that the use of computer technology is an integral part of each course in the Business program. At the high school each student takes computer applications and consumer economics. Students also have the opportunity to take electives that interest them Sixth grade students take keyboarding, seventh grade take word processing and eighth graders work with spreadsheets and graphing.

Christopher Manna questioned why ninth graders had to take keyboarding as he felt they should be beyond that.

Michele Saulis remarked that a ninth grader would use keyboarding to create documents and other projects not just straight keyboarding.

Superintendent Schoonmaker and Joan Follo thanked Richard Terrill, Barbara Travisano, Grayce Perchaluk and Phil Palma for their help and input in creating this report.

Joan Follo mentioned the committee's recommendations such as color laser printers, SMART boards, software to support the curriculum and digital recorders and cameras.

Health Review Phase Report: developed by Carter Welch, Curriculum Leader for Health & PE, K-12.

Joan Follo mentioned that next year's document will reflect a change in format based on process skills at each grade level according to the state provided CT Curriculum Development Guide. Next year each grade level will have a matrix that can guide them easily to curricular objectives and goals. A K-5 Health Curriculum aligned with StoryTown will be incorporated to reflect teachers' needs. Included in this document will be exemplar lesson plans.

Joan Follo and Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Carter Welch, Nicole Lacroix, Babby Nuhn, Meghan Ruszcyk, Dave Carpenter and Helena McKee for their help and input on this curriculum report.

Dr. Manna asked about the Open Your Heart success at NBHS for the wheelchair fundraiser.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated the fundraiser was a great success that raised over \$5,000 for the Bode family to make their home wheelchair accessible. He thanked Michele Saulis, Todd Stoeffler, Carter Welch and all staff and students at NBHS for the success of this fundraiser.

f. Professional Development

All certified staff members participated in a full day of professional development activities on Monday, March 22, 2010. A variety of initiative and curriculum related activities were provided at the district and school levels. At the district level a full day of TEAM training was provided to all educators who wanted to retain their mentor and cooperating teacher status. Presently we have 38 teachers across the district trained as mentor/cooperating teachers to assist our beginning teachers, student teachers and interns. Other professional activities included, reading strategies, differentiated instruction, and technology as teaching/learning tools (smartboards, podcasting, document camera, itouch, snapp scan, nbvideo). Curriculum presentations by curriculum leaders and NEASC committee work also played a significant part in this successful day of adult learning.

Joan Follo remarking that we are making certain that our teachers who were certified for the BEST program are updated for the newly TEAM program that replaced BEST.

g. 2010/2011 Budget

Don Winnicki stated that on April 7, 2010, the Town Council held a budget workshop. At this workshop it was decided the Board of Education budget request would be reduced by \$400,000 to a total of \$28,185,850. Remember that \$1,158,029 is also allocated to the Board through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF), part of the stimulus package. The Town also allocated \$200,000 from Family Resource to revenue. The Board typically would not take any formal action until after the May referendum. In the interim, the Superintendent and the administrative team will begin to develop a tentative plan for these reductions.

**V. Committee Reports**

a. Negotiations

Donald Winnicki mentioned that he and the secretaries' union has gone over the ground-rules and he will receive their proposals within the next two weeks.

b. Budget

A copy of the April 1 financial statement was attached for Board review.

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned that the school's technology team has been providing support at the Town Hall this year and we hope to connect the Town Hall to NBIS and offer them our software support.

Board of Education members stated this was an excellent idea.

c. Curriculum

No report at this time.

d. Pension

No report at this time.

e. Policy

Dr. Christopher Manna mentioned that the Policy committee met and discussed fingerprinting of volunteers and the technology policy.

The Superintendent has attached Policy #P4070 School Visitors (revised) for first reading.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that all staff members have been provided with photo identification badges and a buzzer system is being implemented at this time for NBIS.

f. ACES

Nancy Lappie stated that at the last meeting ACES implemented the reduction of twenty-five staff members for next year. She also mentioned that the states of Tennessee and Delaware received the Race to the Top Award. Nancy Lappie remarked that a guest speaker at ACES, representative Sharkey from the 88<sup>th</sup> district, remarked that the State of Connecticut would be in trouble if we don't start now and develop smart growth for efficiency within our government. He spoke on regional services for food service, payroll, union contracts, etc.

g. Building Committee

Dr. Manna stated that the leakage problem at NBIS is phenomenal and the building leaks like a sieve.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that it is a good thing we had all this rain and the problem was discovered now instead of when the building was turned over to the school system.

Superintendent Schoonmaker publicly recognized William Choti for his tremendous efforts and dedication stating he was at NBIS at all hours during the rains.

h. Communication

It was decided by all Board members to develop a Communications Committee after the budget is settled.

Shannon Miscio remarked that there should be more communications between the Board of Education and the Town Council. She mentioned that there could be an annual article in the Totoket Times. She also stated that this committee should be open to all Board members.

## **VI. New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

## **VII. Visitors and Press**

Brandi Little questioned when the Board would know where the cut of \$400,000 would come from.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated not until we get the final numbers.

Brandi Little asked if we lose staff would the school system be penalized if staff is not told before a certain date.

Superintendent stated not if it was due to budgetary issues and we would know before Jun 30<sup>th</sup>.

Stacey Parante asked the Board of Education not to close STW and if they did we would have a huge bus situation.

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned we have already sent all options to DATTCO and they were aware of the situation.

Theresa Frandsen questioned if she could still volunteer in the school system.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated yes but we must be aware of everyone who enters our buildings. The Policy won't keep parents out of our schools but we must know who is in our buildings with the discretion of our principals.

Cliff Potter remarked that it is a good idea to put annual articles in the Totoket Times and also on Channel 18 and 19.

Superintendent Schoonmaker and Board of Education members thanked the students on the camera tonight.

**XIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2010 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.**

**XIV. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:05 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine  
Account Clerk