

North Branford Board of Education Meeting
November 18, 2010

The Thursday, November 18, 2010 meeting of the North Branford Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Stanley T. Williams School. The following members attended:

BOARD CHAIR:	MARCEY ONOFRIO
BOARD VICE-CHAIR:	SHANNON MISCIO
BOARD SECRETARY:	DAVID MCMAHON
BOARD MEMBERS:	MARIE DIAMOND DEBORAH PRUNIER
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:	SCOTT SCHOONMAKER
ABSENT	DR. CHRISTOPHER MANNA

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to adjourn to executive session as per Section 1.225 the Connecticut General Statutes as permitted by Section 1-200 (6) (a, b & c) of the Connecticut General Statutes at 6:06 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio to reconvene to the Board Meeting Room for public session at 7:00 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Business / Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum / Instruction:	Sarah Querfeld
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Principals:	Alan Davis, NBIS Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Christine Imperato	Marcia Staffa	Michael Staffa	Rose Angeloni
Dolina Potter	Clifford Potter	Shelly Thompson	

There were no visitor comments at this time.

II. Student Representative

Student Representative Maggie Sullivan reported on the following:

Academics

The high school accreditation evaluation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges took place on November 14-17. They had many compliments about the school, as well as a couple of areas we can improve.

The NBHS courtyard is being redone by the advanced construction classes. They are building a deck and walkways to a center platform. Recently, they were featured in the New Haven Register.

The Veteran's Day program took place on November 11th. There were several veterans that served in WW2 and Vietnam, as well as today's war in Iraq, and they told stories about their experiences serving our country.

Parent Conferences will take place on November 30th from 7-9 p.m. and on December 1st from 2:15-3:30 p.m. Students will be receiving appointment sheets during their homeroom on November 19th, and there is also a copy of the appointment sheet on the school's website.

Coach Richard Geremia recently became one of three finalists in the "Take it to the House" contest in association with Procter and Gamble and the NFL for youth fitness. By coming this far in the competition, he was granted \$10,000 for a youth fitness center of his choice, and decided to give it to the high school's Wellness Center. There will be a school-wide assembly on Monday where Coach Geremia will be presented with a check for the money, and there may also be some guest appearances from the Jets. All students will be wearing green and white.

Several students from student council attended a leadership conference on November 2nd coordinated by the Connecticut Association of Schools. The conference's focus was to encourage school leaders to involve all students in school, community, and global service activities.

Social

The Helping Hands club is collaborating with the town's police department for their Christmas toy collection. They also delivered candy bags to the residents of Branford Hospice and donated decorated pumpkins to the Branford Community Dining Room.

Athletics

The football team won The Game of the Week, which means their game tomorrow will be broadcast on TV. Because of this, the NBHS's transition program's new Coffee Coop will be featured on Channel 30 News tomorrow night. The Coop is near the café and is open for all teachers to buy tea, coffee, and snacks.

The field hockey team became undefeated Shoreline Champions with a record of ten wins and no losses. They started off strong in the qualifying and quarterfinal rounds, beating their opponents 3-0 and 5-0. In the semifinal round against HK the girls suffered a tough loss of 3-2 after overtime. Despite the loss, they celebrated their successful season. A total of ten players were named part of the All Shoreline team, Rachel Corso was named second team All State, Michelle Caprio, Bailey McGinnis, and Kirsten Kilburn were named first team All State, and Jacquelyn Ferraro was named Scholar Athlete. The team is very excited to announce that coach Babby Nuhn was named Coach of the Year. They will all be honored at the Aqua Turf in December.

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the October 21, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

b. Resignations

The Consent Agenda was amended to include the Resignation of North Branford High School Principal Michele Saulis.

The Superintendent has received a letter of resignation from Michele Saulis, Principal of North Branford High School. Michele has been employed by the North Branford Public Schools since 2006 and has accepted a position in the Farmington Public Schools.

c. Appointments

The Superintendent has received a recommendation from administration for the following winter coaching position:

NBHS Boys' Basketball Head Coach	Jamie Leggett
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d. Leaves - None at this time.

e. Field Trips – None at this time.

f. Donations

The Superintendent has been informed that Richard Geremia, Jr., the son of our physical education teacher at NBHS, has been named third finalist in Procter and Gamble's "Take it to the House" photo contest. The contest challenged consumers to submit photos that capture the essence of NFL Sunday at their house with their "football family". The \$10,000 award is made to a school of the winner's choice and is in partnership with NFL's Play 60 charitable initiative which encourages children to do at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Procter and Gamble was enthusiastic about the NBHS Wellness Center as it perfectly embodies the purpose of this initiative. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance of this donation for improvements to the NBHS Wellness Center.

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by David McMahon to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
SECRETARY MCMAHON:	AYE
MARIE DIAMOND:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION PASSED 5-0

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. Recognition

North Branford Public Schools 2011 Teacher of the Year

Totoket Valley Elementary School grade 4 teacher, Shelly Thompson, was recently honored at the Teacher of the Year Program held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at Central Connecticut State University. Shelly was escorted across the stage by Superintendent Scott Schoonmaker and received her award from the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Mark McQuillan. Shelly's husband, Chris, her daughter, Addie, parents and Principal, Dr. Kris Lindsay, were in attendance.

Superintendent Schoonmaker spoke about Mrs. Thompson's Milken Family Foundation Award. She is the only recipient in the State of Connecticut. She will fly to California in April to receive her award. This is the first time North Branford has received this award. Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that it was humbling to hear her accept this award and speak on behalf of her colleagues. It is an honor to recognize Shelly Thompson as not only District Teacher of the Year, but also recipient of the Milken Award. Superintendent Schoonmaker presented Shelly with flowers and photos were taken with Shelly, Mr. Schoonmaker and Dr. Lindsay.

We salute our North Branford Teacher of the Year – Shelly Thompson!

Shannon Miscio commended Kris Lindsey and her staff at TVES for all their hard work.

b. Communications

The Superintendent has attached Board of Education Briefs for the month of November from each school. Please note that each school held an assembly and/or provided programming on Veterans Day to honor our armed forces. Some of our schools also participated in fundraising activities to benefit the Veteran Angler Charters, an organization dedicated to providing

therapeutic rehabilitation to disabled veterans through no-cost fishing excursions. This organization was founded by a North Branford educator, Ms. Kathleen Granfield. Several North Branford educators are also affiliated and assist with this organization's efforts. The district has dedicated many of our 2010/2011 school-based fundraisers to this cause. We hope to fund 2-3 trips for the veterans. Cliff Potter spoke of Captain Granfield's commitment and the good she is doing for veterans. Any help is appreciated for this worthy cause.

c. Strategic School Profiles

The State Department of Education is behind in finalizing the 2009-2010 Strategic School Profiles. Therefore, the North Branford Strategic School Profiles will be presented at the December Board of Education meeting instead of the traditional presentation in November. The Superintendent thanked the administrators and Tim Hartigan for their patience.

d. Professional Development

On Tuesday, November 2, 2010, the district held a Professional Development Day. Certified staff participated in a full day of staff development activities designed around the needs of their school. Copies of the school in-service schedules are included in the Board Packet. Sarah Querfeld briefly discussed the November 2 activities that took place. Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Ms. Querfeld for strengthening the communication with staff. Deborah Prunier asked if it is easier to coordinate the curriculum with the consolidation and was answered with a "yes" from all.

e. Special Education Presentation

Suzanne Wright, Director of Special Services, presented a brief description of the services provided to students with disabilities in North Branford Schools. She highlighted some of the programs that contribute to preserving instruction in the Least Restrictive Environment and retaining North Branford students in their home schools including the Integrated Preschool program (PRIDE), Life Skills, Bridges and the transition program. Ms. Wright presented the Board with a newsletter and then presented a PowerPoint presentation on the variety of services offered in North Branford. She spoke of how teachers teach to student's needs and the positive feedback that has been received. The district is proud to have only 8 outplaced students. She thanked the Board and stated this couldn't happen without their support. Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Ms. Wright on her leadership and work with the students and administration.

f. 2010/2011 Budget

The Superintendent provided an update on the 2010/2011 budget process and also provided the Board with a copy of the proposed budget calendar. Don Winnicki said dates are on the attached calendar and budget workshops will be set at the next Board meeting. Budget items will be discussed at Admin Council meetings in November and December.

g. Community Round-Up

The 21st Annual Community Round-Up was held on Saturday, October 23rd. More than 12,000 items (including \$1,300 in cash donations) were collected. Students from TVES also donated more than 1,000 items to the event for a grand total of 13,000 items. The town truck was filled to capacity!

More than 120 student participants assisted in food collection throughout the Town. Staff members, as well as many of their family members, were in attendance to help count, sort, and package the food. Members of the NBHS Hockey Team and the NBHS Interact Club also contributed to the overwhelming success of this year's event!

Superintendent Schoonmaker would like to thank and acknowledge all district personnel who participated as well as the community at large for their outpouring of generosity! He also thanked the Board for their support of this great program.

h. New England Association of Schools and Colleges

The Superintendent gave a brief report regarding the NEASC accreditation visit to North Branford High School from November 14-17, 2010. He thanked Michele Saulis for her leadership and guidance over the last 4 years and for her efforts through the NEASC process. He also thanked the Board for being there on Sunday and was very pleased by their remarks.

David McMahon thanked Joe Tenczar and Maggie Sullivan for their work on the great NEASC video presentation and also Chef Ed for the food.

i. North Branford High School Administration – Interim Plan

The Superintendent reported to the Board the plan for North Branford High School administrative coverage for the balance of the 2010/2011 school year. Todd Stoeffler will be Interim Principal, Carter Welch will be Assistant Principal, and Tracy Wooton will be Dean of Students.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated he would be remiss not to recognize our AD and Basketball Coach Chris Webster for being inducted into the Coaches Hall of Fame.

V. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations

Donald Winnicki stated there is not a lot to report at this time. He has had some meetings and has more scheduled. He will have a better sense of where we are at the next meeting.

b. Budget

Marcey Onofrio stated no real changes. She spoke of costs of the FRC renovations. David McMahon felt the program should fund itself. Superintendent Schoonmaker recommended waiting until the conclusion of the project.

c. Operations

No report at this time.

d. Curriculum

Marie Diamond received a report on the RtI program and it was helpful with the accreditation visit.

e. Pension

Don Winnicki reports the committee did meet and there were a couple of recommendations regarding investment direction but nothing significant.

f. Policy

Scott Schoonmaker stated the committee has not met and is in the process of securing new legal counsel.

g. ACES

Marie Diamond stated there were 2 main topics - the Board approved the administrator's contract and have begun teacher negotiations. Also, there is a problem with the CAMs building no longer being a magnet building and potentially having to return construction costs.

h. Strategic Planning

Superintendent Schoonmaker states we are underway working with NESDEC. They are looking to upgrade and modify the Strategic Plan. He thanked Joan Follo for her efforts on this.

i. Building Committee

David McMahon stated the NBIS punch list is being worked on. Alan Davis stated that during the last rain storm there were still some leaks but the gym is not leaking.

Marie Diamond stated the FRC committee met last week. The sewer lines are connected and the water lines were connected today. The building is coming next week. Superintendent Schoonmaker is pleased to report that on the town side, they are ahead of schedule.

j. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

No report at this time.

k. Communication

Shannon Miscio stated they will be meeting on December 2nd.

VI. New Business

No new business.

VII. Visitors and Press

Rose Angeloni stated she would like to add to Suzanne Wright's report as President of the Booster Club. They run the Inside Nest, a concession stand that opens up at the end of the school day with snacks and drinks for kids that stay after school and that it was run by parent volunteers but 3 years ago Lifeskills and Best Buddies Program have taken it over.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2010.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Shannon Miscio to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:14 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Kingsley
Acting Board Secretary