

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 16, 2011

The North Branford Board of Education met on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 in the Board Meeting Room at Stanley T. Williams School at 6:30 p.m. The following members attended:

Board Chair:	Marcey Onofrio
Board Vice-Chair:	Shannon Miscio
Board Secretary:	David McMahon
Board Members:	Christopher Manna Deborah Prunier Marie Diamond

Superintendent of Schools:	Scott Schoonmaker
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MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Shannon Miscio 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 Marcey Onofrio seconded by Shannon Miscio to reconvene to the Library Media Center for public session at 6:55 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Business and Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Instruction & Curriculum:	Sara Querfeld
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Operations:	William Choti
Principals:	Alan Davis, NBIS Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES Todd Stoeffler, NBHS

Carter Welch	Christine Imperato	TJ McMahon
Christine Imperato	Debbie Stone	Michelle Provencher
Mary-Ellen Dilella	Douglas Cucchiarelli	Cliff Potter
Rebecca Bainer	Robert Nowak	Mitchell Nowak

II. Student Representative

Jacquelyn Ferraro and Kristin Smith reported on the following events at NBHS.

Academic

- Sophomores are currently completing CAPT testing throughout the month of March. During CAPT testing, freshmen participate in CAPT practice activities and will be attending two assemblies, one on internet safety and one focusing on bullying prevention.
- On Friday, March 4th, Mr. Fabrizi and his Creative Writing students participated in the 'Write the Night' activity held at NBHS from 7pm through 7am on Saturday morning. The night was quite a success and the students had a lot of fun while getting much of their writing accomplished.
- Grade 10 student, Deirdre Ramsey was selected as the first place finisher in the Rochester Institute of Technology Digital Arts, Film, and Animation Competition. Deirdre and a family member will be visiting RIT and then attending an award ceremony during the month of April—all expenses paid by RIT as a part of the award. Congratulations to Deirdre.
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, (PBIS) introduced at NBHS during the month of December, continues to recognize students who meet desirable expectations in the café, hallways, and classrooms. Staff members submit PBIS Recognition Slips indicating names of students who meet the outlined expectations. Biweekly, students' names that have been submitted are randomly selected for recognition awards. During the March Faculty meeting, Ms. Laruen Danner was recognized as the staff member who submitted the most PBIS recognition slips during the past month.

Athletics

- The March Madness Tournament concluded last week on the 11th. The teams and fans had a lot of fun and all proceeds went toward Project Graduation.
- Coach Artaiz and the NBHS Unified Sports Team participated in basketball games on March 7th at East Haven High School. The players and partners had a great time. Mr. Altieri volunteered as one of the game officials.
- Spring sports (girls' lacrosse, softball, baseball, boys' and girls' track, golf, boys' and girls' tennis, and Frisbee) are gearing up for their seasons to begin on the 21st. Hopefully weather will warm up and the fields will be all set to start off strong.

Social/Clubs/ Civic

- Under the guidance and direction of Chef Ed Slubowski, NBHS hosted a benefit pasta dinner on February 16th—over 300 dinners were served during a 5-7pm seating window.
- The Kaleidoscope Organization and the Video Game Club, both under the supervision and direction of Mr. Ford, hosted our first 'Game Night' on Friday, March 11th. There were numerous board games as well as Wii and X-Box games including family friendly Mario Kart, Wii Fitness, and Madden Football. The money raised will go towards the costs associated with the printing of the annual Kaleidoscope publication that includes poetry, short stories, and songs written by NBHS students.
- The Drama Club will be presenting their spring musical, Guys and Dolls on April 1st and 2nd this year. Tickets are on sale now for the Friday and Saturday performances.
- Junior prom is coming up on April 8th at Woodwinds. The juniors are very excited for this event and look forward to having an amazing night.

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the February 17, 2011 Board of Education Meeting

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Mrs. Gina-Marie Little, Coordinator of Special Services, effective April 1, 2011. Miss Little and her family are relocating to North Carolina.

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Ms. Marcia Robinson, special education teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, effective at the end of the 2010/2011 school year.

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 whose assignments will end at the completion of the 2010/2011 school year.

The Superintendent recommends the non-renewal of Ms. Amy Langan, grade 4 substitute at Totoket Valley Elementary School, at the conclusion of the 2010/2011 school year.

The Superintendent recommends the non-renewal of Elyse Mortensen, art teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, at the conclusion of the 2010/2011 school year.

The Superintendent recommends the non-renewal of Nicole Hartt, grade 2 teacher at Jerome Harrison School, at the conclusion of the 2010/2011 school year.

d. Appointments - None at this time.

e. Leaves - None at this time.

f. Donations

Todd Stoeffler, Interim Principal of North Branford High School, has been notified by the North Branford Parents of Performing Students (NBPOPS) that they would like to make a donation to the high school music program in the amount of \$3,000. The Superintendent recommends the approval of this generous donation for use towards the music program's Washington, D.C. trip.

g. Field Trip

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Mrs. Jennifer Marena, World Language Dept. Chair at NBHS, for a one-day field trip to New York City on April 27, 2011. Details of the trip are included in the attachment.

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by David McMahon to approve the Consent Agenda as corrected.

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

IV. 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 stated he was very proud of the JHS staff, who held a “Dressdown Friday” fundraiser in memory of the tragic loss of the Tressel family. The staff raised over \$3,000, which was matched by Matt’s Mission and contributed to the Tressel Childrens College Fund.

The Superintendent provided the Board with the North Branford High School and Intermediate School sports schedules.

The Superintendent provided the Board with a copy of a letter from East Shore Health District thanking North Branford for help and support of H1N1 clinics.

Superintendent Schoonmaker noted East Shore awarded the District \$239 to show their appreciation of our participation in the clinics. The District plans to participate again this spring.

c. NBHS Drama Production

Tickets are now available for the NBHS Drama Club's Production of *Guys & Dolls*. The performances will be held at the Auditorium on Friday, April 1st and Saturday, April 2nd. 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.

Superintendent Schoonmaker noted there are only 2 shows this year. He stated the set is phenomenal and that both the Art and Tech Ed Departments were actively involved in set construction.

d. NBHS England/Ireland Field Trip

During the February break, 18 high school students traveled to England and Ireland. Mr. Todd Stoeffler, Interim Principal of North Branford High School, highlighted the trip through a brief

PowerPoint presentation and was available to answer any questions regarding this very successful event.

NBHS interim principal, Todd Stoeffler indicated he attempted to capture many historical dates in his photos. Mr. Stoeffler thanked the Board and the Administration for this opportunity and stated the families were very appreciative.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Mr. Stoeffler for taking his vacation time to chaperone our students on this trip. He also thanked Dolly Potter, who chaperoned the trip as well.

e. Curriculum Report

As part of the museum/school partnership, North Branford Day at the Yale Center for British Art is scheduled for March 26th from 10:30 to 12:00. Members of the high school band and special chorus will be performing again this year. Art activities, stories and snacks will be available for students. Family invitations will be sent home soon.

Sara Querfeld stated the primary level children have been studying the museum and should be able to show the parents around the museum on North Branford Day.

f. Professional Development

Certified staff members will participate in a full day of professional development activities on Monday, March 21, 2011. Teachers at Jerome Harrison will engage in a Responsive Classroom technique gearing toward better understanding their students and work on data analysis in the afternoon. Totoket Valley teachers attend a Digital Footprint presentation, a workshop on Marzano's Highly Effective Teaching Strategies, listen to an overview on the Common Core Standards and work on pacing, assessments and lesson planning for Math Expressions. The Intermediate School teachers will work in subject area data teams in the morning and participate in a variety of technology and visual literacy workshops in the afternoon while the school data team works with Consultant Loretta Rubin. At the High School teachers will be trained in SmartBoards, Naviance, Classroom Management Strategies and PBIS. The Professional Development Day schedules were attached.

Sara Querfeld updated the Board on the Professional Development day plans and stated grades 1-3 will benefit from consultation with a reading consultant on visual literacy to enhance writing.

g. CMT/CAPT Testing

The Connecticut General Statutes mandate that a statewide assessment be administered to all public school students in grades 3-8 (the Connecticut Mastery Test) and grade 10 (the Connecticut Academic Performance Test(CAPT). Students are assessed in reading, writing, and math in grades 3-8 and in grade 10; and are assessed in science in grades 5, 8, and 10. The testing window for both assessments is March 2-29, 2011. Testing schedules for Totoket Valley Elementary School, North Branford Intermediate School, and North Branford High School were attached, as was an overview of the CMT and the CAPT.

Sara Querfeld stated the testing is going smoothly, as she has visited all the buildings during testing. Testing ends next week and the CMT's must be sent to the State by March 29th. She stated we will not see the results until late July. She is very excited to see our results.

Superintendent Schoonmaker commended Sara Querfeld for putting in a rich PD day including smartboard training, as many were installed over February break. He also stated CMT testing is going well.

h. SCASA Student Award Luncheon

On March 18, 2011, 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 Emmy Norton and Andy Kendrick from Totoket Valley Elementary School, Kaitlyn White and Ryan Murphy from North Branford Intermediate School and Emily Reynolds and Alex Brenner from North Branford High School. We congratulate these students on receiving this high honor!

Superintendent Schoonmaker noted it is nice to have outstanding representatives from North Branford.

i. 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 Monday, February 28th, 2011. The Board of Education presented their budget to the Town Council on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. The Town has provided the following tentative schedule of budget meetings:

Saturday, April 2nd – Time: tba

Tuesday, April 5th – Public Hearing/Budget Workshop – Time: tba

Wednesday, April 6th – Budget Workshop – Time: tba

Thursday, April 7th – Budget Workshop (if needed) – Time: tba

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated he is awaiting more information on the April 2nd meeting. He stated he believes it will be a breakfast meeting. He also stated the 1st budget presentation was last evening. It was a different venue and there was no Q&A session during the meeting. He stated Don Winnicki presented the Board's budget with a powerpoint presentation on the Board's process.

Christopher Manna stated the Job's Bill funds were basically a gift from the Federal Government. Superintendent Schoonmaker agreed and stated the District did not use the funds in the 10/11 school year with the intent to use it in the 11/12 school year due to dwindling FRC funds.

Christopher Manna stated this is the lowest budget ever requested.

Don Winnicki stated when you look at the Town's budget book, the Board's budget can be unclear. He stated due to the Federal Stimulus funds over the past two academic years, the Town was able to reduce the Board's budget because the funds were in the form of a grant. As the funds are not available for the 11/12 school year, the Town had to add the funds back, which will hopefully be offset by ECS funding, into the budget, making the percentage increase seem higher.

Mr. Winnicki stated this information is in the Town book, but it is not clear. He indicated he will modify his presentation to clarify this and explain it in detail.

V. Committee Reports

The Board of Education reviewed committee reports and recommendations.

- a. Negotiations - Don Winnicki stated Nurse, Custodian and Café negotiations are coming up soon.
- b. Budget – Don Winnicki stated the issues were basically the same with unemployment and building and improvements being over budget.

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

- c. Curriculum – Marie Diamond stated the committee met with Sara Querfeld regarding the 3/21 professional development day. She noted Sara would like to form staff development systemwide. She stated they also discussed the gifted and talented program and are trying to come up with an earlier identification process. They also reviewed the letter Sara composed in regards to the expectations on high school reform and the cost impact of those items in this economic climate. The Board will sign the letter when it is complete.

- d. Pension - Did not meet
- e. Policy -

The Policy subcommittee has selected the firm of Shipman & Goodwin to review, update and maintain the Board of Education Policy Manual.

Christopher Manna stated the policies must be current with State mandates.

- f. ACES – Marie Diamond stated Technical schools were discussed at the last meeting. She stated they also voted to approve various budgets. Superintendent Schoonmaker stated we participate in many of ACES programs and it is helpful to have a Board member be involved with ACES.

- g. Operations – David McMahon and Christopher Manna stated they attended the Permanent Project Building meeting. They stated The Caputo Company was hired to inspect the roof at NBIS. Christopher Manna stated the report is due out on Thursday. He stated The Caputo Company was able to identify the ongoing leaks and it will just be a matter of time until they are patched. Dave McMahon stated the floor is in at the FRC building and the walls are painted. He stated the building is something to be proud of. Superintendent Schoonmaker stated the building will be operational soon and it is a very attractive building. Christopher Manna stated that even with the weather this winter, Munger Construction was wonderful to work with.

h. Communication - Shannon Miscio stated the committee met this month. She stated she will be preparing BOE Briefs for the Totoket Times. She also stated the committee received 3 communications through the communication link on the website. 2 were in regards to full day Kindergarten, which she stated the Board has considered, but cannot implement due to budgetary limitations. The 3rd will be referred to the policy committee. She stated the link was user friendly and the public is able to get their concerns heard.

VI. New Business

No new business

VII. Visitors and Press

No visitors and Press

**VIII. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for
WEDNESDAY, April 14, 2011 at Stanley T. Williams Elementary School.**

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Christopher Manna to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Neubig
Acting Board Secretary