

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
February 12, 2009**

The February 12, 2009 Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m. in the Conference Room of Totoket Valley Elementary School. The following members attended.

<b>BOARD VICE-CHAIR:</b>	<b>MARCEY ONOFRIO</b>
<b>BOARD SECRETARY:</b>	<b>NANCY LAPPIE</b>
<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>	<b>JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.</b>
	<b>DR. CHRISTOPHER MANNA</b>
	<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY</b>

<b>SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:</b>	<b>SCOTT SCHOONMAKER</b>
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**MOTION:** Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Bonnie Symansky 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 Bonnie Symansky and seconded by John Bozzuto to reconvene to public session at 6:40 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

The second 2009-2010 budget workshop was held at 6:40 p.m. and the Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m.

**Roll Call**

<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTO:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>DR. CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>

**I. Visitors**

Director of Business / Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum / Instruction:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Director of Technology:	Timothy Hartigan
Director of Operations:	William Choti

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Principals:

Michele Saulis, NBHS  
Alan Davis, NBIS  
Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES  
Doug Hammel, STW  
Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Joe Tenczar  
Todd Stoeffler

David McMahon  
Mrs. Staffa

Joseph Staffa  
Brandi Little

## **II. Student Representative**

### Academic

Greg Schrieber welcomed Superintendent Schoonmaker to the North Branford School District.

Parents will be able to view their child's course selections online during the month of March. Parents are encouraged to call their child's guidance counselor if they have any questions.

CAPT testing for all sophomores will begin on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The freshmen will have a combination of CAPT practice test and assemblies.

Theater Arts class presented four plays on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The students were well prepared and used a very simple yet flexible stage set created by the Tech Ed class.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, one of the four plays, "The Blue Mailbox Suicide Note" was performed for the NBHS 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> graders and some seniors who chose to attend. The students attended an introduction about the play's topic and a follow up debriefing about how to get help for people who show suicidal signs. These sessions were conducted with their homeroom teachers.

Four NBHS students participated and won awards at the Model United Nations held at the University of Hartford on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and in New York City on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Social and Athletics

All athletic teams are wrapping up sports for the winter season.

Indoor Track will attend States this weekend for all qualifying athletes.

Boys' Basketball Senior Night, Girls' Basketball Senior Night, and Ice Hockey Night will be held during the month of February.

Boys' Basketball qualified for All-Shoreline.

The Winter Social Formal will be held on February 27, 2009 with a masquerade theme.

National Honor Society will be selling carnations for Valentine's Day.  
Helping Hands is collecting money to send chocolate to our troops for Valentine's Day.  
The class of 2010 is selling Teddy Bears for Valentine's Day.  
Student Council members are attending a leadership conference call New Generations

Superintendent Schoonmaker complimented all NBHS students in the plays remarking the play on suicide was very well presented and the students did a marvelous job with such sensitive material.

Nancy Lappie also complimented the high school students.

### III. Consent Agenda

#### a. Minutes

Minutes of the January 15, 2009 North Branford Board of Education meeting.

Minutes of the January 21, 2009 - 2009-2010 First Budget Workshop.

#### b. Resignations - None at this time.

#### c. Appointments

The Superintendent has received recommendations from North Branford High School Principal, Michele Saulis, for the following coach and assistant coach positions:

Boys Tennis	Head Coach	Gerry Carlone
NBHS Softball	Assistant Coach	Jackie DeFrancesco
Baseball	Assistant Coach	Ron Ragozzino
Baseball	Assistant Coach	Frank Forgione

The Superintendent has received recommendations from North Branford High School Principal, Michele Saulis, for the following advisor positions:

Yearbook Advisor:	Anita Ward
Assistant Yearbook Advisor:	Barbara Girard

These positions shall be paid per the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

#### 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. Anne Young, social studies teacher at North Branford High School. The trip is to New York City/Ellis Island on May 11, 2009. The bus will depart North Branford at approximately 5:45 a.m. and return to the school at 8:00 p.m. The cost to each student is \$90.00.

**MOTION:** Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Nancy Lappie to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

<b>VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY LAPPIE:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>JOHN BOZZUTTO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>BONNIE SYMANSKY:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

Bonnie Symansky questioned if chaperones on out of state field trips have CPR experience.

Michele Saulis stated only on out of country trips.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated CPR training is not common as a requirement.

Dr. Manna questioned if CPR training was offered as a professional development.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that CPR training is a two- day commitment.

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

a. Recognition

Four students representing North Branford High School recently attended the Model United Nations held at the University of Hartford on January 30 and 31, 2009. The World Affairs Council of Connecticut coordinates this event. Approximately 600 students from Connecticut, representing more than 70 countries, came together in simulated foreign policy discussions and debates involving political, humanitarian, economic and environmental issues. The Council awarded our students Best Delegation, Environmental Committee, and Global Loss of Biodiversity.

The juniors from North Branford High School who participated are:

Joe Staffa  
Chelsea Wilson  
Heena Mavani  
Stephanie White

The Board congratulated these individuals for their efforts in this program that encourages students to “think globally.” Joe Staffa accepted a plaque on behalf of his classmates from the Board of Education.

Bonnie Symansky asked what country the students represented.

Joe Staffa stated India.

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned that freshmen would attend a presentation by Art Horn on Global Warming on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

b. Communications - None at this time.

c. BOE Briefs

The Superintendent announced a new feature in the Board Packet called BOE Briefs. Each building principal will provide a monthly synopsis of activities, which have occurred in their school. The events, which will be highlighted, include professional development, new initiatives, meetings, testing, field trips, community service events as well as plays and concerts. (attached)

All Board members stated they liked this new feature and it was very informative.

d. Superintendent’s Budget Request

The total budget request for the 2009/2010 school year is \$29,409,623. This represents an increase of 3.66% over the 2008/2009 budget. Fixed costs account for almost all of the new funding requested, totaling 3.23%.

Beyond fixed costs, the budget request contains .17% to begin an elementary world language program, .10% for increased technology and .09% in new monies for the Curriculum Management Cycle.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that he and Donald Winnicki are working closely with the Town Council on our budget. He remarked that it is crucial that we keep our mission and our goals ongoing to benefit all students.

Given the difficult economic times, administration has removed a considerable number of important requests and deferred most capital projects.

The Board of Education must submit its budget request to the Town Council no later than February 27 2009. Once the Operating and Capital Budget requests are determined by the Board, motions will be in order.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that the loss of staff would set this community back for many years.

Marcey Onofrio questioned if we had a snow day and a meeting was canceled how would we submit our proposed budget to the Town Council on time.

Donald Winnicki remarked that he could submit a transmittal letter to the Town Council.

Marcey Onofrio remarked that is was good that there would be two more budget meetings on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

e. Kindergarten Enrollment

Kindergarten registration for the 2009/2010 school year was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> at both Jerome Harrison and Stanley T. Williams elementary schools. As of the publication of the Board Agenda, Stanley T. Williams School had enrolled 67 students and Jerome Harrison School had enrolled 53 students for a total of 120.

**V. Committee Reports**

a. Negotiations

No report at this time.

b. Budget

No report at this time.

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

c. Operations

Christopher Manna remarked that the North Branford Public School System has been granted a \$30,862. Security Grant.

Donald Winnicki stated that the grant must be spent by June 30, 2009.

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Christopher Manna questioned who wrote the grant.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated Donald Winnicki, Lisa Coughlin and Bill Choti. He remarked that it was wonderful that we got this security grant for the second year in a row.

Donald Winnicki commended Bill Choti for his preparation for the last security grant stating it was an enormous amount of work.

The next Operations meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

d. Curriculum

No report at this time.

e. Pension

John Bozzuto remarked that he attended the last Pension meeting and they had a presentation on where we stand on different funds.

f. Policy

The Board of Education is receiving the following policies for first reading:

Policy #P4150 Administrative Discretion in Absence of Board of Education Policy

Policy #P9170 Board Meetings – Meeting Procedures – Broadcasting & Taping of Meetings

Christopher Manna questioned policy #P9170. He remarked that he felt the Chairman of the Board of Education should be the one who had to give clearance for radio and television stations to report proceedings from the floor of the meeting room of the Board meetings, not the Superintendent.

Bonnie Symansky stated that the Superintendent is responsible for the buildings and she likes the policy the way it is written.

Marcey Onofrio stated that this is only a first read for the policy and it can be written to say the Superintendent or the Board of Education.

g. ACES

Nancy Lappie stated she attended a meeting today and there was no new progress on the budget.

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h. Strategic Planning

No meeting at this time.

i. Building Committee

Bonnie Symansky remarked that all furniture has been chosen and most of the colors are in earth tones. She remarked that we are a few weeks behind schedule and we hope to be in the cafeteria by the end of March 2009.

j. Calendar Committee

No report at this time.

k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

No report at this time.

l. Communication

Christopher Manna questioned how Connect-Ed is working in the school system.

Scott Schoonmaker stated schools are using Connect-Ed at this time for early school dismissal and we will use Connect-Ed for school closings next year. He also mentioned we are looking at ways to improve our web site.

## VI. Visitors and Press

Penny Seaman spoke on the accomplishments of her children thanks to the education they received in the North Branford School System. She mentioned that all North Branford staff “had done good” by her kids. She remarked that we are a good school district and her children received a first –rate education.

**The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2009 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.**

**VII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Nancy Lappie and seconded by John Bozzuto to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 7:55 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine  
Account Clerk