

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 23, 2009**

The North Branford Board of Education met at 6:00 pm in the conference room of Totoket Valley Elementary School on Thursday, April 23, 2009. The following members attended:

Board Chairwoman:	Deborah Prunier
Board Vice Chair:	Marcey Onofrio
Board Secretary:	Nancy Lappie
Board Member:	Dr. Christopher Manna

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

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Chris Manna 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 to discuss legal, personnel matters, and negotiations.
ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Chris Manna to reconvene to the Library Media Center for public session at 7:00 pm.
ALL VOTED AYE

I. Salute to the Flag

II. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Supervisor of Buildings/Grounds:	William Choti
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Principals:	Michele Saulis, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES Doug Hammel, STW Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

David McMahon	Joseph Lasko	Mitch Holcomb
Carter Welch	Mary Lasko	Maria Severino
Mark Severino	Mark Severino, Jr	Austin Severino
Valerie Distasio	Ashley Distasio	William Seward III
Debra Seward	Michael Carboni	Briana Carboni
Joseph DeRienzo	Franz Folz	Meg Walker
Dave Walker	Chris Saroka	Cheryl Saroka
Kyle Saroka	Joe Folz	Mary Dematteo
Kellie Walker	Cliff Potter	Dolly Potter
Brandi Little	John Florio	Jen Marena
Samantha Scavo	Joe Tenczar	Todd Stoeffler

III. Student Representative

Student representative, Deseray Peterson, gave the following report:

School Functions

The Drama Club presented “Seussical” Musical Performance on April 2-4 at the North Branford Auditorium to sold out audiences. About 100 students participated in the production. The NBHS communications students submitted public service pieces to Fox Channel News and they placed second out of 140 schools. The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of CT Senior High School Art Contest were represented by the following students: Meagan Albin, Michelle Radziunas – 2nd place Pen & Ink Category, Michael Yu – 1st place Marker Category, Molly Degan, Kaitlin Walczak, Briana Bogue, Kyle Combs, and Lindsey Hottin.

Community Service

On Saturday, April 4th, members of the NBHS Boy’s Soccer and Basketball Teams participated in the 6th annual FEED THE NEED 5K run/walk at Hammonasset State Park. The entry fee was 25 non-perishable food items and all food was donated to the Shoreline Food Banks.

Assemblies/Field Trips

On April 22nd the program “Names Can Really Hurt Us” was attended by grades 9, 10, and 11 and was coordinated by the ADL. It was very successful and generated a lot of conversation amongst the students. 90 students attended a college fair in Hartford on Thursday, April 2 were they were able to gather information and talk to representatives from many colleges. 20 students attended an environmental conference on Earth Day, April 22 focused on our drinking water supply and staying healthy.

Athletics

The baseball team has started out strong this season. The new head coach is Billy Mitchell. The boy’s tennis team is doing well and lead by captains Mike Gangi and Dewey Boatman. The girl’s tennis team is currently undefeated and led by captains Nicole Bouchard, Emily Robertson, and Kelley Connolly. The girl’s lacrosse team is currently 2-2 and are led by captains Sarah Flynn, Nicole Derusso, and Melissa Grime. The softball team is having a very successful season and are led by captains Nicole Paolini, Amanda Dedominico, and Morgan Onofrio. The track teams are both doing well and led by captains Joe Lasko, Robert Mercier, Ben Hammond, Alyssa Selmquist, Katy Sullivan, and Desseray Peterson. They competed yesterday in the pouring rain with the girls winning by a small margin.

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the March 19, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

- b. Resignations
- c. Appointments
- d. Leaves
- e. Donations

f. Field Trips

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Ms. Heidi Ahlstrom-Miller, English teacher at NBHS, to travel to Boston University on Friday, May 1, 2009. Ms. Ahlstrom-Miller and 6 students will attend a journalism conference sponsored by the New England Scholastic Press Association.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE	AYE
CHRIS MANNA	AYE

Motion Carried 4-0

V. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Scott Schoonmaker commented on attending the school assembly today at NBHS in the morning. He was very impressed with the behavior of the students and the courage of those students who spoke about their feeling regarding things that have impacted their lives at the middle school and high school. Scott thanked Michele Saulis and the faculty for bringing this program to our high school.

a. Recognition

Six North Branford Students Receive Honors At Annual SCASA Awards Luncheon

The South Central Area Superintendent Association honored 75 students on March 20th at their fourth annual Student Recognition Luncheon held at Laurel View Country Club in Hamden. Over 300 people were in attendance with guest speaker, Dr. Joseph Cirusuolo, Executive Director of CAPSS. 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.

The Board of Education recognized the following students who represented North Branford:

<u>TVES - Grade 5</u>	Kristi Wharton	Frederick Van Augur
<u>NBIS – Grade 8</u>	Ashley Distasio	Mark Severino
<u>NBHS – Grade 12</u>	Ariana Acquarulo	Joseph Folz

Those students present had their photos taken with the Superintendent. All students received a plaque from the Board of Education.

CAS Scholar-Leader – NBIS

NBIS eighth graders, Ashley Arre and Kyle Saroka, 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. Ashley and Kyle will receive their awards at the Twenty-Fifth Annual Connecticut Middle Level Scholar-Leader Banquet at the Aqua Turf Club, in Southington, on June 1, 2009.

The Board recognized these two students who were chosen to represent NBIS with a plaque and a photo taken with the Superintendent.

CAS Scholar-Athletes – NBHS

Robert Mercier and Nicole Bouchard of NBHS are the 2009 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 ranked in the top ten of their senior class, are CAPT scholars and are members of the National Honor Society. Robert competed in soccer, indoor track, and track and field. Nicole competed in volleyball, swimming, and tennis. The Connecticut Association of Schools will present this award to Robert and Nicole at a ceremony on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the Aqua Turf Club.

The Board recognized these two students who were chosen to represent NBHS with a plaque and a photo taken with the Superintendent.

Southern Region Music Festival

Alex Hassen (trumpet, grade 7) and Briana Carboni (trumpet, grade 8) auditioned and were selected to perform in the highly competitive 2009 Southern Region Music Festival, at Naugatuck High School (Feb. 28th). Students auditioned from 47 middle schools in the southern region of Connecticut for placement in the concert.

The Board recognized these two students who represented NBIS with a plaque and a photo taken with the Superintendent.

At NBHS, Joseph Martin participated in the Southern Region High School Chorus. His score on the auditions was high enough to earn him a spot at the Regional level which only about 25% of those who audition attain.

The Board recognized Joseph Martin who represented NBHS with a plaque and a photo taken with the Superintendent.

All-State Athletes

The following individuals have been chosen as all-state players in their respective sports for NBHS. The Board recognized them with a plaque and a photo taken with the Superintendent.

Mitch Holcomb – Football

Joseph Lasko – Football

Mary DeMatteo – Field Hockey

Deseray Peterson – Field Hockey

Samantha Scavo – Field Hockey

Kellie Walker – Girls Cross Country

b. Communications

Superintendent Schoonmaker commented that there are many activities going on in all of the schools and the Board of Education Briefs provided in the packet are a way to give the board members a snapshot of what is happening. Board members are very happy to receive these updates.

c. Summer of 2009

The Summer of 2009 – “Do You Believe in Magic?” 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 6th, 107 students have registered for summer camp.

Marcey Onofrio asked how the registration numbers this year compared with last year’s. Don Winnicki reported that they were running very similar to last year at this same time.

d. Graduation Date

In accordance with State Statute, the North Branford Board of Education may establish a firm graduation date after April 1st of the school year. In as much as the school system has experienced four snow days this moves graduation to Wednesday, June 24th, 2009.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to establish the 2009 North Branford High School graduation for Wednesday, June 24, 2009.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE	AYE
CHRIS MANNA	AYE

Motion Carried 4-0

e. Curriculum Management Cycle Update

As part of the Curriculum Management Cycle (CMC) the following end-of-the-year summative reports were attached for Board review:

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

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

World Language 6-12 Evaluation Report: developed by Jennifer Marenna, Curriculum Leader for World Languages K-12

Joan Follo thanked Carter Welch and Jennifer Marenna, along with their committee members, for their hard work and dedication in developing these reports. Joan explained that the evaluation cycle deals with the current status of the program and what it should look like due to outside influences. The review cycle focuses on what we are doing currently in the program and what we should be doing. Carter and Jennifer met earlier this evening with the Board Curriculum subcommittee to discuss these reports in detail and answer any questions they had. Joan asked if any of the other Board members had questions regarding these reports.

Marcey Onofrio stated this was the first curriculum subcommittee meeting she attended and was very impressed with the presentations by Carter Welch and Jennifer Marenna.

Deb Prunier asked Carter why the introduction to sex education and drug education is listed as occurring in 9th grade and is it covered informally at the elementary and middle school level. Carter responded that it is introduced at the lower levels and more details can be found in

curriculum binders. Superintendent Schoonmaker commented that the district is involved in the DARE program at the 5th grade level and there has been some talk about extending it to the 7th grade. The DARE program was cut at the 7th grade level several years ago due to budget cutbacks and it is being reconsidered to support the health curriculum.

Chris Manna stated he was pleased to see the “Names Can Hurt” program presented at NBHS.

f. Professional Development

Certified staff members were involved in a full-day of professional development on March 27, 2009. Activities spanned a range of district, school and curriculum initiatives that focused primarily on technology and use of student data to inform instruction, develop intervention goals and strategies. Other activities involved curriculum planning and writing. Out of district presenters included:

1. Sonya Kunkel from CREC who worked with our Special Education Department on the use/analysis of data
2. Patrick Flynn from ACES who worked with the high school staff related to the use of student data by Professional Learning Communities
3. Howard Gunther from ACES who trained high school and middle school staff on SmartBoards
4. Meryl Mendon from ACES who trained STW staff on SmartBoards
5. Ellen Cohn who worked with middle school staff in planning for Response To Intervention
6. Mary Beth Molloy who provided training on our Destiny Library Management System

Superintendent Schoonmaker talked about how SmartBoards have been installed in all schools with the highest concentration at the elementary level. Joan Follo commented that the professional development day was very successful and she received many good to excellent ratings from the staff regarding the out of district presenters with one receiving a 100% rating. She also stated there were several in-house presenters that received excellent ratings.

Nancy Lappie asked how many SmartBoards were in the elementary level. The administrators from JHS, STW, and TVES stated that all classrooms are equipped with them.

Deb Prunier noted that the middle school staff worked on RTI and asked if other staff will be working on it. Alan Davis responded that the training was for the NBIS RTI committee and they will be having a roll out for the entire staff in the coming weeks. It will be implemented in September 2009. Joan Follo informed the Board they will be receiving a report in June about RTI in all the schools.

g. Meet the Superintendent Day

Curriculum leaders throughout the district had the opportunity to meet with Superintendent Scott Schoonmaker on April 1, 2009 to talk about their discipline. Conversations focused on curriculum progress, their vision for the future of their discipline, barriers that might interfere with attaining their vision and next steps that could move the discipline closer to their vision. Curriculum leaders from each discipline had thirty minutes with Superintendent Schoonmaker. The day ran from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The following curriculum leaders participated in the event:

Art: Marci Hart, K-12

Business/Careers: Dick Terrill, 6-12, Guest, Gerald Carlone

Health/PE: Carter Welch, K-12

Language Arts: Mark Fabrizi, 9-12; Grace Polivka, 6-8; Betty LaPointe, K-5

Mathematics: Tracy Wootton, 6-12, Deborah Welton, K-5
Music: John Tzetzto, K-12; Guest, John Congo
Science: Tamre Mockus, 9-12, Kathleen Griffin-Daley, 6-8, Jeremy Rice, K-5
Social Studies: Brian Bodner, 9-12; Marcella Ardine, 6-8; Carrie Sabetta, K-5
World Languages: Jennifer Marenga (K-12)

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated he thoroughly enjoyed meeting with all of the curriculum leaders to hear their thoughts on the strong points and where they would like to see their program in the future. Joan Follo read some of the very positive feedback she received from the participating staff regarding this event.

g. 2009/2010 Budget

The Town Council reduced the Board of Education request by \$300,000 to approximately a one percent increase. Superintendent Schoonmaker stated the administrative team will spend considerable time over the next four to six weeks scrutinizing the budget to recommend reductions to the Board that will have the least amount of impact on the students. This could include further discussion with the unions about concessions, asking the unions to encourage any members who have decided to retire to formally notify the Board so that we can factor in any savings, and discussing possible elimination of positions or deferral of program implementation with the administrative team. The Superintendent has had informal discussions with the Town Manager regarding opportunities to limit expenditures for the remainder of the 2009 school year with the possibility of transferring monies back to the Town for use in the 2009-2010 budget in the hopes that it could be used for BOE expenditures. The Board typically will not take any formal action until after the May referendum.

Deb Prunier asked if the monies returned to the Town would be similar to a savings account earmarked for education. Superintendent Schoonmaker said he would be similar to a contingency account that the Town would oversee and used for education purposes. He stated all administrators have been advised to be conservative on their spending for the remainder of the year and to make sure we are all doing what we can to weather this economy.

vi. **Committee Reports**

The Board of Education will review and may take action on committee reports and recommendations.

a. Negotiations

The Board of Education discussed and took action regarding the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and Local 1303-54 of Connecticut Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Custodians).

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to approve the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and Local 1303-54 of Connecticut Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Custodians).

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE	AYE
CHRIS MANNA	AYE

Motion Carried 4-0

The Board of Education discussed and took action regarding the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and Local 1303-382 of Connecticut Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Cafeteria Workers).

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to approve the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and Local 1303-382 of Connecticut Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Cafeteria Workers).

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER	AYE
VICE-CHAIR ONOFRIO	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE	AYE
CHRIS MANNA	AYE

Motion Carried 4-0

b. Budget

A copy of the April 1 financial statement was provided for Board review. Don Winnicki reported that much of the time recently has been spent on the 2009 – 2010 budget and we are in good shape for current budget.

c. Operations

Chris Manna asked Don Winnicki if the machines have been purchased for the floors. Don stated they would be needed for the summer so they would be moving forward with the purchase very soon. There will be one machine for the north side of town and one for the south side.

d. Curriculum – Covered under the superintendent’s report

e. Pension - No Report

f. Policy – No Report

g. ACES – No Report

h. Strategic Planning

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated Strategic Planning was on hold for right now due to the economic climate. The current plan covers through 2010. Chris Manna asked how much money is saved by putting this on hold and the superintendent stated approximately \$35,000.

h. Building Committee

Deb Prunier stated there will be a walk through at NBIS on Monday, April 27 starting one hour before the meeting (6 pm). Alan Davis reported the old walkway has been disassembled and a new, shorter one has replaced it. The students now enter by the hallway near the new band room which is in use. The floor tile work will be completed this summer but the room is in use. Alan reported that the cafeteria should be ready to go on-line in the next few weeks.

j. Calendar Committee – No Report

k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee – No Report

l. Communication

Nancy Lappie reported they discussed the problems with Cable Access Channel 19 and the lack of information on it. Don Winnicki updated the Board with information regarding a meeting he had with Michele Saulis and Joe Tenczar from NBHS. Joe Tenczar will be meeting with

Channel 19 technical people to see if they can get the electronic bulletin board up and running again. Superintendent Schoonmaker reported they are looking into updating the equipment to digital to handle the needs of the classes currently being held at NBHS and to get Channel 19 running properly.

Deb Prunier read a letter from the Superintendent to the Town Manager regarding the collaboration between Fran Merola and the Public Works department and Bill Choti, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds to fix the flooding problems on the main playground area at TVES.

VII. New Business

No new business reported.

VIII. Visitors and Press

Don Winnicki thanked John Florio for his extraordinary effort in installing the approximate 70 SmartBoards currently in the district.

Chris Manna inquired about getting the entire district online regarding SmartBoards. Superintendent Schoonmaker stated we are well on our way with 3 out of 5 schools already equipped. There is a plan in place and it will be implemented according to schedule depending on the economic climate. Each SmartBoard is approximately \$3500.00. Don Winnicki stated that NBIS will also be getting more through the FFE expenditure in the renovation project.

IX. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2009 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Nancy Lappie to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm.

ALL VOTED AYE