

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

July 16, 2009

The North Branford Board of Education met at 6:00 pm in the Office of the Superintendent at Totoket Valley Elementary School. The following members were in attendance:

Board Chairwoman: Deborah Prunier
Board Vice-Chair: Marcey Onofrio
Board Secretary: Nancy Lappie
Board Members: John Bozzuto, Jr.
Dr. Christopher Manna
Bonnie Symansky

Superintendent of Schools: Scott Schoonmaker

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Bonnie Symansky to adjourn to executive session as permitted by Connecticut General Statue section 1-200 (6)(A) and 1-225 (A, B, and F) at 6:03 pm.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by John Bozzuto and seconded by Marcey Onofrio at 6:50 pm to adjourn from executive session regarding contract negotiations.

ALL VOTED AYE

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by John Bozzuto at 6:55 to adjourn to executive session as permitted by Connecticut General Statue section 1-200 (6)(A) and 1-225 (A, B, and F) for the purpose of discussing a legal issue.

ALL VOTED AYE

Don Winnicki, Director of Personnel and Business, joined the meeting to update the Board on a legal matter.

MOTION: Moved by Bonnie Symansky and seconded by Deborah Prunier to reconvene to the Library Media Center for public session at 7:10 pm.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Salute to the Flag

II. Visitors:

Director of Curriculum:	Joan Follo
Director of Special Education:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Building & Grounds:	William Choti
Alexis Christina	Richard Terrill
Joseph Tenczar	Gerald Carlone
Deb Welton	

III. Visitor Comments – None

IV. Student Representative – No report at this time

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes

Minutes of the June 11, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

- b. Resignations – None at this time
- c. Appointments

Superintendent Schoonmaker requested the approval of the 2009/2010 Department Chairs as presented in Exhibit B. These stipend positions are paid in accordance with the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers. All appointments are renewed annually.

- d. Leaves – None at this time
- e. Field Trips – None at this time
- f. Donations – None at this time

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

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER	AYE
VICE CHAIR ONOFRIO	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY	AYE

MOTION CARRIED

6 – 0

VI. Superintendent's Report

- a. Recognition – None at this time
- b. Communications

The Superintendent received notification from the State of Connecticut Department of Education regarding the recently submitted Technology Plan. The plan meets the standards and criteria outlined by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Services program and is effective through June 30, 2012. Superintendent Schoonmaker congratulated and thanked Tim Hartigan and the committee for all of their hard work in updating this plan.

- c. Authority to Hire

Superintendent Schoonmaker reported that a contract has been extended to Avani Shah under the authority granted at the June Board of Education meeting. Ms. Shah will be teaching Grade 4 at TVES and has been placed on Step 1, Masters. Ms Shah is a recent graduate of Quinnipiac University with a Masters Degree in Elementary Education. She interned at TVES during the last two years and also completed her student teaching there.

The following positions are currently open:

NBHS	.45 Choral Teacher
NBIS	Grade 7 – Mathematics Teacher

The Superintendent reported that Michele Saulis, Principal, is currently interviewing for the choral position and should be ready to recommend a candidate in the next few weeks. The grade 7 math teacher will be filled by an internal candidate and the posting for the position held by the internal candidate will be completed shortly thereafter.

- d. Curriculum Management Cycle

Joan Follo reported on the new format being used in the Implementation Phase of the CMC to develop and monitor the progress of the goals establish in a specific curriculum. Copies of the reports were provided to the Board. She reported on the following curricula areas:

- Art K-12
- Language Arts K-5
- Language Arts 6-8
- Language Arts 9-12

She reported that the majority of the work done in Language Arts this year was with developing common assessments. This was necessary in order to prepare for RTI (Response to Intervention).

Joan Follo also reported on the K-5 Mathematics Review Phase report that was discussed with the Curriculum Sub-Committee earlier this evening. A complete copy of the report was presented to the Board. Joan thanked Deb Welton and her committee for the thorough job they did in preparing the report. Deb Welton reported that the committee was pleased to be able to meet with math teachers across the district to develop a much

needed K-12 mathematics collegiality. This has been lacking in the past several years and they are looking forward to these meetings continuing in the next school year.

Alexis Christina presented the results of the StoryTown assessments. Informational packets showing the beginning of the year results compared to the end of the year results for all schools K-5 were distributed to the Board. Alexis reviewed the results of each grade level and commented that the results achieved in our district were considerably higher than what the StoryTown consultants typically expect. The full effect of StoryTown should be seen in several years when the current kindergarten class takes the CMT's in grade 3. They will have had the full program for three years and will have a great foundation. The district should see some gains in the CMT's each year the students have had the full benefits of StoryTown. She also reported that based on the end of the year assessment, all K-5 schools are ready to start RTI immediately at the beginning of school. The beginning of the year benchmark will be given the week of Sept. 26 at all schools and that will be the basis for comparisons for 2009/10. The main focus of StoryTown for 2008/09 was the reading component. For 2009/10 the writing component will be incorporated. The consultants from StoryTown have indicated that it takes up to five years to see the full benefits and growth when implementing a new literacy program.

Superintendent Schoonmaker commented on the passion and level of commitment that Alexis has shown for the StoryTown program. The staff members are very lucky to receive all the professional development provided by Alexis and the StoryTown consultants.

Nancy Lappie asked why the 5th grade class did not see the same type of growth as the other grades. Alexis stated it was because they did not have a solid foundation in literacy in K-4.

Joan Follo presented the Technology Education Curriculum Guide to the Board. She commented that this was the last curriculum guide that needed to be developed for the district. Dick Terrill, Committee Chair, presented the guide to the Curriculum Sub-Committee earlier in the evening. Bonnie Symansky, a member of the sub-committee, stated she was very impressed with the courses presented and how the students are presented with critical thinking problems related to other subject matters. Gerry Carlone, Tech Ed teacher 6-8, commented that he and John DeNunzio are interested in offering more engineering courses at the high school level for the higher level student. Superintendent Schoonmaker discussed a program called "Project Lead the Way" that deals with the subject matter Gerry Carlone talked about. Joe Tenczar, Communications teacher NBHS, stated that Fox 61 News is ecstatic about the curriculum for Intro to TV Production (Fox 61 Student News) because we are the first district in the state to adopt their TV production curriculum and it will be taught as Fox 61 Student News. This course will enable the district to teach TV production at a professional level. This also brings an opportunity to offer a class at the middle school level which would be a feeder program to the high school. Joe Tenczar is currently discussing this idea with the Superintendent. Joe also stated the Fox 61 News will be sending someone from their public relations department to the next board meeting.

VII. Committee Reports

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

a. Negotiations

Discussion and possible action regarding the contract for the Director of Technology.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Christopher Manna to extend the contract of the Director of Technology, Timothy Hartigan, one additional year, making a three-year contract commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER	AYE
VICE CHAIR ONOFRIO	AYE
SECRETARY LAPPIE	AYE
JOHN BOZZUTO, JR.	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY	AYE

MOTION CARRIED **6 – 0**

Discussion and possible action regarding the contract for the Director of Personnel and Business.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by John Bozzuto, Jr. to extend the contract of the Director of Personnel and Business, Donald Winnicki, one additional year, making a three-year contract, commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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CHRISTOPHER MANNA	AYE
BONNIE SYMANSKY	AYE

MOTION CARRIED **6 – 0**

Discussion and possible action regarding the contract for the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION: Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by John Bozzuto, Jr. to extend the contract of the Superintendent, Scott Schoonmaker, one additional year, making a three-year contract commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012 as discussed with the Superintendent.

CHAIRWOMAN PRUNIER	AYE
VICE CHAIR ONOFRIO	AYE

Construction and demolition has moved to the remaining portion of the existing building and is progressing as scheduled.

- j. Calendar Committee – No Report
- k. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee – No Report
- l. Communication – No Report

VIII. New Business - None at this time

IV. Visitors and Press – No Comments

X. The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2009 at Totoket Valley Elementary School.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Deb Prunier and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully Submitted,

**Rose Angeloni
Interim Board Secretary**