

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 20, 2011

The North Branford Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of Stanley T. Williams School on Thursday, October 20, 2011. The following members attended:

BOARD CHAIR:	MARCEY ONOFRIO
BOARD VICE-CHAIR:	SHANNON MISCIO
BOARD MEMBERS:	MARIE DIAMOND
	DR. CHRISTOPHER MANNA
	DEBORAH PRUNIER
ABSENT:	DAVID MCMAHON

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: SCOTT SCHOONMAKER

I. Visitors

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

T.J. McMahon	Mary Rugiero	Jenn McCullogh – NB Patch
Lou Paternoster	Doreen Currie	Sherry DelGaudio
Mariana DelGaudio	Amy Currie	Kevin Currie
Susan Calamita	Andrew Calamita	Laura Cassidy
Daniel Cassidy	Carter Welch	Stephen Miket
Carol Miket	Sara Hernandez	Hamlet Hernandez
Michael Staffa	Cliff Potter	Paul Calamita
Joan Furr	Stephen Furr	Jenna Simmons
Eileen Simmons	Nate Simmons	Grace Trom
Diane DeNardis	Rich DeNardis	Alyssa DeNardis
Carly Brooks	Patricia Capello	Marcia Staffa
Scott Krista	Lauren Krista	Ashley Arre
Jordan Miket	Taylor Krista	Patty Burke
Nicole Burke	Ken Burke	Connor Sullivan
Auara Catania	Courtney DelColle	Joey Connelly
Angela Connelly	James A. Ferraro	Dylan Podbielski
Joe DeLucia	Raines Hernandez	Megan DeFrank
Janice Vergati	Emma Vergati	Ray Vergati
Allison Fisher	Kaitlyn Fisher	Michelle Cook
Sarah Cook	Guiseppe DeLucia	Chris Saroka
Christine Imperato	Aron Trecarten	George Trecarten
Lori Nolan	Alberta DeLucia	

There were no visitor comments at this time.

II. Student Representative

North Branford High School student representative, Rachel Robertson and Ryan Dombrowski, reported on the following:

Eighth Grade Parent/Student Open House - On Wednesday, October 5, 2011, the first annual Eighth Grade Parent/Student Open House took place. The event consisted of a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the new initiatives at the high school, along with an NBHS video production 'Day in the life of a Freshman'. High school faculty members and current high school students were there to provide information about different clubs and activities, and to answer general questions about the school.

Post High School Plans – In the area of post high school plans, college admission personnel have been visiting NBHS throughout the school year. Juniors and seniors request to visit with a specific college of interest. Additionally, the Paul Mitchell Partner School Tour Bus visited the high school on October 4, 2011. The visit included a presentation regarding this career field. The NBHS Career Aide organized this visit.

PSAT Testing – On Wednesday, October 12, 2011, all sophomores and juniors completed PSAT testing during blocks E and F. This was the first year that all sophomores were required to complete the test.

NBHS Band – The NBHS Band participated in two important events on Thursday, October 13, 2011. Selected musicians played at the Shoreline Music Festival at Coginchaug High School while the jazz ensemble performed at the NB Education Foundation Pasta Dinner.

Green House - The NBHS Greenhouse has begun its second season with spinach, beet, turnip, arugula, lettuce, basil, kale, and Swiss chard, radish and carrot plants. The environmental Classes, Life Skills Program, and Interact Club have all participated in learning activities in the greenhouse and plan to continue doing so throughout the year.

Homecoming – The NBHS Homecoming is the upcoming week, starting Monday, October 24, 2011 with a theme scheduled for each day of Spirit Week. The week concludes with events on the 28th and 29th. On Friday, all students will report to Advisory for information regarding the Pep Rally and Homecoming weekend. The Pep Rally will immediately follow Advisory on the 28th with a home football game versus Cromwell starting at 6:30 Friday night. The Homecoming Dance sponsored by the Student Council will take place on Saturday October 29th in the high school cafe.

Rotary Awards – The North Branford Rotary Club will begin honoring high school students on a monthly basis. The awards will be centered on each department in the high school. This month's honoree is Danielle Roberts for her outstanding performance in Art.

Fall Sports – The field hockey team is undefeated with an 11-0 record as of earlier today. They played this afternoon against rival Haddam-Killingworth. The football team is 3-1. The girls' soccer team is 7-3-2 and competing for a spot in Shorelines. The cross-country team competed at their Shoreline Meet today at Coginchaug High School. Finally, despite both teams having a rough season, the girls' volleyball and boys' soccer teams are dedicated and both JV teams are showing promise and potential for the future of the programs.

III. Consent Agenda

a. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Ms. Jennifer Podolak, grade 8 language arts teacher at North Branford Intermediate School. Ms. Podolak has been on maternity leave and has decided not to return to her position.

b. Appointments

The Superintendent has received a recommendation from Alan Davis, Principal of North Branford Intermediate School for the appointment of Mr. Ralph Shaw to the position of NBIS Athletic Director for the 2011-2012 school year. The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Caitlin Roshka to the position of special education teacher at North Branford Intermediate School. Ms. Roshka will be placed on Bachelors, Step 1 in accordance with the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

c. Donations

Mrs. Lynn Riordan, on behalf of Matt's Mission Fund, presented a donation of \$1,500.00 to the Jerome Harrison Elementary School's Night to Care.

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Marie Diamond to amend the Consent Agenda to add the appointment of Caitlin Roshka to the position of special education teacher at North Branford Intermediate School and resignation of Ms. Jennifer Podolak as a grade 8 language arts teacher at North Branford Intermediate School and remove the minutes from the September 15, 2011 Board of Education meeting from the consent agenda.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
MARIE DIAMOND:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Marcey Onofrio, to approve the amended consent agenda including the minutes of the September 28, 2011 Board of Education Special Meeting, the minutes of the October 5, 2011 Board of Education Special Meeting, the appointment of Mr. Ralph Shaw to the position of NBIS Athletic Director for the 2011-2012 school year, the appointment of Caitlin Roshka to the position of special education teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, the resignation of Ms. Jennifer Podolak, grade 8 language arts teacher at North Branford Intermediate School, and the donation of \$1,500 from Matt's Mission to Jerome Harriuson's Night to Care.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE

MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

IV. Superintendent’s Report

a. Recognition

Matt’s Mission Fund

The Superintendent recognizes Mrs. Lynn Riordan of Matt’s Mission Fund for her generous donation of \$1,500.00 towards the Jerome Harrison Night to Care.

NBHS Students – CAPT Tests

Sixty-four North Branford High School students have distinguished themselves by successfully achieving a high standard of education by meeting the state goal in all four subject areas as demonstrated on the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPT) subtests. Twenty of these students further distinguished themselves by performing at the Advanced Level in all four subject areas.

The Superintendent and Board Chair presented each student with a Certificate issued by the Connecticut State Board of Education.

b. Communications

The BOE Briefs from each school for the month of September were provided to the Board.

The Superintendent shared with the Board a letter from Dr. Victor Sawicki resigning his position as Medical Advisor to the North Branford Public Schools. The Superintendent added that he appreciated all that Dr. Sawicki has contributed to the North Branford Public Schools over the years. Donald Winnicki stated that Dr. Sawicki is retiring from his personal practice but staying on as Medical Advisor until December 1st.

c. Field Trips

The Superintendent informed the Board of several out of state field trips. These field trips are for one day and do not require the approval of the board.

NBHS

Music Dept. & Students	November 2, 2011	NYC – Phantom of the Opera
World Language Dept. & Students	November 3, 2011	NYC – Ellis Island & Little Italy
Art Dept. & Students	November 10, 2011	Brooklyn, NY – Brooklyn Art Museum Brooklyn Botanical Gardens
World Language Dept. & Students	April 25, 2012	NYC – Evita & Scavenger Hunt

d. Annual Report of the Superintendent

The Superintendent stated that he would be happy to answer any questions regarding the Annual Report.

e. Keep Kids in School: Improving School Discipline

The Superintendent shared a copy of the final report from Connecticut Appleseed which highlights successful “best practice” disciplinary interventions and cost-effective in-school suspension techniques.

f. School Improvement Plans

The Building Principals and the Director of Curriculum and Instruction presented an overview of each school's improvement plan for the current school year. These plans are aligned with North Branford's new Strategic Plan and focus on continuous improvement of student achievement by fostering a strong learning environment focused on academic excellence and a positive school climate.

g. Curriculum Update

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Sara Querfeld, provided the Board with an overview of the new initiatives put in place this fall. These initiatives include the formation of a district data team, departmentalized vertical classroom walkthroughs, and the district staff development committee's newly proposed faculty study courses. Other topics to be updated include: the Green House, Latin, the double block Algebra 1 class, students taking courses at Yale College, students enrolled in World Language at Yale, and new initiatives for North Branford's Creative Learning Program.

h. Enrollment

Director of Business/Personnel, Donald Winnicki provided the Board with a chart entitled, “Enrollment Snapshot” and reviewed its contents with the Board, noting that the October 1st enrollment is the benchmark for all State information. Mr. Winnicki also thanked the Tech Ed department for building the Magic Mailbox.

i. North Branford Education Foundation

The Superintendent reported that community members attended the Third Annual Pasta Night hosted by the North Branford Education Fund on October 13th. He noted that school system employees, as well as community volunteers, assisted in the planning, preparation, cooking and serving Thursday night. It was also noted that the outcome was a great family evening which brought together all facets of the North Branford community.

j. Community Round-Up

The Superintendent stated that the 22nd Annual Community Round Up is scheduled for Saturday, October 22nd. He noted that this day is critical for the stocking of the two food closets in the North Branford Community. Superintendent Schoonmaker noted that the success of this event is in large part due to the number of North Branford students and faculty who contribute their time and energy towards this event. Finally, he noted that there will be reminder flyers distributed district-wide and the building Principals will send a SchoolMessenger

announcement reminding parents of this event.

V. Committee Reports

The Board of Education reviewed and took action on the following committee reports:

a. Negotiations

Discussion regarding the collective bargaining agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and AFSCME Co. 4, Local 1303-382 Cafeteria Workers reserved for Executive Session.

b. Budget

The Superintendent provided the Board with copies of the October 1st financial statement and Shannon Miscio stated that everything looked to be in order.

c. Operations

Donald Winnicki went over the Education Specifications for the NBHS large gym and wellness center roofing project for submission of Form ED-049 and acknowledgment of Representative Candelora's efforts in guiding the Board through the process.

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve the Education Specifications for the NBHS large gym and wellness center roofing project as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
MARIE DIAMOND:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

d. Curriculum – Marie Diamond stated that she is working on getting Nancy Boyle in to work with staff/students.

e. Pension – There was no meeting.

f. Policy

Per the direction of legal counsel, the Board Policy Subcommittee has been advised that the following policies are unnecessary or duplicative and may be removed:

Policy #P1030 – Surrogate Parent Program

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Marie Diamond to remove Policy #P1030 –

Surrogate Parent Program as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

Policy #P1230 – Awards

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to remove Policy #P1230 – Awards as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

Policy #P9070 – Committee of the Whole

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to remove Policy #P9070 – Committee of the Whole as submitted.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

Policy # P1060 – Assignment of Students to Schools and Classes

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to re-adopt Policy #P1060 – Assignment of Students to Schools and Classes as recommended by the Board Policy Subcommittee and legal counsel.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

Policy #P1100 – Vandalism

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to re-adopt Policy #P1100 – Vandalism as recommended by the Board Policy Subcommittee and legal counsel.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

Policy #P1210 – Promotion/Retention/Graduation

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to re-adopt Policy #P1210 – Promotion/Retention/Graduation as recommended by the Board Policy Subcommittee and legal counsel.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

Policy #P9010 – Limits of Authority

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to re-adopt Policy #P9010 – Limits of Authority as recommended by the Board Policy Subcommittee and legal counsel.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

Policy #P9030 – Conflict of Interest; Compensation of Board Members

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to re-adopt Policy #P9030 – Conflict of Interest; Compensation of Board Members as recommended by the Board Policy Subcommittee and legal counsel.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFIO: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

g. ACES – Marie Diamond reported that a meeting took place on October 13th to review the Draft 2010-2011 audit report and that there has been some discussion on getting new/revised policies into place.

h. Building Committee – Christopher Manna stated that the meeting was canceled. Superintendent Schoonmaker updated the Board on the latest repairs to the large gym at NBHS and several active leaks at NBIS, as well as plans to correct drainage issues, to include some of the work to be performed by the Town's Public Works Department. Deborah Prunier stated her concern about whether or not the Town performing some of the work would negatively impact any warranties for work done by outside contractors. A brief discussion followed. It was noted that any and all work to be performed would be presented to the Board in writing prior to commencement of work.

i. Communication – Shannon Miscio stated that there was no correspondence on the website.

j. Transportation – None.

VI. New Business

It was noted that the next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2011, changed from Thursday, November 17th and that the regular meeting time may be changing from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Related to items removed from the Consent Agenda.

a. Minutes of the September 15, 2011 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Marie Diamond and seconded by Deborah Prunier, to amend the Minutes of the September 15, 2011 Board of Education Meeting (amending VI. Committee Reports, Section g, second sentence to specify enrollment for Special Education Schools).

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO: AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO: AYE
MARIE DIAMOND: AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA: AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER: AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

a. Collective bargaining agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and

AFSCME Co. 4, Local 1303-382 Cafeteria Workers; and

b. Leave request under Article XX of the Teachers' Contract.

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio, seconded by Maria Diamond, to adjourn to executive session as per Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes as permitted by Section 1-200 (6)(a, b &) of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss the collective bargaining agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and AFSCME Co. 4, Local 1303-382 Cafeteria Workers and Leave request under Article XX of the Teachers' Contract at 9:15 p.m..

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
MARIE DIAMOND:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Marie Diamond to reconvene to the Board Meeting Room for Public Session at 9:32 p.m..

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
MARIE DIAMOND:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

MOTION: Moved by Marie Diamond and seconded by Debbie Prunier to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and AFSCME Council 4, Local 1303-382 Cafeteria Workers, effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:	AYE
VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:	AYE
MARIE DIAMOND:	AYE
CHRISTOPHER MANNA:	AYE
DEBORAH PRUNIER:	AYE

MOTION PASSES 5-0

VII. Visitors and Press

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to adjourn this Board of Education meeting at 9:42 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Meaghan T. Campbell
Account Clerk