

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**June 09, 2011**

The North Branford Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Stanley T. Williams School on Thursday, June 09, 2011. The following members attended:

<b>Board Chair:</b>	<b>Marcey Onofrio</b>
<b>Board Vice-Chair:</b>	<b>Shannon Miscio</b>
<b>Board Secretary:</b>	<b>David McMahan</b>
<b>Board Members:</b>	<b>Marie Diamond</b>
	<b>Dr. Christopher Manna</b>
	<b>Deborah Prunier</b>

<b>Superintendent of Schools:</b>	<b>Scott Schoonmaker</b>
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**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Marie 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& c) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Marie Diamond to adjourn this executive session at 6:30 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

A brief reception for retiring North Branford Public School Employees was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of Stanley T. Williams Elementary School.

The North Branford Board of Education convened for public session at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote:

<b>BOARD CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>BOARD VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>BOARD SECRETARY MCMAHON:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>MARIE DIAMOND:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>

**I. Visitors**

Superintendent of Schools:	Scott Schoonmaker
Director of Business / Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum / Instruction:	Sara Querfeld
Director of Special Education:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Operations:	William Choti
Supervisor of Food Services:	Edward Slubowski
Principals:	Todd Stoeffler, NBHS
	Alan Davis, NBIS
	Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES
	Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Carter Welch	Christine Imperato	Mark Fabrizi	Robert Darragh
Jenn McCulloch	Wendy Sawicki	Carrie Sabetta	Jeremy Rice
Bob Gagliardi	Nilda Gagliardi	Pat Burr	Ken Burr
Lauren Barry	Lynn Merrick	Rose Angeloni	Bill Merrick
Carly Donath	Alyssa Merrick	Melanie Stoeckle	

No visitor comments at this time.

**II. Student Representative**

There were no student representatives at tonight’s meeting as they were studying for final exams.

**III. Consent Agenda**

a. Minutes

Minutes of the May 18, 2011 Special Board of Education Meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Ms. Wendy Sawicki, grade 5 teacher at Totoket Valley Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2010/2011 school year. Ms. Sawicki has given 22 years of dedicated service to the North Branford Public Schools.

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Ms. Nilda Gagliardi, art educator at Jerome Harrison Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2010/2011 school year. Ms. Gagliardi has provided over 35 years of dedicated service to the North Branford Public Schools.

c. Appointments

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Ms. Nancy Bianchi to the position of Special Education Coordinator effective July 1, 2011.

d. Leaves – None at this time.

e. Donations – None at this time.

f. Field Trips – None at this time.

**MOTION:** Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Marie Diamond to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted:

<b>CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE CHAIR MISCIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY MCMAHON:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MARIE DIAMOND:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

a. Recognition

The Board of Education recognized and presented a Proclamation to Patricia Burr for 24 years of service as a Food Service Employee, Nilda Gagliardi for 35 years as an Art Educator and Wendy Sawicki for 22 years as a Grade 5 Educator. The Board thanked each one of these individuals who have dedicated so many years to the students of North Branford.

Superintendent Schoonmaker recognized three North Branford High School students. These students, through their Creative Writing class with Mr. Mark Fabrizi, completed 50,000 word novels and completed this task in only 30 days.

Superintendent Schoonmaker and Board members congratulated student authors Carly Donath, Alyssa Merrick and Melanie Stoeckle.

Mark Fabrizi remarked that fifteen students have written novels in this Creative Writing class over the last five years.

Class of 2011 - Representatives

The following students will play a major role in the graduation exercises scheduled for Friday, June 24, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. on the Stadium Field. The Class of 2011 Valedictorian is Michael Wray, Salutatorian is Rynne O'Connor, Class Essayist is Margaret Sullivan, and Class President is Alyssa Arre. A brief biography was provided to the Board at the meeting. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

b. Staffing and Transfers

The Superintendent updated the Board on staffing and transfers for the 2011/2012 school year.

The Superintendent is recommending the appointment of Carter Welch as Assistant Principal at North Branford High School effective July 1, 2011.

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to appoint Dr. Carter Welch as Assistant Principal at North Branford High School starting July 1, 2011.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY MCMAHON:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MARIE DIAMOND:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DEBORAH PRUINIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Carter Welch to the position of Assistant Principal of North Branford High School.

Mr. Welch has been acting in the capacity of Interim Assistant Principal since November 2010. The Superintendent and the Board welcome Carter Welch to the Administrative team and wished him success in his new role.

The Board and administration are looking forward to working with the high school leadership team as they continue to improve the academic rigor as well as facilities and climate at North Branford High School.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked the Board of Education for their support stating he feels the energy at NBHS when you walk through the halls. He presented flowers to Mrs. Welch and welcomed Carter to his new position.

Shannon Miscio remarked that Carter did an outstanding job at NBHS as interim assistant principal

Dr. Welch thanked the Board of Education, Superintendent Schoonmaker, Todd Stoeffler, and NBHS staff for their support remarking it meant a lot to him to be an Administrator in the school he graduated from.

c. Communications

Board of Education Briefs from each school were attached for Board review.

Deborah Prunier remarked that it seemed all schools were busy until the end and she enjoyed reading about the accomplishments in all the schools;

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that many marvelous things are going on in our buildings.

Deborah Prunier questioned what the Boy's and Girl's talk at TVES was.

Dr. Lindsay stated it was a health discussion.

d. Strategic Planning

The Superintendent is asking the Board of Education to approve the proposed Strategic Plan for 2011-2016. This Strategic Plan has been developed with consultation from the New England School Development Council's Division of Planning and Management, with much input from the teachers, principals, school district staff, families, students and community stakeholders. It incorporates the Common Core State Standards, the Connecticut Secondary Education Reform, and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges 2010 Evaluation Report recommendations, as well as an analysis of both academic and behavioral data.

The administrative team, under the guidance of the New England School Development Council's Planning and Management Division, began working on the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan in the spring of 2010. Work continued through the summer and into the fall; with the three sub-committees (Academic Achievement, School Climate, and School Facilities) meeting frequently to draft the initial goals. Subsequent meetings took place in January and February of 2011 with the NESDEC consultants meeting with the entire Administrative Council; in March the NESDEC consultants met with all of the district curriculum leaders, and on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the draft report was presented to staff and teachers, Board of Education members, and interested townspeople.

Sara Querfeld presented the revised edition of the Strategic Plan to the Board of Education. She explained that a few of the initiatives were changed as the Board suggested.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marie Diamond and seconded by Shannon Miscio to approve the North Branford Public Schools Strategic Plan 2011-2016 as submitted.

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

Deborah Prunier thanked Sara Querfeld and Scott Schoonmaker for providing information throughout the process of developing the next phase of the Strategic Plan.

e. Post High School Plans

The Superintendent provided the Board with a report on Post High School Plans. This report detailed the number of North Branford High School students going on to higher education, military service and the work force.

Sara Querfeld remarked that 86% of our students would continue their education. 59% were planning on attending a four-year college and 27% will attend a two-year college or vocational school. 9% are undecided, 3 students will enlist in the military and 4 students will join the work force.

Marcey Onofrio remarked that when she read the report it was a real eye-opener. She was pleased that many of our students were getting into phenomenal schools. She added that we need to add more courses at the high school level but unfortunately funds hold us down.

Shannon Miscio remarked that many students are applying at state schools and she feels it is because of the economy. She stated that the University of Connecticut is listed as a highly competitive school.

Sara Querfeld stated that she feels with our new course offerings and plans, many of our students will start applying to the Ivy schools.

f. Authority to Hire

Given the critical market conditions, it is important that the Superintendent move quickly to hire high-quality candidates for the remaining open positions for the 2011/2012 school year. The Board has traditionally given the Superintendent permission to hire during the summer and report to the Board at its next scheduled meeting on employee hiring.

**MOTION:** Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve that authority be granted to the Superintendent to hire certified personnel through the summer until the September 15, 2011 Board meeting.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY MCMAHON:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MARIE DIAMOND:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DEBORAY PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that there were 373 applications for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade position and 20 applicants were interviewed with 8 applicants coming back for a second interview.

g. Summer of 2011

The 2011 North Branford Summer Camp Program has experienced heavy, late registrations. As of this writing, there are 237 students enrolled in the Movin' & Groovin' summer camp. A camp orientation meeting was held this evening for all staff members. Camp begins on Monday, June 27, 2011.

Superintendent Schoonmaker recognized and thanked Kim Neubig and Anna DeMatteo for all their help in implementing plans for the summer camp. He remarked that he met with 22 employees and Lauren Barry, Director, to cover all expectations for the camp this summer.

h. Certified Evaluations

In accordance with Section 10-151b of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Superintendent shall report the status of teacher evaluations to the local or regional Board of Education. For purposes of this section, the term teacher shall include each professional employee of a Board of Education below the rank of Superintendent, who holds a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education.

The Superintendent informs the Board that year-end summative evaluations on all certified employees are currently in progress. This process includes a year-end conference and a review of all supportive material related to the goals or mutual expectations that have been established. It is expected that this will be completed on or about June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that many new camps have been included for the camp this year especially basketball camp with the Harlem Superstars.

Marcey Onofrio questioned if we had as many campers this year as last year.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated he feels we will surpass last year.

**V. Committee Reports**

a. Negotiations

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Shannon Miscio to approve a one-year extension Between the North Branford Board of Education and the Director of Technology, Mr. Timothy Hartigan, to July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY MCMAHON:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MARIE DIAMOND:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by David McMahon to approve a one-year extension of the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the Director of Personnel & Business, Mr. Donald Winnicki, to July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

<b>CHAIRWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE- CHAIR MISCIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY MCMAHON:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MARIE DIAMOND:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve a one-year extension Of the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, Scott Schoonmaker, to July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

<b>CHARIWOMAN ONOFRIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE-CHAIR MISCIO:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SECRETARY MCMAHON:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>MARIE DIAMOND:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER MANNA:</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>DEBORAH PRUNIER:</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

Donald Winnicki stated negotiations are still ongoing with the Cafeteria worker's, Custodian's and Nurse's Union.

b. Budget

Marcey Onofrio stated the budget committee met on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and it looks like we will finish the year o.k. She stated that there were no surprises and fuel for transportation was in the red.

Donald Winnicki remarked that fuel could drop drastically for next year so they have not locked in for next year. He stated that we belong to a large group that uses over four million gallons of fuel.

A copy of the June 1 financial statement was distributed for Board review.

c. Curriculum

Marie Diamond remarked that Jen Marena, Department Head World Language, gave an exciting presentation.

She mentioned that the committee received the 3-5 summer reading list for North Branford students.

Marcey Onofrio questioned if many students have signed up for the new Latin course.

Todd Stoeffler stated about fifteen students.

d. Pension

No report at this time.

e. Policy

Christopher Manna remarked that the committee would meet with the new attorney a week from today.

f. ACES

Marie Diamond stated that ACES held their last meeting for the educational year. She remarked that they talked about concessions and the results to education if there are no concessions. She remarked that ACES is ending their year with a positive balance.

g. Operations

No report at this time.

h. Building Committee

David McMahon reported on the grand-opening of the new FRC building last Friday stating it was very well attended. He mentioned that the committee will be reviewing the punch list for NBIS and landscape issues. David also mentioned the new sign on route 80.

Marcey Onofrio remarked that Superintendent Schoonmaker, Donald Winnicki, Bill Choti , Town Manager and she met with experts on the NBHS roof. Marcey mentioned that it was a very informational meeting and they prioritized different sections of the NBHS roof. They talked about replacing or patching different areas of the roof. She stated that they should have more information to report to the Town Council by next week.

Marcey mentioned that they are keeping a close eye on the gymnasium roof as they have a very expensive floor to protect.

David McMahon questioned if there was any conversation about converting boilers at NBHS to dual fuels ,gas and fuel.

Donald Winnicki remarked not at this time.

i. Calendar Committee

Marcey Onofrio remarked that the committee met and is discussing the 2012-2013 school calendar.

j. Transportation/Bus Safety Committee

No report at this time.

k. Communication

Shannon Miscio stated that an article will be in the next Totoket Times emphasizing the many achievements in our schools. She also remarked that the committee has received no communications from Townspeople. No comments or complaints.

**VI. New Business**

No new business at this time.

**VII. Visitors and Press**

Rose Angeloni questioned if any part of the roof could be reimbursable by the state.

Donald Winnicki remarked that the alternate plan was not going to the state for funding at this time as it is unlikely we will do anything with the roof this summer if we had to go to the state for approval as it is too late to go to bid. We could still look into state funding after July 1, 2011.

Marcey Onofrio stated that we did not want to replace a part of the roof where the building would be renovated at a later date.

Rose Angeloni questioned if Mr. Winnicki, Mr. Hartigan and Superintendent Schoonmaker received a percent increase with the one-year extension.

Marcey Onofrio stated Mr. Hartigan and Mr. Winnicki received a 2.75 % increase and Superintendent Schoonmaker received 3.5% increase.

**The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2011 at Stanley T. Williams School.**

**VIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by David McMahan and seconded by Shannon Miscio to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:10 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Ardine  
Account Clerk