

NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 14, 2011

The North Branford Board of Education met on Thursday April 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Stanley T. Williams Elementary School per Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes as permitted by Section 1-200 (6)(a,b & c) of the Connecticut General Statutes. The following members attended:

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

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

MOTION Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Deborah Prunier 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 Shannon Miscio and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to reconvene to the Board Meeting Room for Public Session at 7:00 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

I. Visitors

Director of Instruction/Curriculum:	Sara Querfeld
Director of Special Services:	Suzanne Wright
Supervisor of Operations:	William Choti
Principals:	Todd Stoeffler, NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Carter Welch	Christine Imperato	TJ McMahon
Robert Hart	John Hart	Donna Hart
Nicholas Schamp	Andrea Lauton -Schamp	Clifford Potter
Daniel Armin	Karen Murphy	Ryan Murphy
Mary Sullivan	Diane Ramsey	Charlene Ramsey
Mary Marak	Greg Marak	Thomas Marak
Laurie Reynolds	Chris Reynolds	Emily Reynolds

Jack Norton
Emmy Norton
Kelly Brenner
Reyna Lin
Aren Longo
Jessie Kilburn
Andy Kendrick
Alyssa Kendrick
Mike Reilly
Lance Kilburn
Jacquelyn Ferraro

Amy Norton
Rick Brenner
Lynn DeMuis
Xuan Lin
Ken Liebeskind
Stephanie Kilburn
Pam Kendrick
Pat Kendrick
Jan Ferraro
Mary Ann Zostrom
Maggie Sullivan

Melanie Norton
Alex Brenner
Chuck DeFilippo
Sorglin Mo
Kirsten Kilburn
John S. Montanaro
Pat Montanaro
Dennis Reilly
Bob Ferraro
Lauren Barry

There were no visitor comments at this time.

II. Student Representative

Jacquelyn Ferraro and Maggie Sullivan, student representatives NBHS, reported on the following items:

Academics

Advanced Placement students will be completing their AP placement tests which will count as their course final grades during the final weeks of April. They are preparing for the College Board Standardized tests that occur during the first few weeks of May.

NBHS Career Aide, Debbie Mendillo, has put together a variety of opportunities regarding career planning including a Paul Mitchell Partner School Culture Show, a Health and Science Career Fair field trip, ASVAB Testing, and Navy Recruiters visiting our campus. The Career Center is funded by the Carl Perkins Grant.

Social

The NBHS Drama Club production of Guys and Dolls took place on Friday April 1st and Saturday April 2nd. Under the direction of Mrs. Genzano, students put on a wonderful performance with many graduates, staff members and families in attendance both nights. Mr. Tzetzio and select NBHS musicians performed the musical score.

Ms. Byrd and Student Council members hosted the annual Blood Drive on Thursday March 31st. Forty-nine pints of blood were donated. Many students who met the height, age and weight requirements took the time to donate.

The Student Council is also hosting another event in partnership with the NB Senior Center. The third annual Pizza Wars will be held on Thursday May 5th in the NBHS cafeteria. Local pizza establishments will be creating their own specialties that will be sampled by community members who attend. This is always a very fun and exciting night for all.

The NBHS Helping Hands Club, under the direction of Mrs. Travisano, hosted an in-school field trip with a third grade class from Burr Elementary School in Hartford today. Members of the club exchanged letters with the younger students' prior to today's visit. The day was filled with music played by the Jazz Band, art in the Art Studio and a pizza lunch.

The Junior Prom was held on Friday April 8th at Woodwinds in Branford. The Prom was well attended.

Athletics

Spring sports started at NBHS. Softball and baseball have had three games each, boys' and girls' tennis have had some matches, track and field have scrimmaged with Hyde, girls' lacrosse won their first game of the year, golf had their first match today and ultimate frisbee has played Choate and Xavier.

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the March 16, 2011 Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations – None at this time.

c. Appointments

The Superintendent has received recommendations from North Branford High School Interim Principal, Todd Stoeffler, for the following coaching positions:

North Branford High School	Assistant Girls' Lacrosse Coach	Ryan Connelly
North Branford High School	Head Boys' Soccer Coach	Luke Gagliardi
North Branford High School	Head Volleyball Coach	Meghan Ruszczyk

d. Leaves – None at this time.

e. Donations – None at this time.

f. Field Trips

The Superintendent has received a field trip request from Marie D'Alessio and Jennifer McGrath, world language teachers at North Branford High School, for a trip to Ellis Island and Little Italy in New York. The trip is scheduled for May 11, 2011 and will depart North Branford High School at 6 a.m. and return at 7 p.m.

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Shannon Miscio to amend the Consent Agenda to include the resignation of Laura Neville, band and music NBIS, at the conclusion of the school year on June 24, 2011 and to accept the agenda as amended.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that Ms. Neville will attend a graduate program at New York University. He stated that she dedicated much time and energy to the music program at NBIS and she has set the bar very high.

Alan Davis remarked that Ms. Neville is doing a remarkable job at NBIS and will be greatly missed by all and he wished her well.

IV. Superintendent's Report

a. Recognition

The Superintendent was pleased to announce that Nick Shamp, senior at North Branford High School, has provided artwork for the cover of the 2011 Summer Camp Brochure entitled "Movin & Groovin". The Superintendent and Board thanked Nick and recognized him for his talented artwork!

Reyna Lin, an eighth grader, was a fourth place finisher in the New Haven Register's Spelling Bee. This state-wide competition was held on March 22nd at Southern Connecticut State University's John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts. Reyna qualified for the state contest by winning the NBIS Spelling Bee.

Aren Longo, an eighth grader, qualified for the state-wide round of the National Geographic Bee, which was held on April 1st, at Central Connecticut State University. Aren qualified by winning the NBIS Geographic Bee, followed by taking a rigorous written examination. Aren did very well in the State competition.

NBHS sophomore, Deirdre Ramsey, won first place in RIT's Digital Arts, Film and Animation Competition for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students in the Photo Imagery category.

Six North Branford Students Receive Honors at Annual SCASA Awards Luncheon

The South Central Area Superintendent Association honored 75 students on March 18th at their sixth annual Student Recognition Luncheon held at Laurel View Country Club in Hamden. Over 300 people were in attendance with guest speaker, Thomas James, Superintendent of Orange Public Schools. 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.

<u>TVES - Grade 5</u>	Emilia Norton	Andrew Kendrick
<u>NBIS – Grade 8</u>	Kaitlyn White	Ryan Murphy
<u>NBHS – Grade 12</u>	Emily Reynolds	Alexander Brenner

Middlesex Shoreline Superintendents Association

North Branford High School seniors, Margaret Sullivan and Raphael Roy, received the “Superintendent’s Award of Excellence” in recognition of their community service, academic achievement and leadership in the school community. They received their awards on Monday, November 29th, at the Saybrook Point Inn.

CAS Scholar-Athletes- NBHS

Margaret Sullivan and Michael Reilly of NBHS are the 2011 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 members of the National Honor Society. Maggie competed in girl’s basketball for 4 years and captain senior year and softball 4 years and captain senior year. Michael competed in boy’s soccer 4 years and captain senior year, indoor track and Frisbee club. The Connecticut Association of Schools will present this award to Maggie and Michael at a ceremony on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at the Aqua Turf Club.

CAS Visual and Performing Arts Students – NBHS

The Connecticut Association of Schools presented this award to Chuck DeFilippo and Jacquelyn Ferraro at a ceremony held on Monday, April 4, 2011 at the Aqua Turf. This award is given to an outstanding performing and/or visual arts student. Chuck is a member of the jazz and concert band. He was a Shoreline Music Festival participant and South Region Music Festival audition participant. Jacquelyn is a member of the jazz ensemble, concert band and woodwind ensemble. She was a Shoreline Music Festival participant. Jacquelyn was a member of the pit orchestra for the Guys and Dolls production.

Southern Region Music Festival

At North Branford High School, Greg Marak (trombone), Ryan Proto (trombone) and Emma Vergati (Chorus) participated in the Southern Region High School Music Festival in January.

All-State Athletes

The following individuals have been chosen as all-state players in their respective sports.

Michele Caprio – Field Hockey
Kirsten Kilburn – Field Hockey
Bailey McGinnis – Field Hockey
John Hart – Football

Academic All-State Athlete

The following individual has been chosen as all-state scholar athletes.

Jacquelyn Ferraro – Field Hockey

All students were recognized for their achievements and each received certificates from the Board of Education.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked all the parents for attending tonight's meeting and requested all students receiving awards tonight thank their parents for all their dedication and time they give to them to make it possible for these students to participate in the various activities.

b. Communications

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

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned the Blood Drive at NBHS, the Invention Convention at TVES, and the Cabaret Café at NBIS. He remarked that amazing things are going on throughout the district.

David McMahon mentioned the variety show at TVES stating it was well attended, organized and put together. He also mentioned the fund raiser at NBIS remarking that our students are phenomenal.

c. Summer of 2011

The Summer of 2011 – “Movin & Groovin” brochure was released for distribution in North Branford, North Haven and Regional School District #13 – Durham & Middlefield Public Schools on Friday, April 8, 2011. The program has moved from paper registration to online registration. This change will allow parents to register their child, purchase t-shirts and lunch tickets **7 days a week 24 hours a day**. Parents simply visit the North Branford Public Schools website at www.northbranfordschools.org and click on the Summer Camp tab.

Superintendent Schoonmaker recognized Lauren Barry, teacher JHS, as the new Camp Director Lauren has been involved with the camp for many years.

He also recognized Kim Neubig and Anna DeMatteo for completing the brochure in-house stating they did a fantastic job.

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 seven snow days this moves graduation to Friday, June 24th, 2011.

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by Marie Diamond to establish the 2011 North Branford High School graduation for Friday, June 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Marcey Onofrio questioned what time the eighth grade promotion ceremonies would be.

Alan Davis stated on Thursday June 23, 2011 at 5:30 pm. immediately followed by the Promotion Dance.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated having NBHS graduation and NBIS promotion exercises on a different night would make it easier on parents.

e. Professional Development

Sara Querfeld remarked that all certified staff members participated in a full day of professional development activities on Monday, March 21st. A variety of initiative and curriculum related activities were provided at the district and school levels. Jerome Harrison staff participated in data analysis and a responsive classroom activity; Totoket Valley staff heard the ACES Digital Footprint presentation, common core standards review, and Marzano's Highly Effective Teaching Strategies. The middle school staff either participated in Visual Literacy or in data team training by content area and school wide data team training. The high school teachers worked on curriculum, had training in Naviance, or worked SmartBoards and PBIS.

f. Presentation on the 2009/2011 Strategic School Profiles

The Strategic School Profiles are usually presented to the Board of Education at the November Board meeting. This year the State of Connecticut did not produce the Strategic School Profile until now. Sara Querfeld remarked that the state informed schools today that the profiles could be released and stated this profile was the district's report card. Mrs. Querfeld remarked that North Branford's per pupil expenditure is \$5,941.00 but the state is \$7,820.00 making North Branford about \$2,000 below the state average. (attached) Sara stated that North Branford is making great strides in all areas although writing and reading still needs to be improved.

Scott Schoonmaker mentioned that he, Todd Stoeffler and Sara Querfeld toured the automotive program at North Haven High school and were very impressed with the visit.

g. Curriculum Management Cycle Update

6-12 English/Language Arts Review Report

As part of the Curriculum Management Cycle (CMC) the following end-of-the-year curriculum review reports were enclosed for Board perusal. The Review Phase of the CMC can be considered an external audit of the state of the curriculum since implementation.

The curriculum team researches national and state changes, guidelines, and/or mandates as well as best practices in research that have occurred since the last curriculum revision. The Review Phase Report connects the external findings with the previous year's internal findings in the Evaluation report and makes recommendations.

Mrs. Querfeld thanked Mark Fabrizi and Mark Torrente and their respective curriculum Review Phase teams for the Review Phase Report.

History Grant Application

ACES and Yale University's History Department have applied for a grant: American Innovations: Making a New Nation. North Branford is one of the towns participating in the grant, which will focus on creating American history teacher leaders and will provide evening seminars led by eminent historians, day trips to historical sites of interest, and intensive digital lesson development workshops in conjunction with technology specialists and historians. Mrs. Querfeld stated the grant is for grades 5-12 teachers and will provide intensive professional development and a focus on non-fiction reading and writing.

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h. 2010/2011 Budget

Donald Winnicki remarked that on April 6, 2011, the Town Council held a budget workshop. At this workshop it was decided the Board of Education budget request would be reduced by \$150,000 to a total of \$29,386,427. This represents a **decrease** of \$58,383 from the FY 2010-2011 expense budget of \$29,444,779. On a percentage basis, it is a decrease of 0.20% from the current fiscal year's total expenditures.

Mr. Winnicki stated the percentage is a bit elusive because of the way the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) block grant was applied in the last and current fiscal years. This grant came directly to the Board of Education, so the town appropriation to education for FY 2010-2011 was reduced by \$1,158,029 (to \$28,286,750). As a result, the town budget proposal will show an increase of 3.89% in the education budget (\$29,386,427 up from \$28,286,750) but will also show an increase in state revenues to education equivalent to approximately 4.09% of the Board of Education budget. As a result, the 3.89% increase in expenditures less the 4.09% increase in revenue results in the same 0.20% decrease in town monies to the Board of Education. It is noteworthy that the Board of Education request, now approved, includes a \$474,614 Jobs Bill Grant, which is only available in 2011-2012.

The Superintendent will meet with the Administrative Team in order to determine a tentative plan for reductions.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Donald Winnicki for the time, energy and research he put into this budget.

Marcey Onofrio stated that Donald Winnicki's presentation of the budget was very well prepared and Don had excellent explanations that everyone understood. She mentioned that Mr. Winnicki had all the numbers the council was looking for and everything was well researched.

V. Committee Reports

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Marie Diamond to add Strategic Planning to the agenda.

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

- a. Negotiations Donald Winnicki stated negotiations are on-going with several groups.
- b. Budget Donald Winnicki mentioned that the transportation line had a negative number because of the rising cost of diesel fuel.

A copy of the April 1 financial statement was attached for Board review.

Shannon Miscio questioned if all bills for snow removal were submitted.

Donald Winnicki stated that all bills were submitted and there is a possibility that we might recover some of the monies spent on snow removal from FEMA.

- c. Curriculum Marie Diamond remarked that next month the committee would be discussing the Language Arts Curriculum.
- d. Pension Shannon Miscio stated that no meeting was held this month.
- e. Policy Christopher Manna stated the committee would meet with the new law firm at the May meeting.
- f. ACES Marie Diamond remarked that ACES approved various budgets and switched their insurance to CIGNA for health and prescriptions. They kept Anthem BC/BS for dental.
- g. Building Committee David McMahan stated the FRC building has received the temporary certificate of occupancy and North Branford has a building to be very proud of. He mentioned that FRC students would move into the building after spring break.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that JHS will soon have their gymnasium back. He thanked Shawn Parkhurst and the JHS staff for giving up their gymnasium for the better part of the year.

Deborah Prunier questioned the roof at NBIS during the recent rains we had.

Alan Davis stated there were still leaks but it is better.

Deborah Prunier asked if the scan was completed at NBHS.

Donald Winnicki stated the scan could not take place because it was raining and the scan would be rescheduled.

- h. Communication Shannon Miscio stated the first article from the committee was in the recent Totoket Times as they are trying to keep everyone better informed. She also mentioned that there were no comments on the communications links on the website for the Board..
- i. Strategic Planning Marie Diamond remarked that everything is going very well working with NESDEC. She mentioned Strategic Planning goals for Student Achievement and a Positive School Climate. Mrs. Diamond stated that she thinks this is a living document with technology woven into every phase. She mentioned that this is a very user friendly comprehensive and forward thinking document.

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned that Sara Querfeld and the administrative staff spent a lot of time on this report.

VI. New Business.

No new business.

VII. Visitors and Press

David McMahon noted the lettuce plants on the Board table stating the lettuce came from the NBHS greenhouse.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that Ian Gibson and students were very hard at work on the soil building process.

Marcey Onofrio thanked Superintendent Schoonmaker, Donald Winnicki and all administrators for a very responsible budget.

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Cliff Potter remarked that the Board of Education made out better with their budget than the Police Department did. He felt that the BOE had their facts and figures researched and that helped them submit a responsible, comprehensive budget. He also mentioned that the budget submitted by the BOE has to follow State law and some people have a hard time understanding the process. He complimented the Board on their hard work.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2011 at Stanley T. Williams Elementary School.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Marie Diamond to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 8:11 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine