

# **NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**August 18, 2011**

The North Branford Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. in the Conference Room at Stanley T. Williams School on Thursday, August 18, 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 Marie Diamond and seconded by Marcey Onofrio 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 staff and legal matters.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**MOTION:** Moved by David McMahan and seconded by Marcey Onofrio to reconvene to public session at 7:00 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

## **I. Visitors**

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

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Christine Imperato	Carter Welch	Eric Fiengo
Susan Misor, Register	Jenn McCulloch, Patch	Teresa Cusano
Patti GaNun	Jennifer Carroll	Theresa Frandsen
Michael Votto	May Philipp	Ariana Fritz
Jackie DeFrancesco	Joanne Grant	Ron Grant, Jr.
Fran Merola, Jr.	Frank Mentone	Bruno Castaldi
Diane Artaiz	Anthony Candelora	Joan Candelora
Carolyn Candelora	Ron Haskins	Susan Anderson
Tracey Merola	Michele Philipp	Ryan Philipp
Brandie Little	Karin Augur	Van Augur
Ruth Rose	Frank Forgione	Lori Forgione
William Mitchell	Joanne Wentworth	Bill Choti

**II. Student Representative** – No report at this time.

**III. Consent Agenda**

a. Minutes

Minutes of the July 21, 2011 Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Michelle Salado, North Branford Intermediate School – guidance counselor effective July 29, 2011.

The Superintendent has received a resignation from Jacqueline Valenzuela, North Branford Intermediate School – art teacher, effective July 27, 2011.

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Denise Judelson, school nurse and school nurse supervisor, effective November 11, 2011. Mrs. Judelson has served the children of North Branford Public Schools for the past 26 years.

c. Terminations – None at this time.

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

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier 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 PASSES 6-0**

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

a. Recognition

Superintendent Schoonmaker recognized the 10 - U North Branford Girl's Softball Team stating they had won the State Championship. He remarked he would honor them at a future Board of Education Meeting.

b. Communications – None at this time.

c. Authority to Hire

The Superintendent under the authority granted at the June Board Meeting has extended contracts to the following individuals:

Kory Kevorkian	North Branford High School	Health/P.E.
Peter Moore	North Branford Intermediate School	Special Education
Kate Conlon	North Branford Intermediate School	Art
Kaitlin Pierce	North Branford Intermediate School	Guidance

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that North Branford Schools has fourteen new employees.

d. Opening Convocation and Professional Development

Convocation for the North Branford Public Schools is scheduled for the morning of August 29, 2011. Employees will return to a district-wide breakfast beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the NBIS cafeteria. This will be followed by the Opening Convocation in the auditorium at 9:00 a.m. This Convocation will include Keynote Speaker Dr. Joann Freiberg from the State Department of Education and the Teacher of the Year celebration.

Following the Opening Convocation on August 29 and for the next two days teachers will attend a variety of meetings and training sessions. A copy of the schedule of professional development was attached for Board review. Teachers will also have scheduled time to prepare their classrooms. A district-wide faculty luncheon will be held on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Sara Querfeld stated that all staff members would attend the Opening Convocation from 9:00 –1:30 a.m. She mentioned that some of the individual school times for August 29<sup>th</sup> were listed incorrectly.

e. 2010-11 Professional Development Summary

The North Branford Public Schools offered 95 professional development activities resulting in a total of 376 hours of CEU's during the 2010-2011 school-year. The list of these activities is attached.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that the Strategic Plan included three goals:

- i. Student Achievement through Academic Rigor.
- ii. Positive School Climate.
- iii. School Facilities Improvement

f. New Teacher Orientation

A new teacher orientation is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> for the newly hired teachers. All Board of Education members will be receiving invitations to attend a welcome breakfast on that day. This orientation will provide our new hires with information on district policies and procedures, and will give the new teachers an overview of the on-going TEAM program based on the Connecticut State Educator Competencies and models.

g. Standardized Test Data Reports: CMT, CAPT, AP

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Sara Querfeld prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the 2011 CMT results. (attached)

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that we have been making great progress in the last ten years and we are striving for excellence.

Marcey Onofrio questioned why the fifth grade is so much stronger with their scores.

Sara Querfeld stated that teachers have stepped outside the box and are using other tools besides textbooks. Our teachers have done a lot of research on their own and have put many new ideas into place.

Shannon Miscio asked if TVES is now in “safe harbor”

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked he will question the state asking if our growth will put us in safe harbor.

David McMahon questioned the “No Child Left Behind law”.

Sara Querfeld mentioned that many states are repealing the law but we must remember that North Branford Schools are making great progress.

High School Principal, Todd Stoeffler, and Assistant Principal, Carter Welch, presented the high school CAPT scores and the progress made with our Advanced Placement courses.

Todd Stoeffler remarked that colleges accept a score of three or better on an advanced placement test for college credit. He mentioned that in 2007 only forty tests were taken by our students and in 2011 one-hundred and fourteen tests were taken.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that these accomplishments truly reflect on our administrators and classroom teachers.

h. Summer Camp Program

The Superintendent provided the Board with a summary of the Summer of 2011 – Movin' & Groovin' summer camp program.

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned the camps were a great success and remarked on the outstanding leadership of Lauren Barry. He stated that everything was on-line this year from registration to payment, thanking Kim Neubig and Anna DeMatteo.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Lynn Riorden for obtaining scholarships for the basketball camp for students who couldn't afford the camp. He remarked the students were very appreciative.

**V. Committee Reports**

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by David McMahon to add Communications to the agenda

<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 PASSES 6-0**

Shannon Miscio mentioned that she, as well as Marie Diamond received inquiries about the non-resident school policy. She mentioned this policy was discussed and the Board decided they needed more time to research the matter. She stated that this item will not be discussed in the near future as the committee has many policies to review and update.

Christopher Manna stated that there were no non-resident children enrolled in our schools.

a. Negotiations

Donald Winnicki mentioned that a meeting of the negotiations sub-committee has to be scheduled. He asked that members email him with possible times and dates.

b. Budget

The Superintendent provided the Board with a copy of the August 1st financial statement.

The Superintendent provided the Board with a schedule of Proposed Budget Subcommittee dates for the 2011/2012 school year.

Shannon Miscio questioned the schedule for the budget subcommittee meetings as it was her understanding that they would meet on the same day as the Board of Education meeting. She made a motion to approve the schedule and then withdrew her motion to approve all dates and only to approve the Thursday, September 15, 2011.

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Deborah Prunier to approve the date of Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. for the Budget Subcommittee meeting as amended.

<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 PASSES 6-0**

c. Operations

No report at this time.

d. Building Committee

David McMahon remarked that the FRC building is one-hundred percent finished and it is a beautiful building. He remarked that the roof at NBIS is still leaking.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated that the school leaks more after a hard, angled rain and many leaks continue. He also mentioned the heating and cooling system at NBIS is not working properly as it sometimes triggers the alarm. He remarked that there are frayed wires on the condenser.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that he needed two Board members to be on the building committee for the NBHS project. He stated that all permits have been received and approved but time is getting short.

David McMahon, Marie Diamond and Marcey Onofrio agreed to be on the Building Committee and their first meeting will be Tuesday, August 23 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Deborah Prunier questioned if we had plans if the job is not completed by the opening day of school.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that he has to meet with Town Council members.

e. Calendar

Donald Winnicki stated that the committee would meet after school starts as there are still some issues with the February vacation date.

f. Curriculum

The Superintendent provided the Board with a schedule of Proposed Curriculum Subcommittee dates for the 2011/2012 school year.

**MOTION:** Moved by Marie Diamond and seconded by Deborah Prunier to table the dates for the Curriculum Subcommittee at this time.

<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 PASSES 6-0**

Marie Diamond remarked that the committee discussed CMT results stating we have a lot to celebrate. She mentioned that the various upcoming Professional Development activities were also discussed.

g. Pension

Donald Winnicki mentioned that two pensions were approved and Morgan Stanley has made a recommendation to reallocate various funds.

h. Policy

The Superintendent provided the Board with the following policy for first reading.

P1165 Pledge of Allegiance

P1260 Administering Medication to Students

P1400 Bullying Prevention and Intervention – Safe School Climate Plan

The Superintendent is provided the Board with the following policies for second reading and approval.

P0200 Mission of the North Branford Public Schools

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve Policy P0200 Mission of the North Branford Public Schools as submitted.

<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 PASSES 6-0**

P0250 Vision Statement

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by David McMahon to approve Policy P0250 Vision Statement 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 PASSED 6-0**

P0300 Core Beliefs

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve Policy P0300 Core Beliefs 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 PASSES 6-0**

P0600 2011-2016 Strategic Plan Goals

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve Policy P0600 2011-2016 Strategic Plan Goals 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 PASSES 6-0**

P0700 Action Plans & Action Steps

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve Policy P0700 Action Plans and Action Steps 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 PASSES 6-0**

P0800 Non-Discrimination

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve Policy P0800 Non-Discrimination 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 PASSES 6-0**

P0850 Compliance with Section 504

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve Policy P0850 Compliance with Section 504 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 PASSES 6-0**

Christopher Manna remarked that he and other Board members enjoy working with the new attorney and all policies are being revised.

i. ACES

No report at this time.

**VI. New Business**

No new business at this time.

**VII. Visitors and Press**

Marcey Onofrio remarked that the Board of Education would not discuss any personnel matters and they would take questions for the next fifteen minutes. She asked everyone to keep their comments to two minutes.

Ron Grant stated that the Superintendent's contract was approved at the July 15, 2011 Board of Education meeting and the minutes stated there were no changes. He questioned why Superintendent Schoonmaker received a \$600 car allowance and \$200 food allowance when there were no changes discussed at the July meeting.

Marcey Onofrio stated this was a personnel matter and it would not be discussed in public.

Mr. Grant stated the contract should only be changed in public session.

Marcey Onofrio mentioned that there does not have to be a motion and the Board Chair can make changes to a contract. An addendum can be made at any time.

Karin Augur questioned why the position for Christine Webster as Athletic Director was not renewed. She stated that Ms. Webster was honest, respectful and dignified. She mentioned she was a former North Branford athlete and hoped the Board had a very good reason for not

appointing Chris Webster as Athletic Director of North Branford Schools.

Carolyn Candelora remarked that she is very disappointed in how the Board of Education handles matters. She stated that they shoot from the hip and when they get caught they back-paddle. She requested that before the Board makes any decisions that they thoroughly know what they are talking about. She urged them to work on their communications.

Evaun Boatman stated that Chris Webster was always a role model for all students but especially the girls. She questioned where the women of power at NBHS were, as the principal and the assistant principal are both males. She questioned who the girls would look up to.

Jackie DeFrancesco remarked that she was a field hockey coach at NBIS and she felt that the Boards decision not to appoint Ms. Webster as Athletic Director was too late in the year as school is about to start. She questioned who would replace Ms. Webster

Deborah Prunier stated that this was a personnel matter.

Shannon Miscio remarked that there will be a new Athletic Director for the school year as there is a plan in place.

Kaila DeFrancesco stated she was a player for Ms. Webster and “Webb” cares about her students. She remarked that Ms. Webster is perfect for her job and very organized.

Teresa Frandsen questioned an auto shop at NBHS and who approved it. She also questioned a \$600 car allowance for the Superintendent and if it was in the original contract. She stated that maybe some of the Board members should resign or start doing things by the law.

Michelle Phillips stated that everyone at tonight’s meeting stated they want the very best for the students and if that is so why did they let the best Athletic Director in Connecticut go?

**The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2011.**

### **VIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Marie Diamond to adjourn the North Branford Board of Education meeting at 8:55 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

Respectfully submitted.  
Sherry Ardine  
Account Clerk