

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
December 16, 2010**

The Thursday, December 16, 2010 meeting of the North Branford Board of Education was called to order at 6:12 pm. in the conference room at Stanley T. Williams School. 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 MAMAHON</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>
<b>DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS/ PERSONNEL:</b>	<b>DONALD WINNICKI</b>

**MOTION:** Moved by Christopher Manna and seconded by Shannon Miscio 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 negotiations, personnel and legal matters.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**MOTION:** Moved by Marcey Onofrio and seconded by Deborah Prunier to reconvene to public session in the Board meeting room at 6:54 p.m.

**ALL VOTED AYE**

**I. Visitors**

Director of Curriculum / Instruction:  
Director of Special Services:  
Supervisor of Operations:  
Principals:

Sara Querfeld  
Suzanne Wright  
William Choti  
Todd Stoeffler, NBHS  
Alan Davis, NBIS  
Dr. Kris Lindsay, TVES  
Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Deborah Stone  
Rose Angeloni  
Richard Geremia  
Brittney Geremia  
Gerald Baldino

Cliff Potter  
Jacquelyn Ferraro  
Richard Geremia, Jr.  
Carter Welch

Dr. Carol Malstorn  
Margaret Sullivan  
Sue Geremia  
Sue Misur, NH Register

Rose Angeloni stated that at the last Planning and Zoning meeting she heard that only two bathrooms were being installed in the new Family Resource Building. She mentioned she had concerns with this issue and asked if the Board would look at this issue and consider more bathrooms. She felt we were putting ourselves in a position of not having enough bathrooms as there would be over one-hundred students in this building.

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that currently the number for the FRC building was from 50 to 60 students being split on both sides. He feels the bathrooms allotted will be sufficient.

Rose Angeloni questioned if the FRC building would be used for both kindergarten and before and after school students. She remarked that the building is being built to hold one-hundred students.

## **II. Student Representatives**

Student Representatives Maggie Sullivan and Jackie Ferraro reported on the following:

### **Academics**

The Transition Program, directed by Mrs. Pendziwater is offering clerical services such as data entering, printing labels and preparing mailings. They are completing these jobs off site with their job coach, Mrs. Falcigno.

WVIT feature a segment on the NBHS Greenhouse. Both students and staff were interviewed regarding the process of the green house and future plans. Initial plans include growing several heads of hybrid lettuce that will be provided to the NB Food Bank and used in the NBHS Café.

Seniors, Maggie Sullivan and Raphael Roy were honored at the Middlesex Shoreline Superintendent's luncheon on November 29<sup>th</sup>. They were selected for this award based upon academic and community achievement as well as outstanding character.

Proctor and Gamble presented Richard Geremia with a check for \$10,000, which he won in the "Take it to the House" contest. Wayne Chrebet, a retired NY Jet also attended. We are all very grateful that Mr. Geremia donated the money to the wellness center.

Artwork produced by students from grades K-12 is currently being displayed in the BOE room and at Town Hall.

Under the directions of Mr. Tzetzio and Mr. Carnaroli thirteen students auditioned for the Southern Region Music Festival on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Greg Marak, Ryan Proto and Emma Vergati qualified to perform in January at the Music Festival.

The High School Bowl team under the direction of Mr. Young defeated Westbrook 110-60.

**Athletics**

Coach Babby Nuhn was honored on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the CT High School Coaches' Association Banquet as the "Outstanding Class S Coach of the Year".

Winter sports are well underway, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, hockey, swimming and indoor track. Schedules of all sports are on the website.

**Social**

During the month of December, in partnership with the Open Your Heart Foundation, NBHS students are participating in a fundraiser called "Your Change Can Make a Difference." During advisory it was explained to students that the program acknowledges students who do the right thing.

**III. Consent Agenda**

a. Minutes

Minutes of the November 18, 2010 Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations – None at this time.

c. Appointments – None at this time.

d. Leaves - None at this time.

e. Field Trips – None at this time.

f. Donations - None at this time.

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by Deborah Prunier 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 PASSED 6-0**

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

##### **a. Recognition**

###### *MSSA Student Recognition Luncheon*

North Branford High School seniors, Margaret Sullivan and Raphael Roy, received the "Superintendent's Award of Excellence" through the Middlesex Shoreline Superintendents Association (MSSA) in recognition of their community service, academic achievement and leadership in the school community. We are very proud to have Maggie and Raphael represent the North Branford Public Schools. They received their awards on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Saybrook Point Inn. The event recognized students from neighboring shoreline communities. *Congratulations and thank you to Maggie and Raphael for representing North Branford!*

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned that Jackie Ferraro was one of the students who went to a Massachusetts hospital to witness two open-heart surgeries.

Last month the Superintendent announced that Richard Geremia, Jr., the son of our physical education teacher at NBHS, was named third finalist in Procter & Gamble's "Take it to the House" photo contest. The contest challenged consumers to submit photos that capture the essence of NFL Sunday at their house with their "football family." Mr. Geremia was kind enough to choose the North Branford High School Wellness Center to receive this \$10,000 award which is in partnership with NFL's Play 60 charitable initiative which encourages children to do at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. The Superintendent and Board took this opportunity to thank Mr. Geremia for his efforts and designating the North Branford High School Wellness Center to receive this \$10,000 award! They were present a collage of pictures of the event.

Superintendent Schoonmaker also thanked the Booster Club and the North Branford Education Foundation and pointed out the banners that will be displayed in the Wellness Center at NBHS.

Superintendent Schoonmaker also mentioned that the Geremia family could win a trip to Hawaii and urged everyone to cast their votes for them between January 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 9<sup>th</sup>.

##### **b. Communications**

Attached for Board review were the Board of Education Briefs for December 2010.

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned the Night to Care project at JHS stating that the students, staff, PTO members and Lynn Riordan of Matt's Mission donated sixty-three food baskets, holiday gifts and food gift cards to North Branford families. This was the highest number ever donated by this group and they did a fantastic job.

Attached for the Board's convenience was a copy of the NBHS/NBIS Winter Sports schedule.

The Superintendent provided the Board with a copy of a "Letter to the Editor" of the Totoket Times from Mrs. Ruth Mulhern regarding North Branford High School students.

Mrs. Mulhern provided the water this summer for the student's vegetable garden that was used to provide vegetables to various food banks.

The Superintendent shared with the Board a copy of a letter to North Branford High School teacher, Barbara Travisano, from The Connecticut Hospice, Inc.

Ms. Travisano's students provided little bags of candies for the patient's trays at Connecticut Hospice, Inc.

c. JHS Family Resource Building

At a Building Committee Meeting held Wednesday, December 8, 2010, it was determined that additional monies are needed from the Family Resource account. These funds will be used for interior modifications and heating upgrades.

**MOTION:** Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by David McMahon to authorize the Superintendent to release additional funding from the North Branford Public School's Family Resource Center account to cover additional costs to the interior and exterior work to be completed on the Jerome Harrison Family Resource Center building once the initial \$200,000 has been spent on the JHS-FRC.

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

**MOTION PASSED 6-0**

Christopher Manna questioned about how much the additional amount was.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated about \$73,000.

Deborah Prunier questioned if the original \$200,000 was already used for the FRC building.

Christopher Manna stated that the Munger Corporation was doing a terrific job and he was very impressed with their work.

Marcey Onofrio questioned if Donald Winnicki has received an accounting for the original \$200,000 that was allotted for the FRC building.

Donald Winnicki stated he has not received anything yet but he would ask Anthony Esposito for an accounting of the monies already spent and would not release any more money until he did.

Deborah Prunier remarked that the extra \$73,000 should not be submitted until we have an accounting of the original \$200,000. She also wanted to make sure all of the \$200,000 was used for the FRC building.

Shannon Miscio asked if the Board could have the figures by the next Board of Education meeting.

Donald Winnicki stated that he would have figures by then.

d. Project Lead the Way

Dr. Carol Malstrom presented information to the Board of Education on Project Lead the Way. This is the high school engineering program which the Superintendent has recommended implementation in the 2011-12 school year.

Mrs. Malstrom remarked that the PLTW gateway to Technology program was taught in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. The hands-on project based program is divided independent nine week units. Students can explore robotics, energy, animation, etc.

Mrs. Malstrom spoke about college credits and students who could get jobs right out of high school.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated he was familiar with PLTW as 15 to 18 students participated at Old Saybrook High School when he was the principal there.

Mrs. Malstrom stated it was a program for all students and not just college bound students. She remarked that students loved the hands on experience with various projects.

Deborah Prunier questioned if the college credits were comparable to AP credits.

Mrs. Malstrom stated that they were, but students do not have to pay to take the test. Different colleges and universities differ on how they rank the scores and it varies from school to school.

David McMahon remarked that Mrs. Malstrom's presentation to the Curriculum Committee was excellent and very informative.

Marcey Onofrio questioned if we could receive grant money for this program.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated we could look into private funding.

He remarked that at least one teacher would have to be hired to implement the program

Todd Stoeffler remarked that he observed two different classes at another high school and he was very impressed with the program.

Sara Querfeld will attend a presentation of PLTW in New Hampshire this January.

e. Strategic School Profiles

In accordance with State Law, Superintendents are required to provide a copy of the Strategic School Profile to local Boards at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education after receipt of these documents. As of this writing, the 2009/2010 Strategic School Profiles have not been received by Central Office. We had anticipated these reports to be available and distributed at the meeting.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated he hopes the reports will be ready within the next two weeks as the state has not released the documents yet.

f. North Branford Food Bank

DATTCO Bus Company offered North Branford Public Schools a free bus trip to New York City. This trip took place Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. A coach bus departed the North Branford Auditorium at 7:30 a.m. and returned at approximately 9:30 p.m. Employees were able to shop, catch a Broadway show, visit area restaurants and tour the City. The cost of this trip to employees was \$10 per person plus one can of soup.

Central Office personnel coordinated this trip and the collection of the soup and money in an effort to assist the North Branford Food Bank during the holiday season. The Superintendent is pleased to report that a total 57 cans of soup and \$470 in cash will be donated.

**V. Committee Reports**

a. Negotiations

The North Branford Board of Education and Local 1303-228 of Connecticut Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Secretaries) have reached an agreement on a new contract commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2013. Director of Personnel and Business, Don Winnicki, highlighted the new features of the contract. The Secretaries ratified the contract on November 30, 2010.

Mr. Winnicki stated that contract language was changed on holidays, for clarification, changes in medical plan for higher premiums and a 2% general wage increase for each

year of the three year agreement.

Superintendent Schoonmaker thanked Donald Winnicki for the great job he did with negotiations with the secretaries.

**MOTION:** Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by David McMahon to approve the new collective bargaining unit agreement between the North Branford Board of Education and the Local 1303-228 of Connecticut Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Secretaries) for the period commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2013.

<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**

b. Budget

The Superintendent has enclosed a copy of the December 1 financial statement for Board review.

The Board of Education should determine two dates for the 2011/2012 Budget workshops. Tentative dates of *January 26<sup>th</sup>* and *February 2<sup>nd</sup>* (7 p.m. at STW) were chosen; however, the Board has an opportunity to modify these dates if necessary.

Shannon Miscio remarked that we should put the item back on for the January meeting.

Scott Schoonmaker remarked that the budget book is being put together at this time.

c. Curriculum

No further report at this time.

d. Policy

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that outdated policies are being reviewed to be updated. Bill Cannon's firm and Shipman, Goodman are the law offices involved at this time.

e. ACES

Marie Diamond stated that ACES had their Christmas meeting and health benefits, transportation consortium and budget consortiums were being reviewed.

f. Strategic Planning

Superintendent Schoonmaker remarked that Sarah Querfeld and administrators were working diligently on the high school evaluation. NESDEC will be back in January.

g. Building Committee

Christopher Manna mentioned that we still have water issues at NBIS and the committee has hired Caputo Consultants who are experts in water problems. They will be looking at the roof, windows, etc.

David McMahon remarked that the FRC building is going as scheduled and steel is being erected. He remarked there should be a closed in shell within a week.

Donald Winnicki mentioned the water problem at JHS because of pipe that burst due to an internal mechanism.

h. Communication

Shannon Miscio remarked that the first meeting was very productive and they came up with a mission to improve communications between the Board of Education and the community. Ms. Miscio also discussed emails.

i. New Business

No new business at this time.

j. Visitors and Press

Cliff Potter remarked that he knew water can be a major issue and has to be dealt with immediately and he commended the Board for dealing with it now.

**The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2011.**

**VI. Adjournment**

**VII.**

**MOTION:** Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Deborah Prunier 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