

**North Branford Board of Education Meeting
January 20, 2011**

The January 20, 2011 meeting of the North Branford Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of Stanley T. Williams Elementary School. The following members attended:

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

Superintendent of Schools:	Scott Schoonmaker
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I. Visitors

Director of Business/Personnel:	Donald Winnicki
Director of Curriculum/Instruction:	Sara Querfeld
Supervisor of Family Resource Center:	Anne-Marie McCarthy
Principals:	Todd Stoeffler, interim – NBHS Alan Davis, NBIS Shawn Parkhurst, JHS

Theresa Frandsen
Carter Welch
Christine Imperato
Doreen Currie
Jason Bagley
Rose Angeloni
Jacquelyn Ferraro
Maggie Sullivan

There were no visitor comments at this time.

II. Student Representatives

NBHS Student Representatives, Jacquelyn Ferraro and Maggie Sullivan reported on the following:

Academics

The annual NBHS Alumni breakfast took place on January 5, 2011 with thirty graduates returning to discuss their reflections and to complete surveys. Seven of these graduates participated in a panel discussion with the junior class. It was concluded that block scheduling in high school prepared them for longer college courses. Contemporary Issues, Advanced Math and Speech and Debate were very beneficial subjects to take in high school to be better prepared for college.

The NBHS band and chorus performed throughout the holiday season, under the direction of Mr. Tzetzio and Mr. Carnaroli, beginning with the Winter Concert on December 8th and concluding with a performance at TVES on December 20th. They also performed at Evergreen Woods and for the North Branford Senior Citizens.. Many of the students were involved with the Southern Music Festival this week.

The NBHS yearbook is accepting family ads during the month of January. Families who wish to purchase ads may contact Mrs. Ward or use the NBHS webpage.

Mr. Berry's theatre arts class presented their one-act play this past Friday. This served as a final exam for these students.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports recognized students who exemplified outstanding behavior. Drawings are held twice a month and students can win NBHS season athletic passes, laser tag gift cards from NB Sportsplex, iTunes cards, gas cards, Dunkin Donut cards, etc.

Students are preparing for mid-term exams.

Athletics

On Sunday, January 9th, the NBHS Football team and Boy's Soccer team held their end of the year banquets. The girl's soccer banquet is set for February.

On Monday, February 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the NB auditorium all winter and spring sports athletes, with their parents, will attend a presentation by Ginger Katz, a nationally recognized presenter who focuses on alcohol and substance abuse prevention.

Social

The North Branford Education Foundation is holding a major fundraiser tonight at 7:00 p.m. The Harlem Superstars versus the NB Dream Team II. Community leaders including, NB educators are suited up to play in the fun event.

III. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

Minutes of the December 16, 2010 North Branford Board of Education meeting.

b. Resignations

The Superintendent has received a retirement resignation from Mrs. Patricia Burr. Mrs. Burr has been a dedicated employee of the North Branford Public School's food service program for the past 23 years. She has also been employed by the Family Resource Center. Mrs. Burr is resigning from both positions.

c. Appointments

The Superintendent has received a recommendation from Principal Alan Davis for the appointment of Mark Torrente to the position of Communications Advisor for North Branford Intermediate School. This stipend position is paid in accordance with the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers.

d. Leaves - None at this time.

e. Donations - None at this time.

f. Field Trips - None at this time.

Shannon Miscio requested that the Consent Agenda be tabled until the next Board meeting. She asked that the December 16, 2010 Board of Education minutes on page 9 under Communications be amended to include the full Mission Statement of the Communications Committee.

Mission Statement:

Mission: The mission of the communications sub-committee is to enhance communications between the Board of Education and the community-at-large as well as to maintain ongoing communication between the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools.

Board of Education members agreed to table the Consent Agenda until the next Board of Education meeting.

IV. Superintendent's Report

- a. Recognition - None at this time.
- b. Communications - None at this time.

Attached for Board review were the Board of Education Briefs for January 2011.

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned that our website for Board Communications from the community is about 99% finished. He hopes to have this up and running in the near future.

Sara Querfeld mentioned some of the changes for NBHS next year including courses in Latin I, Engineering, Creative Learning, Plant Science and more A/P courses. She also mentioned the continuing of the coffee-coop and the wellness center.

- c. Family Resource Center

The North Branford Family Resource Center provides valuable service components to our school community. These include before and after school care, extended kindergarten care, summer programming and a pre-school program. Supervisor, Ann-Marie McCarthy, provided the Board with an update and information regarding the growth of this educational component.

Mrs. McCarthy stated that North Branford was one of the first of three Family Resource Centers in the State of Connecticut.

North Branford – Suburban
Killingley - Rural
Hartford - Urban

She remarked that North Branford is very fortunate to have a Family Resource Center in town. She mentioned that FRC Program increases parental knowledge and skills related to child development, which allows parents to prepare their children for school, provide essential support to schools, and other state agencies, and train childcare providers leading to higher quality care.

Mrs. McCarthy spoke on several aspects of the different programs, using the Smith library, field trips to local businesses, partnerships with the curriculum and special services departments, and interacting with our kindergarten teachers. She also mentioned implementing Responsive Classrooms, Handwriting without Tears and Everyday Mathematics into the FRC programs to make the children's transition into their kindergarten classroom a smooth one.

Mrs. McCarthy talked about the Mutt-i-grees program as a way to introduce the concepts of compassion and social responsibility to children. She also spoke on the Families In Training

Program that was designed to offer development information and support to all expectant parents and parents of young children under the age of 5.

Anne-Marie McCarthy remarked that a 40 X 60 structure is currently in the process of being completed. This building is being built in the back of the Jerome Harrison School for use by the FRC before and after school programs and the kindergarten care program.

Mrs. McCarthy mentioned that in the school-age enrichment programs FRC has started clubs that will run for a period of 4 to 6 weeks. Examples of the clubs are book club, cooking club, craft club, sports clubs, scrap booking, etc.

Superintendent Schoonmaker mentioned that the FRC programs operate on a sliding scale and provide great services. He commended Ann-Marie McCarthy and all the great programs she and her staff provide.

d. A Sound Summer Exploring Aquaculture

Since 1995, the North Branford Public Schools has participated in a Summer Exploring Aquaculture program at the Sound School in New Haven. It is a unique three week academic and vocational marine education summer enrichment program for middle school students. The Sound School Regional Vocational Aquaculture Center is the site for the three-week program that serves over 150 students.

The summer program's primary goals are:

1. To provide a unique learning experience in the marine sciences that is not available anywhere else in the region.
2. To bring together students of diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds from neighboring communities in the Greater New Haven area, enabling them to get to know one another, form friendships, and overcome fears and stereotypes that develop from segregation and isolation between communities.

The Superintendent endorses this program and would like to continue participation for the 2011-2012 school year. The cost associated with continuing this program is \$3,000 which is included in the 2011-2012 Superintendent's Budget.

Deborah Prunier questioned if this program was credit bearing for the high school.

Superintendent Schoonmaker stated it was not

Board of Education members agreed to continue this program.

Marcey Onofrio stated it was a wonderful opportunity for our students.

e. Open Choice

The Superintendent provided the Board an update on its commitment to Open Choice. Open Choice is a major component of our ability to provide diversity within our schools. This is required by State law. The Superintendent provided a chart which detailed the 26 seats by grade level. Eighteen of the 26 seats will be filled by returning students as part of our commitment that once a student begins in Open Choice, they are allowed to continue. This will leave 8 vacancies for the 2011/2012 school year. The Superintendent recommended continuation of the commitment as in the past – 26 seats.

MOTION: Moved by Deborah Prunier and seconded by David McMahon that the Board of Education endorses Open Choice for the 2011/2012 school year with its continuation of 26 seats.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

f. Proposed 2012 Board of Education Meeting Dates

The Superintendent provided Proposed 2012 Board of Education Meeting dates for Board action.

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Christopher Manna to approve the 2012 Board of Education Meeting Dates as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

g. Superintendent's Budget Request

The Superintendent presented his budget request for the 2011/2012 school year to the Board of Education. Tonight's presentation was an overview of the assumptions on which the budget was constructed. The Board will have the opportunity over the next few weeks to review the information. The following dates have been developed for additional presentations and information.

January 26, 2011 Special Meeting/Budget Workshop 7 p.m. – STW

February 2, 2011 Special Meeting/Budget Workshop 7 p.m. – STW

Donald Winnicki, Director of Business / Personnel gave an overview of the proposed budget.

Mr. Winnicki stated that only two new positions were in this budget and both positions were at NBHS. One for math and one for project Lead the Way.

Mr. Winnicki spoke on percentage increases and how we would offset these percentages.

He remarked that many programs the Board was interested in were not in this budget. (full-day kindergarten, world language k-5, etc.)

Christopher Manna requested that Mr. Winnicki have numbers on these programs and positions for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Winnicki stated that he would.

V. Committee Reports

a. Negotiations

Subject to ratification by the teachers union, the Superintendent is recommending the approval of the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

MOTION: To approve the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

Motion tabled until the February 26, 2011 budget meeting pending ratification by the teachers union.

MOTION: Moved by Shannon Miscio and seconded by David McMahon to table the approval of the contract between the North Branford Board of Education and the North Branford Federation of Teachers for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014 until February 26, 2011 pending it is ratified and signed.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

b. Budget

No report at this time.

c. Curriculum

Marie Diamond stated that the committee met and discussed changes in the curriculum at North Branford High School.

d. Pension

No report at this time.

e. Policy

Christopher Manna stated the committee met today and are interviewing two law firms for the updating of Board policies.

f. Aces

No report at this time. Meeting cancelled because of snow.

g. Calendar

The Board of Education was provided with a copy of the proposed 2011-2012 school calendar. The calendar was originally presented and tabled by the Board at the May 2010 meeting. The community has been requesting information regarding 2011-2012 vacation dates, etc. The Superintendent is therefore requesting the approval of this calendar.

January 20, 2011

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Marie Diamond to approve the North Branford Public School's Calendar for the 2011-2012 school year as submitted.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

VII. Visitors and Press

No comments at this time.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2011 at the Stanley T. Williams Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by David McMahon and seconded by Shannon Miscio to adjourn this meeting of the North Branford Board of Education at 6:55 p.m.

ALL VOTED AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Ardine
Account Clerk