

**THE NORTH HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
5 LINSLEY STREET
NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

MINUTES

Date: November 17, 2011
7:05 p.m.

Attendance at this REGULAR Meeting: Stephen DiCapua, Alicia Clapp, Bert Mozealous, Carole Franceschet, James Hogan, Anita Anderson, Wesley O'Brien, Bryan Bogen, Stephen Consiglio, and Patricia K. Brozek, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

1. Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2011

Moved: to approve the Minutes of October 13, 2011 Approved

MOVED: James Hogan
SECOND: Carole Franceschet
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

2. Budgets:
a. 2011-2012 Budget

Moved: to accept budget reports and place them on file Approved

MOVED: James Hogan
SECOND: Carole Franceschet
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

3. Report of Standing Committees

a. Finance and Operations

Mr. DiCapua reported that Finance and Operations met this evening. Mr. DiCapua reported they reviewed the budgets for this year, and generally they are in good shape. He stated that they are watching the Special Education accounts to make sure they are on track. Mr. DiCapua reported that the Administrator's are working on next year's budget. He stated that in December they will pick some dates for the annual budget workshops.

Old Business:

1. Fields

Mr. DiCapua stated that the committee received a draft of the Field and Maintenance Agreement which they spoke about for a few months. He stated that Finance and Operations Committee will review the agreement and take a vote on it at next month's meeting.

2. Transportation
a. seatbelts

Dr. Cronin reminded the Board of Education about concerns regarding the seatbelts. Dr. Cronin stated that there is a clause in the bus contract stating that there should be seatbelts in the buses. He reported that the bus company, M & J has come to him asking that the Board of Education reconsider that and take the clause out of the contract, allowing them to remove all seat belts from their buses.

The Board of Education agreed unanimously to allow M & J Bus Company to remove the seat belts from their buses.

b. Personnel

1. Approval of Winter Coaches (see attached)

Moved: to approve the appointment of winter coaches

Approved

MOVED: Carole Franceschet
SECOND: Stephen DiCapua
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Old Business:

c. Curriculum, Instruction and Planning

Mrs. Franceschet reported that Curriculum, Instruction and Planning met on Monday, November 7, 2011.

- Each of the four elementary principals were in attendance and gave a presentation sharing their school's School Improvement Plan. All schools are focusing on reading, writing, and mathematics, as well as school culture and climate. Mrs. Franceschet stated that based on these presentations, it is evident that our elementary schools strive to move our students forward academically and socially through a strong academic curriculum and social curriculum.
- Mrs. Franceschet reported that the Language Arts Consultants and Reading Specialists are coming together with grade level teachers in all schools to keep everyone apprised of what is happening.
- November professional development, elementary teachers continued to work on mathematics and language arts, the middle school and high school teachers focused on instructional practices and preparing students for the twenty first century. Mrs. Franceschet reported that the middle school is implementing their new curriculum.

- District Data Team met in September and October and teams are in place in all schools
- Special Education – regarding focused monitoring, Mrs. Franceschet reported we are meeting requirements given to us by the State
- Curriculum, Instruction and Planning will meet again on Monday, December 5, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.

Old Business:

4. ACES

Mrs. Clapp reported ACES held a very brief meeting today. She stated that two days prior to the meeting they had convocation at the Thomas Edison School in Meriden and all 800 ACES employees were in attendance. Mrs. Clapp stated that they spoke about creating an atmosphere where children thrive, and in order for children to thrive, the staff needs to thrive and that is where you start with role modeling.

Mrs. Clapp reported at the meeting they approved the re-upping of the Federal Head Start grant. She stated that their auditor's report was tabled due to a glitch in the printing.

5. North Haven PTA Council

Mrs. Franceschet stated that PTA Council has not met yet. She stated that their next meeting is Monday, November 28, 2011 in the North Haven High School Library at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business:

1. "Adopt A School"

Goodbye and Thank you

Mr. DiCapua wanted to state that this would be Dr. James Hogan's last Board of Education meeting and wanted to thank him for his service to the Town of North Haven, and to the students of North Haven. Mr. DiCapua stated that Dr. Hogan is a wonderful public servant and a true asset to this Board and this community for 18 years and thanked Dr. Hogan on behalf of the North Haven Board of Education.

6. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Cronin shared Mrs. Dowling's letter to parents regarding Clintonville being a "nut sensitive" school.
- Dr. Cronin shared a letter from the NEASC, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, recommending that the North Haven Middle School be awarded initial accreditation.
- Review of 2011-2012 School Calendar – there have been four missed days from school already. Dr. Cronin has received many calls regarding how we are going to proceed. Dr. Cronin stated that the State has decided not to change anything at this time with regards to modifying the school year. Dr. Cronin stated that with the 4 days of school missed the last day of school will be June 22, 2011, leaving 5 more days remaining in June. Dr. Cronin stated there are other days to

- take from, if needed, for example, professional development days, etc. If days are needed, we will go into April vacation, beginning with Friday, working backwards, as stated in our school calendar. Dr. Cronin suggested perhaps revisiting the February vs. April vacation at a later date for next year.
- Special Education Burden of Proof Letter – Regarding Special Education. Dr. Cronin shared said letter and asked the Board to agree/disagree. The Board agreed unanimously.
 - Board Policies – Dr. Cronin shared revised Board Policies and asked the Board to review them. He stated that each month the Board will be given a packet of Policies to review, discuss and approve.

7. Public Comments

- Kristin Karasinski- against Clintonville “nut sensitive” decision
- Kristina DeNegre – against Clintonville “nut sensitive” decision
- Frank Santacroce – against Clintonville “nut sensitive” decision
- Mike Karasinski – against Clintonville “nut sensitive” decision
- Andrea Samperi - against Clintonville “nut sensitive” decision
- Lisa O’Hare - against Clintonville “nut sensitive” decision
- Kerry Kennealy - against Clintonville “nut sensitive” decision

All of these parents were concerned for both children with and without peanut allergies. They feel that there is now a false sense of security in the school. There were still children at the schools with peanut products in the lunch room, which is concerning. They stated that there is nobody checking in the lunchrooms to ensure that there are no peanut products. Who is checking to be sure they children with allergies are safe? What would happen if a child is allergic to milk products, soy products? What about the children that are allergic to gluten? Children with asthma ... will you not let them out for recess? When will it end? Shouldn't we be educating the children? Who made this decision? Why was the current procedure (nut free tables in the café, etc) changed? Was it not working?

Mr. DiCapua stated that they are dealing with a child with regards to medical needs, and the Board is unable to speak about a child specifically. Mr. DiCapua stated that these are known and life threatening issues. And that is how this decision was made.

Dr. Cronin stated that while it was a school decision, Mrs. Dowling consulted with Central Office, who consulted with legal counsel and everyone felt that this was the right decision at this time. It is something they will re-visit next year.

Mr. DiCapua told the concerned parents to make an appointment with the principal, Mrs. Dowling or Dr. Cronin to answer all of their questions and address their concerns. Dr. Cronin agreed to meet with them and would address Clintonville PTA at a later date when he receives more information regarding this matter.

- Alan Sturtz – 136 Hartley Street – How is the plan – District Improvement Plan going? Dr. Cronin responded that the plan is in place and Dr. Cronin is in the process of scheduling some workshops with the Board of Education. He informed Mr. Sturtz that these workshops are open to the public; however there are no public comments at workshops.

8. Executive Session: not needed
9. Adjournment

Moved: to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Alicia Clapp
SECOND: Carole Franceschet
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen DiCapua

Stephen DiCapua
Vice Chairman