

North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Minutes

Regular Meeting/Special Meeting/**Organizational Meeting**
Thursday, December 10, 2015 6:35 p.m.
5 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT 06473

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Wesley O'Brien, Randi Petersen, Jennifer Cecarelli, Jennifer Caldwell, Goldie Adele, Dorothy Logan, Ed Arum, Interim Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, Robert D. Cronin, Superintendent of Schools, Larissa Ostrinski, and Celeste Battipaglia, Student Representatives

- I. Call to Order
- II. Organization of the Board of Education Officers by the First Selectman

Mrs. Anderson welcomed Michael Freda, First Selectman to this organizational meeting.

Nominations were opened for Board Officers

- a. Chairman

MOTION: Randi Petersen nominated Anita Anderson Approved
SECOND: Wesley O'Brien
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

- b. Vice-Chairman

MOTION: Goldie Adele nominated Wesley O'Brien Approved
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

- c. Secretary

MOTION: Anita Anderson nominated Randi Petersen Approved
SECOND: Wesley O'Brien
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Mr. Freda congratulated all elected board members on their appointments.

Mrs. Anderson introduced Barbara Brozek, District ELL Teacher who gave an overview of the ELL Program in North Haven. Mrs. Brozek answered some questions the Board had for her regarding her work in the district.

- III. Consent Agenda
 1. Minutes November 12, 2015

Moved: to approve the Consent Agenda Approved

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 6
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 1

Jennifer Caldwell abstained because she was not at the last Board of Education Meeting.

IV. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports Information Item

Larissa Ostrinski reported:

- Guidance Department is having individual meetings with all 11th grade students to talk about college plans, SATs, financial aid, etc.
- NHHS musical began auditions
- Regular decision deadlines for colleges are approaching
- Senior class officers having fundraiser at "5 Below"
- Pointsietta fundraiser
- Sr. to Sr. Breakfast a great success
- Football championship game is Saturday in West Haven

Celeste reported

- Girls Nix Team beat Amity
- Winter concert, instrumental and choir is December 21, 2015
- Can Drive
- Toy Drive fundraiser Yale New Haven Hospital and St. Raphael's

V. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee Information Item

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. New Business

VIII. Reports of Standing Committees

1. ACES Information Item

Mrs. Logan reported that ACES had their annual holiday party this afternoon and she was given cards made by students, and shared them with the Board. ACES recognized the student who designed a tee shirt. ACES also approved and finalized the calendar for the 2016-2017 school year. Ms. Logan reported that ACES approved the purchase of the property at 51 Trumbull Street. Ms. Logan stated that they plan to renovate to new and use for ECA students. Ms. Logan reported that the next ACES meeting in January.

2. Athletics Information Item

Mrs. Petersen reported that Athletics did not meet and the next meeting is December 15, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

3. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning Information Item

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- New Course Proposals: Tracey Romberg (our 6-12 math Coordinator) shared information about L3 Statistics proposal and an AP Computer Science Course. The group approved both of these requests.
- Change name of Inventions course to Introduction to Engineering- Carol Ardito (Career and Tech Ed Coordinator) will join us for this discussion- Carol discussed changing the name of the current Inventions course to Introduction to Engineering. This was approved by the group.
- Gateway Dual Enrollment Partnership Update- Carol Ardito (Career and Tech Ed Coordinator) will join us for this discussion- Carol updated the group on work done in the Career and Technical Education Department. She discussed opportunities for students to earn Gateway credits in various areas. She shared information about purchases made from Perkins funds. Mrs. Ardito will present at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.
- Field Trip Request: World Language League- United Nations and Museum of Tolerance, New York, NY- This trip was approved by the C & I committee and will be discussed at the upcoming Board of Education Meeting.
- New Club Proposals: Science Olympiad Team- Approved, Slam Poetry Club- Approval is pending. The group is looking for more information. Mrs. McKenna will follow up with Mr. McLaughlin and approval will be discussed at our next C & I meeting. Dinner Club- Approved
- Nature's Classroom Draft Survey Discussion- Mrs. McKenna shared draft questions. The group made suggestions. We will continue to revise the surveys.
- The next meeting will be held on January 11, 2016. This is a change from the originally scheduled date of January 4, 2016.

- a. Approval of NHHS World Language League field trip to The United Nations and the Museum of Tolerance, NY, NY on Thursday, March 24, 2016

Moved: to approve the NHHS World Language League field trip to the United Nations and the Museum of Tolerance, NY, NY on Thursday, March 24, 2016

Approved

MOVED: Dorothy Logan
SECOND: Wesley O'Brien
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

4. Finance and Operations

Information Item

** See Director of Finance and Operations Report below

5. Middle School Building Committee

Information Item

Mr. Adele reported plans are right on schedule. Mrs. Adele also reported that the frame and steel flooring is going up at this time and rather quickly. Mr. Adele stated that the Committee saw a 3D presentation of all of the layouts and classrooms, offices, etc., which was very nice to see. Mr. Adele shared that the next meeting will be held January 4, 2016.

6. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

Dr. Cronin reminded the Board and the public that the Annual Spelling Bee is scheduled for April 28, 2016.

7. Policy

Information Item

Mrs. Caldwell stated that the 4000 Series of the Policies have been approved and the committee is working on the 6000 Instructional Series. Mrs. Caldwell reported that the Committee met last Thursday afternoon to review the 6000 Series, and the next meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2016.

8. PTA Council

Information Item

Mrs. Cecarelli reported:

The North Haven PTA Council met on November 30, 2015 in the NHHS Library conference room. Representatives from the following groups were present and provided reports:

- NHHS Student Council
- NHMS PTSA
- Montowese PTA
- Ridge Road PTA
- Clintonville PTA
- Superintendent of Schools
- Board of Education Rep

1) NHHS Student Council shared that they had a successful "Spirit Day and pep rally. They are currently conducting a food drive, which runs through this Friday, Dec. 11. There is currently another food drive being held by the Interact Club, in preparation for Thanksgiving. The Senior-to-Senior breakfast was held on 12/2.

2) NHMS PTSA shared that they are currently working on two fundraisers: a Barnes and Noble book fair on Saturday, December 5th, and 5 below 10% of purchases fundraiser that runs from December 6th- December 20th. They hosted a successful math and literacy night, where parents were able to learn more about these programs at the middle school through hands-on activities.

3) Ridge Road shared several fundraising efforts and school activities. Fundraising efforts included: Lyman Orchards pie sale, and their annual Holiday Fair.

4) Clintonville School held a hat, scarf, and mitten drive to benefit North Haven families in need. They also held their annual Holiday Bazaar. They reported a very successful Junior Achievement Day, and encouraged the other elementary schools to renew their efforts and begin participating in the program again.

5) Montowese School reported that they had a very successful Vendors Village again this year. They hosted 53 vendors, and had to turn even more away. They participated in Lyman Orchard and Charleston Wrap fundraisers. Outreach efforts included" a pajama and book drive, and also a Fun Friday for Hunter. They honored 40 veterans in various ways throughout the day in celebration of Veteran's Day.

Make a Difference Day totals are in, and in addition to sprucing up the grounds at several schools, the efforts created 42 blankets, 150 get well cards, and 100 friendship bracelet kits for children at Yale New Haven Hospital.

NHHS sophomore Charlotte Cecarelli presented a proposal for her Girl Scout Gold Award project, which focused on creating a social media outreach project for North Haven families that would provide information on community service opportunities for families within our community. She was seeking endorsement for her project from the council, which signified that they agreed that this project would indeed fulfill a need within the community. The endorsement was approved by a unanimous vote.

The PTA Council is currently working on developing outreach ideas to voters in our community who may not have children in our schools, in an effort to increase awareness of the need to support the education budget this spring.

All PTA representatives who were present received the names and contact information for their "adopted" Board of Education members.

The next PTA Council meeting will be on January 25th at 7 p.m. in the NHHS Library Conference room. All are invited to attend.

IX. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Dr. Cronin reported;

- Budgets are being submitted from each school and Mrs. McKenna and Dr. Cronin as well as Mr. Arum are meeting with each principal, program coordinators, Special Education Director, as well as Director of Buildings and Grounds, and IT Department to review their requests.
- Budget workshops will be on January 21, 2016 and January 28, 2016. The Board of Education presents budget to the Town on Saturday, February 6, 2016.
- Search for new Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources is in progress. Interviews are in progress. There are three candidates that the district is interested in and have had two formal Interviews and will be scheduling a third interview as soon as possible. The candidates will also take a performance task.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Information Item

C. Director of Finance and Operations

1. Director of Finance and Operation's Report

Information Item

Mr. Arum reported;

- Mr. Arum reported that the budget numbers are still on track. He stated that there are some challenges in December. Mr. Arum stated that the prescription line is running over in the projections, and the general liability, and leases accounts (Cannon/Hewlett Packard) looking like they may go over. He is watching legal fees and special education carefully, as well as the Athletic insurance and substitute accounts are being monitored carefully. The unemployment and substitute accounts are looking good this year. Last year those two accounts went over budget, but are not this year. Mr. Arum stated that he report the status on those accounts more next month (December).

2. Approval of the 2015-2016 Monthly Financial Report

Moved: to approve the 2015-2016 Monthly Financial Report

Approved

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Wesley O'Brien
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

X. Public Comment

XI. Future Agenda Items

Discussion Item

- No Child Left Behind update

XII. Executive Session

Moved: to enter into Executive Session at

Approved

MOVED: Dorothy Logan
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Returned to public session at 8:45 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

Moved: to Adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Wesley O'Brien
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0