

North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Minutes

Regular Meeting/Special Meeting/Organizational Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2016 6:30 p.m.
5 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT 06473

Attendance: Wesley O'Brien, Randi Petersen, Bryan Bogen, Jennifer Caldwell, Jennifer Cecarelli, Goldie Adele, Matthew Kerzner, Dorothy Logan, Ed Arum, Interim Director of Finance, Operations, and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Anita Anderson is absent.

I. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes December 10, 2015
2. Maternity leave for Tara Obuchowski, Grade 3 Teacher at Clintonville School beginning May 20, 2016. Mrs. Obuchowski will return to work at the start of the 2016-2017 academic school year.

Moved: to approve the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

II. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports

Information Item

Larissa reported:

- Midterms are January 14-20, 2016
- February 3, 2016 Course Information Night and College Information Night

Celeste reported:

- 2nd semester begins on January 21, 2016
- Gateway Community College is offering Financial Aid help for seniors on January 30, 2016
- NHHS is offering SAT prep courses on Thursdays in January and February for math and reading

III. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

IV. Unfinished Business

Conversations to be continued:

Turf fields
Mascot Committee

V. New Business

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

1. ACES

Information Item

Ms. Logan reported several new members were introduced at today's meeting. There was a presentation from Brown and Brown regarding insurance, as well as an update on Trumbull Street Building and Leader Hill. Ms. Logan reported there was also a discussion regarding an early retirement incentive for staff at ACES.

Mrs. Petersen reported:

- **Correspondence (Letters, Recognitions, Donations)**

- All State – All Area awards
- Boys Soccer - Ian Dunning
- Football – Thomas Dodge, Jeremy Imperati, David Mikos, Michael Montano
- Player of the Year (SCC – Division 2) – Michael Montano

Football Success/Post Season

- Appreciation to the overwhelming support of the community throughout the postseason.
Quarters: 600 fans, Semis: over 1800, Finals: over 6700

- **Fundraising**

- Swim Record Board – In the process of coordinating with the coach, team parents, and the athletic department on creating/purchasing a new record board to be hung at the town pool. We have received preliminary approval from pool manager. The team has \$500, estimated cost is \$1500.

- **Fields**

- STEAP grant received and announced by Mr. Freda. Award in the amount of \$500,000 will allow for upgrades to Vanacore Field, bathrooms, concession stand, visitor bleacher upgrade, surrounding fencing
- STEAP grant (application) – presently working with the Director of Public Works on a grant that will cover the practice football field and Bailey Road soccer and baseball fields. Looking to add sprinkler system to all 3 fields, new backstops and dugout fencing, new spectator stands.
- Field Updates
 - Baseball – All 90-foot diamonds have been edged and leveled
 - Softball – All diamonds have been edged and clay will be added in the spring.
 - Soccer – Drilled, seeded, fertilized
 - Brush cleared/cut along bridge
 - Field Closures
 - Hoping to close De Mayo Baseball field for the upcoming summer
 - Last year, the town was to only play limited home games, but it turned into a regular occurrence. Town is forming a 3-person scheduling committee (Palma, Diana, Stamp)
 - May be forced to turn the soccer field for 2016-2017

- **Maintenance**

- Lights used from construction company – they have loaned temporary lighting in lieu of walking path which was determined unsafe by NHPD. Lighting was removed without any notification to Phil Diana prior to the NIKH Bowl. In the future, the company will be sure to communicate with Phil before removing any lighting.

- **New Business**

- Proposed budget process for adding new sports/stipends
- Baseball dugouts – discussion raised about baseball fundraising and monies from the town
- Post-season financials regarding football post season and unbudgeted costs for hosting 2 playoff games and a championship game

- **Coaches / Personnel - None**

Next meeting – Tuesday, February 9, 2015 at 5:30 – Central Office

3. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning

Information Item

Dr. O'Brien reported:

New Course Proposals:

Course title: Animation in Art. Diana Blythe joined to discuss, and the course was approved unanimously. Suggestions included the possibility of offering an Animation in Art II sometime in the future.

Course title: UCONN Early College experience Courses in French, Italian & Spanish. Lisette Campos (World Language Coordinator 6-12) joined us to discuss the course, which was approved unanimously. Suggestions included the possibility of reaching out to World Language departments and in the CSU system to determine if there is interest in offering such courses through other universities.

An additional new course was shared by Mrs. McKenna. Men's Chorale L3 (Men of Note)- this course was unanimously approved.

Driver Education Program at NHHS:

Diane Stanley met with Dr. Cronin and Melinda McKenna regarding the program, which would be run through Park and Rec. Although C & I is in favor of the program, we felt it was up to them to offer ultimate approval (or disapproval).

Melinda McKenna shared the following with the committee:

On March 2 all Grade 11 CT students will participate in CT SAT Testing Day, the new state accountability test replacing SBAC.

Work is currently underway on new middle school electives for next year to utilize newly available spaces. Areas of focus include technology, family and consumer science and expanded choice for students in music, art and PE. Further discussion will take place during budget meetings and with middle school representatives at future C&I meetings.

Preliminary discussions are underway regarding the positioning of introductory world language options designed to familiarize students with available possibilities for language study.

New Club Proposals:

Club title: Slam Poetry Club. C&I reviewed this proposal in its last meeting, and requested further information pending approval. Chris McLaughlin joined the group to educate us about the nature of the club. It was unanimously approved.

Club title: After School Guitar Club. After a brief discussion the club was approved unanimously. However, the committee seeks clarification regarding the number of students who would be allowed to join (the current proposal caps membership at 8), how they would be selected, and whether or not the number could be raised if more than 8 expressed interest.

Both clubs elicited discussion regarding the need to involve students who do not gravitate to "traditional" or "conventional" clubs or activities.

The next Curriculum, Instruction and Planning meeting will be Monday February 1, 2016 at 9 a.m.

4. Finance and Operations

Information Item

Mr. Bogen reported:

- Budget season has begun. The first meeting was last Tuesday, and the next budget workshop is Thursday, January 21, and another on the 28th, both at 5:30 p.m.
- Currently, Financials trending where they normally are at this time of year
- Waiting for sped reimbursements from the State, which usually becomes available the end of February, which .
- will offset some of the expenses.

5. Middle School Building Committee

Information Item

Mr. Adele reported:

- Topping off ceremony was Friday, January 8, 2016 at 11 a.m. at the construction site.
- Construction is right on schedule
- The committee will be meeting with the solar panel company regarding drilling holes on roof and answered questions and concerns committee had.
- Next meeting January 25, 2016 at 8:15 a.m.

6. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

Mr. Kerzner reported:

- Spelling Bee is scheduled for April 28, 2016, at 6 p.m. The committee is hoping to get more teams to participate. Quinnipiac University is a Gold Sponsor of this event. They are looking for Silver Sponsors as well. There will be an add book and team forms that can be found on their website to start signing up.

7. Policy – no meeting – The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 19, 2016

8. PTA Council – no meeting next one January 25

Information Item:

VII. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Dr. Cronin reported:

- Donation for the purchase of a book from Dr. Bornstein in memory of his late wife, Maureen Bornstein. This is going to be a yearly donation and we thank Dr. Bornstein for this.
- Letter from Yale New Haven Children's Hospital thanking Mr. Fiondella and the students of NHHS for their generous donation of toys and other gifts to the Children's Hospital
- No Child Left Behind update – Congress did not re-authorize "No Child Left Behind" when it was up for re-authorization in December 2015. In essence, what that means is that many of the decisions about accountability and measuring student progress, etc., are now going to be made at the State and local levels. Connecticut remains committed to the Common Core in Language Arts and Math. In addition to the Common Core, the State has adopted SBAC, which is the state test administered to students beginning in Grade 3. This year 11th graders at NHHS will be taking SAT and do not have to take the SBAC as they did last year. Summing this up: In Connecticut, students in grades 3-8 take SBAC math/language arts, Grade 11 take SAT, students in grades 5 and 8 take science portion of the CMT, in addition to taking SBAC. Students in 10th grade take the science portion of CAPT. All testing will begin late winter/spring. All students attending public schools are expected to participate in testing. There will be no opting out this year. There will also be no alternative accommodations for students as done in the past. District participation is being monitored by the State, and all students must participate in testing. Consequences for not participating in this testing from the State will be additional training by the district, and develop an improvement plan. If participation rate goes down going forward, we risk losing funding (Title I funding). All students must test.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- SAT testing will be March 2, 2016 and all 11th graders will participate. State test will not have the essay portion of the SAT testing. NHHS will be sending a letter home as well as an informational night advising parents of changes. Students will have an advisory activities as well so that students are also prepared of changes. Mrs. McKenna stated that as soon as she received more information she will update the Board.
- Next week elementary schools will have kindergarten registration from 10-2 and Thursday evening they will be there from 4-6 p.m. A child is eligible to attend kindergarten if he/she is five years of age on or before January 1, 2017. Mrs. McKenna stated that the reason for doing this at this time as it really helps to go through the budget season and get a better sense of our kindergarten numbers.

C. Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Arum reported:

- Showing a negative balance in some accounts at this time, as we are waiting for excess costs funds from the State on February 22, 2016.
- Watching accounts closely, specifically the Special Education and Prescription accounts
- There is some savings due to the warm weather so far this winter. (e.g. gas, oil, and electricity, etc.)
- Dr. Cronin stated that Tina Tanguay will be our new Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, and she will begin February 8, 2016. She will be attending our budget workshops beginning next week.

1. Director of Finance and Operation's Report Information Item
2. Approval of the 2015-2016 Monthly Financial Report

Motion: to approve the 2015-2016 Monthly Financial Report Approved

MOVED: Bryan Bogen
SECOND: Jennifer Caldwell
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

VIII. Public Comment

- Jackie St. Peter – girls hockey club
- Carole LaDoor – Science curriculum/testing
- Lisa Burton - budget
- Peter Reilly – girls hockey club

- IX. Future Agenda Items Discussion Item
- X. Executive Session –for student matters, legal matters and negotiations

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for student matters, legal matters and negotiations at 7:50 p.m. Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Returned into public session at

1. To approve ratification of the teacher's contract

Motion: to approve the ratification of the teacher's contract Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

XI. Adjournment

Moved: to Adjourn at 8:57p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley O'Brien

Wesley O'Brien,
Vice Chairman