



North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public School
Board of Education Meeting

MINUTES

REMINDER: Please arrive at 6:15 p.m. – yearbook photo being taken

Regular Meeting/Special Meeting/Organizational Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 2017 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Wesley O'Brien, Randi Petersen, Jennifer Cecarelli, Matthew Kerzner, Dorothy Logan, Goldie Adele, Dana Corriveau, Director of Student Services, Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, and Robert Cronin, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Bryan Bogen and Jennifer Caldwell were absent

I. PRESENTATIONS:

Carol Ardito and Tracey Romberg – Gateway Dual Enrollment Program Information Item

Carol Ardito and Tracey Romberg reported on the Gateway Community College Dual Enrollment Program that they are going to partnership with. This partnership program provides high school students with an opportunity to earn college credits while completing their high school requirements through dual and concurrent enrollment. Mrs. Ardito stated that there are pre-requisites to get into these programs. It is for high school juniors and seniors who want to explore career opportunities while earning FREE college credits. Some of these programs include Culinary Arts (Hospitality Management), Early Childhood Education, Automotive Technology, as well as Mathematics, which Mrs. Romberg spoke to. Mrs. Romberg stated that Mathematics would be an additional program Gateway will be offering. There are also pre-requisites to get into these programs. This would offer another opportunity to strengthen their skill prior to going to college. All of these credits are transferrable to any Connecticut State University.

Patti White – Next Generation Science Standards Information Item

Mrs. White shared with the Board of Education the Next Generation Science Standards and the instructional shifts it means to North Haven. Mrs. White stated that North Haven is in step if not ahead of step of most of the towns in Connecticut, and has been working very closely with teachers in our district. These standards are in place for K-12 throughout the district. Mrs. White took questions from the Board of Education and answered them accordingly.

Patrick Stirk – Integrated Day Program Information Item

Patrick Stirk, Laurie Bankowski, Betty Ann LaPenna and Joan Verrillo spoke regarding the Integrated Day Program and some concerns regarding the structure of the K/1 program from K/1 Integrated Day teachers. Mrs. Bankowski explained the district formed an ID Committee, working with Tony Rigazio-Digilio, discussing the successes and struggles of the ID Program. One of the things repeatedly coming up was the struggles with kindergarten and Grade 1 mix. The committee made the K/1 grade level their focus because of the concerning feedback from those teachers.

The proposed change would separate the kindergarten students from the grade one students. Each school (Ridge Road and Green Acres) would have one kindergarten ID class. Green Acres would also have one grade one ID classroom and Ridge Road would have two grade 1 ID classrooms. There would be no immediate change to the number of classrooms at either school. The following year, the Kindergarten ID teacher would loop to Grade 1 with their same kindergarten students. The teachers that taught Grade 1 would return to kindergarten and spend two years with those students. What the hope is, is that this will allow them, in their first school experience to have all of their needs met in a more efficient

way, and to really focus on foundational skills, while not taking time away from Grade 1 students, who are coming back to school and are able to work at a faster pace. Mrs. LaPenna and Mrs. Verrillo spoke on behalf of all of the K/1 ID Teachers and explained their concerns with K/1 ID as it is now and how changing to looping would benefit both Kindergarteners and First Graders.

The Board Members had some questions and had their questions answered accordingly. Dr. Cronin stated that the committee will continue to meet during the first year of this looping program to ensure its success.

Mrs. Bankowski explained that they will meet with current kindergarten parents as well as incoming kindergarten parents and explain the changes and what the looping classrooms will look like.

II. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes December 8, 2016

Moved: To approve the items on the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

III. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports

Information Item

Rachel reported:

- AP EXAM sign up forms were distributed
- Pride week is January 30-February 3
- Basketball and Cheerleading Senior Night was last night
- Juniors have gotten their course selection sheets and they are due February 27th
- Junior class officers are running fundraisers in the coming months, including car washes, selling pastries, etc.
- March 2nd are the Junior SATS at NHHS

Celeste reported:

- Mr. North Haven has been cancelled because there was a lack of interest.
- Course selection night was earlier this month for incoming freshman
- Valentines fund raisers took place, including a Matchmaker fundraiser
- Scholarships applications are being sent out at the high school, as well as mailed home to parents
- Tickets for Legally Blonde on sale The show is March 2, 3, and 4 and the tickets are \$15 each

IV. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

1. Discussion regarding letter from the North Haven Board of Police Commissioners

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson reminded board that the Spelling Bee is coming and the Board needs to form a team. Matt, Dot and Rachel volunteered to be the Board Team.

Mrs. Anderson reported that Senator Fasano and Dave Yacarino would like to come to a Board of Education Meeting, either in March or April to explain the status regarding educational funding at the State level.

Mrs. Anderson also share a letter from Joe D'Errico, Police Commissioner regarding the police K-9 narcotic division to go into the NHMS and NHHS and search for drugs, as he has had some complaints from parents/citizens. There was further discussion and questions. Mr. Kerzner asked when this would happen, if the students would be in class, etc. Dr. Cronin explained that if this does happen, the school would be in lockdown during this visit. Mr. Kerzner asked if this has ever been done in the district before. Mrs. Anderson told him it has never happened. Mr. O'Brien asked how many complaints did Mr. D'Errico have and have these parents ever called the district with these concerns. Dr. Cronin stated that the district has never received any calls concerning this issue. Board members also questioned if this is something that other districts do. Dr. Cronin stated that he will do some research to answer the board members questions.

- V. Unfinished Business
VI. New Business
VII. Reports of Standing Committees

1. ACES

Information Item

Mrs. Logan reported that ACES did not have an official meeting because there was not a quorum. There was some discussion regarding the State budget concerns, teacher's contract, etc., but very informal as it was not an official meeting.

2. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning

Information Item

Dr. O'Brien reported there have been two meetings since the last Board of Education meeting.

He reported in January:

- Anthony Giordano presented regarding the Environmental Club, Connecticut Green Leaf Program. Mr., Giordano is forming a committee to work with him on this program.
- Diana Blythe presented new course proposal – Advanced Animation in Art
- Sue Bass – English pathways for 9th graders

Dr. O'Brien stated that the committee was in favor of all of the above and thanked the teachers for their presentations.

- Discussion regarding making field trips affordable for all.

February:

Carol Ardito – Gateway Dual Enrollment Program
 Tracey Romberg – Gateway Dual Enrollment Program
 Patti White – Next Generation Science Standards
 Jill Metz – Pathways 10 – new course proposal
 Reviewed and recommended proposed of new badminton club

- a. Approval of Clintonville, Grade 5 field trip to Ellis Island, NYC, NY on May 12, 2017

Moved: To approve the Clintonville, Grade 5 field trip to Ellis Island, NYC, NY on May 12, 2017

Approved

MOVED: Dorothy Logan
 SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
 AYE: 8
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAIN: 0

3. Finance and Operations

Information Item

Finance and Operations did not meet this evening due to a lack of quorum.

4. Middle School Building Committee

Information Item

Mr. Adele reported:

Revised schedule: administration and classrooms should be ready by February, 24, 2017, the auditorium should be ready by March 6, 2017. The Kitchen and Cafeteria should be ready by March 31, 2017. He reported that the construction of the gym and locker rooms will start in April through the summer, and the construction of the fields will begin in March and go through November, 2017.

Mr. Adele reported that architect has re-designed the fields including bleachers, press box and scoreboard. There is also a bid going out on fields, specifically on the turf. There are still plans for solar panels although purchase orders have not be issued to date.

5. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

Mr. Kerzner reported:

- Spelling Bee – The Foundation is getting application for teams for this year.
- Discussion regarding grants coming in. Dr. Cronin suggested that before any grants come to the Foundation that the administrators from each school review and sign off on them.
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- 6. Policy - NO REPORT Information Item
- 7. PTA Council – NO REPORT Information Item

VIII. Staff Communications

- A. Superintendent's Report Information Item

- 1. Project Graduation 2017

Dr. Cronin explained that previously Nancy Leddy, Director of Community Services ran project graduation and it was held at Lake Quassapaug in Middlebury CT. Nancy is no longer running Project Graduation. Ron Bathrick and Wendy Marinelli will be taking over Project Graduation and are working very closely with Dr. Dallai to organize it this year. There will be some changes this year. The new venue will be The Only Game in Town this year and will keep the Board updated on its progress.

- 2. Update on District Homework Committee

Dr. Cronin reported the Homework Committee has representatives from all levels, elementary, middle and high schools. He stated that the goal of the group is to explicitly define homework expectations throughout the district, as well as a shared purpose of what the homework is and also how it is figured into grading. The goal is to have a practice throughout the district. There is a survey for parents, and teachers, which has already been completed. The next step is to survey students starting in Grade 3 and going through Grade 12 sometime in late February, early March. Once that is done we will come before the faculty, students, parents and Boards to update them.

- 3. Recovery Classrooms

Dr. Cronin explained that in September he met with Dan Lyga who is the CEO of the Children's Center in Hamden. Mr. Lyga is interested in partnering with our school district to submit grant proposal to an organization called The Connecticut Opportunity Project, a nonprofit organization whose goal is to improve lives of disengaged and disconnected youth. Mr. Lyga is interested in writing a grant and establishing a "Recovery Classroom" for children recovering addiction. Dr. Cronin stated that he has given this much thought, especially after the presentation recently of Chasing the Dragon at the High School. Its intention would be to help students recovering from substance abuse, to achieve their education goals. Mr. Lyga feels that partnering with a school district would help him to be awarded this grant. This program would be housed at the Children's Center. There is no demand from the district at this time. It would just grant North Haven that opportunity for our students to attend, if/when needed. We are waiting to hear the status of the grant and will update the Board at that time. This is a wonderful resource that would be available to North Haven if needed. Dr. Cronin reported that the first portion of the grant has been submitted and should hear its status by the end of February.

- 4. District Improvement Plan – Mid Year Report

Dr. Cronin reported that the intervention teachers at the High School and the Middle School have been a welcomed addition, with student data to back this. Dr. Cronin reported that at the High School during marking period 1, and average of 94% of the students earned A's, B's and C's in their core academic classes, at the end of marking period two it was at 91%.

Dr. Cronin and Melinda met with the intervention teachers today, reviewing their program. Dr. Cronin stated that the teachers are very organized with how students are selected. Some of his questions to them were: how does one get into the program, how do they get out of the program, how do they determine the goals they will be working on, and how do they monitor those goals once complete. Dr. Cronin reported they had data providing those answers. They reported that in the program there are students entering and exiting this program. They reported that this program has helped many of the children at the High School.

Dr. Cronin reported that at the Middle School in 6th grade 27% of the students moved from approaching goal in the fall to goal in the winter, 39% in 7th grade, 43%, and in 8th grade 46%. Dr. Cronin stated that there has really been some nice movement across the board.

Dr. Cronin stated that he Melinda and Dana are meeting with the principals and special education teachers, as well as reading and math specialists in every building throughout the month of February, sitting with the staff and discussing what their program looks like and their progress. This practice has been very helpful.

- 5. Approval of the 2017-2018 District Calendar

There was discussion regarding the first day of school being on a Monday for the students. The Board would like Dr. Cronin to look into when other districts are coming back to school and would like the first week of school to be a

shortened week for the students and not to begin on a Monday. Dr. Cronin agreed to do some research and report back to the Board with his findings.

Moved: To approve the 2017-2018 District Calendar

Tabled

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

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Mrs. McKenna shared with the Board that tomorrow is a Professional Development Day and this professional development day is teacher self-directed, so as part of legislation that came out a couple of years ago, encouraging teachers choice in terms of what they are learning, This full professional development day was one that the teachers propose what they want to learn and submit it to their evaluator. This was done last year as well and worked out very well.

C. Director of Finance and Operations

1. Director of Finance and Operation's Report

Information Item

Mrs. Tanguay reported that there was a traveling chef at the Middle School, and the cafeteria is doing a soup of the day.

There was discussion regarding the three trucks that broke down this past week in the middle of the snow storm and what is going to be done to purchase a new truck vs. repairing the old trucks. Mrs. Tanguay thanked the Town for stepping up and helping out during this past snowstorm. Because they helped us out we did not have to go to an outside company for plowing, which saved us money.

Mrs. Tanguay also shared presentation to the Town last week, and we should hear back from the Town sometime in March.

2. Approval of the 2016-2017 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended transfers

Moved: to approve the 2016-2017 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended Transfers

Approved

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

IX. Public Comment

X. Future Agenda Items

Discussion Item

XI. Executive Session – for matters of personnel

Moved: to enter into Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

Approved

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

Returned from Executive Session at 10:20

1. Annual review of Superintendents Contract

Moved: to renew the contract of Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
From July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Wesley O'Brien
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

2. Annual Review of Assistant Superintendents Contract

Moved: to renew the contract of Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent from
Jul 1, 2016 – June 20, 2019

Approved

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Wesley O'Brien
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

3. Annual Review of Director of Student Services Contract

Moved: to renew the contract of Dana Corriveau, Director of Student Services from
July 1, 2016- June 30, 2019

Approved

MOVED: Wesley O'Brien
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

XII. Adjournment

Motion: Moved to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Wesley O'Brien
SECOND: Dorothy Logan
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Anderson

Anita Anderson
Chairperson