

NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
www.northsalemsschools.org
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 19, 2011

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:35 PM in the Board Conference Room by Board Vice President Judith Schurmacher.

At 6:35 PM, a motion was made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0), to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing specific personnel, negotiations and litigation. Ms. Schurmacher was appointed Clerk Pro-Tem for this Executive Session.

At 7:35 PM, on a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0), the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened to the Public Session.

Board Members Present at this Meeting:

Ms. Katherine Daniels, President
Ms. Judith Schurmacher, Vice-President
Mr. Paul Giamundo, Trustee
Mr. Paul Smadbeck, Trustee
Mr. Andrew Brown, Trustee
Ms. Deborah D'Agostino, Trustee

Board Members Absent

Mr. Jonathan Freeman, Trustee

Also Present:

Dr. Kenneth Freeston, Superintendent
Dr. Michael Hibbard, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources
Ms. Barbara Briganti, Director of Business Administration
Mr. Gary Green, Director of Facilities, Operations, Maintenance and Transportation
Ms. Mary Rhuda, District Clerk
Members of the Public & Faculty

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM Katherine Daniels followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Student Board Representative Reports

Student Representatives, Nicholas Brown and Linda DosSantos each reported on past and upcoming events at both Pequenakonck and the Middle/High School. The American Red Cross Blood Drive, has been rescheduled to Thursday, February 10, 2011 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the High School Auditorium. All blood donations received that day, will be transferred to a dollar value and will go towards a scholarship for North Salem students.

Announcements

Board President Katherine Daniels announced that Kindergarten Registration will be held at PQ from January 31 thru February 4, 2011. Please see the District website for more information.

Ms. Daniels discussed Gov. Cuomo's State of the State address in which he reiterated his intention to impose a 2% property tax cap. A big question is how will the tax cap interplay with mandate relief? He has formed a mandate team, who have set up a website to submit suggestions and recommendations. <http://governor.ny.gov/mandaterelief> The Board will try to stay on top of all new and upcoming information.

Public Comment

None.

Superintendent's Report

"Do we have enough snow days?" As of this evening, 1/19, we have 2 more snow days left. If the District uses all snow days, the make up days, which can found on the website and school calendar will be 4/18, 4/19, 4/20 and 4/21. It is important to keep in mind that safety is the biggest concern when calling a snow day.

Ms. Daniels mentioned the Governors discussion on State Aid, and the fundamental changes he has planned. State Aid will no longer be automatic, schools will have to compete for aid. There will be 3 categories: School/Student overall performance, Administrative Efficiency and Consolidation Bonus.

The budget process is in full swing. The Administrative Council members have begun the all day sessions going over the budget; line for line, dollar for dollar, and word for word. At the Board meeting on February 9th, Dr. Freeston will discuss the bigger picture for the 2011/2012 Budget.

Director of Business Administration's Report

Ms. Barbara Briganti discussed the Expendable Trust Accounts that need to be closed per the auditors report. These accounts have been inactive. A detailed report which shows all trust and any balances were given to the Board for review.

Also discussed was the Point of Sale / Accountability System recommendation before the Board this evening. The lunch fund balance can only be used to support the food service program, therefore, there is no cost from the general fund for this purchase. The POS will allow all students to have their own accounts for the food service program. Parents will have the ability to prepay on-line and to view their child's account. The option for students to pay by cash or check is still available if desired. It will take 8-10 weeks after approval for the system to be up and running.

Board Reports

Mr. Giamundo attended the WPSBA meeting where a case study was presented to “clarify collaborative and discreet responsibilities of the Superintendent and the Board in managing complex and multilayered politically charged challenges”, which he found it very interesting.

Mr. Giamundo also discussed the BOCES need to have capital projects completed. All 18 school districts, all owners of BOCES, will have a vote in March to support these projects. A representative from BOCES will come to a future NS meeting to present the proposal. All agreed, that North Salem understands the need to upgrade very old facilities.

Ms. D’Agostino attended two Fiscal Planning Committee meetings. The North Salem Tax Assessor attended one meeting and discussed the revenue side of our business: the tax assessment process and the appeal process in which the Town uses. In this month’s meeting Ms. Briganti discussed the expense side of our business.

Ms. D’Agostino also attended the Technology Meeting. The District has basically met all Smartboard demands. Gary Green is looking into new technology, a mini-server. One main computer will have all the hardware to support 9 other laptops. This will reduce the computer replacement cost by 1/10th. Another new program “BYOT”, “bring your own technology to school”, is something the committee is looking into as a way of improving technology needs in the school.

Mr. Brown stated that the Booster Club Basketball Tournament, in honor of Sal Pantezzi, was last weekend and was a lot of fun. He also announced that the admission prices for games have been reduced. Any student wearing a uniform or school color, will only pay \$1, all other students \$2, and adults \$3. Please come out and support the teams. Listed on the website, under Athletics, are all North Salem Scholar Athletes. Please take a moment to look at all our students who have qualified, it is a very impressive list.

Ms. Daniels attended the Wellness Committee meeting and a representative from Northern Westchester Hospital came to discuss how they can continue to support the wellness efforts at no cost to the District. Ms. Daniels also attended the PPS Committee meeting. They discussed the recent evaluation on Co-teaching, and the S³TAIR Grant, which was awarded earlier this year for our Co-Teaching practices.

Dr. Hibbard discussed an action item tonight for a New Course approval. The courses, Intermediate French 1 and Intermediate Spanish 1 are associated with the SUNY University High School Program. It gives students an alternative to continue studying a foreign language and get college credits, but not take an AP course. No additional staffing will be needed. Dr. Cyganovich feels that some students, who finish the foreign language requirements early in High School, may stay involved if this option is made available.

Presentation

Dr. Hibbard presented the 2010 AP, SAT and ACT Performance Data. You may view a copy of the presentation at http://www.northsalemsschools.org/board_of_education/presentations . The reports show that North Salem is growing and getting better, in contrast to New York State. North Salem SAT 2010 performance in reading, writing and math are up. The ACT scores for 2010 in English, Reading, Math and Science up. Overall performance of the Advanced Placement tests is steadily going up. Dr. Hibbard discussed the trends of students taking the different tests. In 2010, 69 students took both the SAT and ACT, 19 took only the SAT and 9 took only the ACT. Of these students 86 students will attend a 4 year college and 12 will attend 2 year colleges.

Acceptance of Minutes

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board accepted the minutes for the following meetings: December 1, 2010.

Action Items

Donation – Ms. Julia Scallero

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of \$25 to be applied to the Erik V. Nicoletti Scholarship Fund.

Donation – Elizabeth Butler Silent Auction

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of \$200 to be applied to the Erik V. Nicoletti Scholarship Fund.

Donation – Camanzo Family

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of \$50 to be applied to the Erik V. Nicoletti Scholarship Fund.

Donation – Cash

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of \$125 to be applied to the Erik V. Nicoletti Scholarship Fund.

Donation – Mr. Andrew Hlushko

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of 50 copies of the resource book entitled “Those Amazing Engineers” for use by Mr. Hendrie’s Technology and Energy & Power courses.

Donation – Morgan Stanley

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of \$25 to be deposited into the PQ Enrichment Fund.

New Course Approval

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following New Courses for North Salem Middle or High School: SUNY UHS Intermediate French 1, and SUNY UHS Intermediate Spanish 1. These courses will affiliate North Salem High School with SUNY University High School Program.

Acceptance of CSE and CPSE dated January 19, 2011

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the acceptance of CSE and CPSE Reports dated January 19, 2011.

Acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status and Revenue Status, Warrant Report, Student Activities Fund Report and Monthly Expenditure Report for the month of November 2010

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status and Revenue Status, Warrant Report, Student Activities Fund Report and Monthly Expenditure Report and Student Activity Report for the month of November 2010.

The Board received and reviewed the Claims Auditor’s report for the month of December, 2010.

Budget Transfer

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following transfer:

To:	2110-130-00-0000 Grade 7012 Teacher Salaries	\$ 33,478
From:	2110-142-00-0000 District Wide Leave Replacement	\$ 12,478
	2110-142-00-0000 Lane Changes	\$ 21,000

Standard Work Day Resolution

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Salem Central School District hereby establishes the following as standard work days for appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employee’s Retirement System based upon on the time keeping system maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this Board.

Title	Name	SS# Last 4	Reg. #	Standard Work Day	Term Begin/ Ends	Participates In Time Keeping System	Days/ Month
APPOINTED							
Treasurer	D.Sherr	XXXX	XXXX	8	7/1/10- 6/30/11	Y	n/a
District Clerk	M. Rhuda	XXXX	XXXX	8	7/1/10- 6/30/11	Y	n/a

Tax Refund Due to Consent Judgment

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools authorize the Director of Business to process the tax refund for Thomas & Rosemary Brown, Section 24, Block 1744, Lot 63, North Salem, in the amount of \$1,493.97 in compliance with Consent Judgment and Demand for Refund of Taxes.

NYS Property Tax Cap Resolution

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

NYS Property Tax Cap Resolution

Be it Resolved by the North Salem Central School District Board of Education that Legislative and Unfunded Mandate Relief Must be Included in any NY State Property Tax Cap Proposal.

WHEREAS, New York State leads the nation in local property taxes, in large part because New York leads the nation in imposing unfunded state mandates upon our local municipalities and school districts; and

WHEREAS, state mandated pension fund contributions are one of the largest components of every school district and municipal budget over which local officials have little control, and are increasing at exorbitant rates annually such that bills from the State Retirement System (ERS) will increase 40% and bills from the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) will increase 33% in the 2011-12 school year; and

WHEREAS, state laws such as the Triborough Amendment, pertaining to the collective bargaining of contracts between school districts and employee unions, impede the ability of local officials to reasonably control the costs that such contracts impose upon local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, as a solution to New York's property tax crisis, the Governor of New York and members of the New York State Legislature have pledged to consider enactment of legislation imposing a cap on the annual growth in local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, any property tax cap must be accompanied simultaneously (1) by ending the practice of pushing State costs onto local school districts and municipalities, and (2) by a repeal of current underfunded or unfunded state mandates that require local municipalities and school districts to significantly increase spending and therefore local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, a property tax cap without repeal of costly underfunded and unfunded state mandates will inescapably lead to drastic cuts in essential local school district programs and services, as well as significant layoffs of school district employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District that the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly must reform the cost drivers that lead to high property taxes in New York – including pension benefits, health insurance costs and the collective bargaining process – as the central element of any effort to provide overdue property tax relief to the residents and businesses of New York.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, Senator Ball, Member of Assembly Katz, the New York State School Board Association and New York State Council of School Superintendents.

Point of Sale/Accountability System Recommendation

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools accept the proposal for Point of Sale/Accountability System from LunchByte Systems for Nutrikids.

Expendable Trust Accounts

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED. that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools authorize the District Treasurer to close Kathy Capossela Scholarship (TE910.01) and transfer fund balance of \$13.69 to Carol Farnsworth Scholarship (TE910.09), close George Candreva Environmental (TE910.03) in the amount of \$0.39, Learning Foundation (TE910.13) in the amount of \$13.81, North Salem Professional Development (TE910.32) in the amount of \$1.08 and Hecksher Foundation (TE910.17) in the amount of \$38.22 due to inactivity and transfer fund balances totaling \$53.50 to Plan for Excellence (TE910.11).

Water Sytem Modifications Project

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approve change orders 1 and 2 for the Water System Modifications Project #66130104-0006-020.

Consent Agenda

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the consent agenda as follows:

Certified

Ms. Danielle Mandra

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the extension of Ms. Danielle Mandra as a Leave Replacement Paraprofessional from on November 19, 2010 to December 23, 2010. Ms. Mandra will be placed on TAID Step 1 as per CSEA contract, and will work *3 hours per day/5 days per week*. Ms. Mandra will be replacing Ms. Engelhardt.

Ms. Joan Kruzykowski

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the extension of Ms. Joan Kruzykowski as a Leave Replacement Paraprofessional from on or about November 19, 2010 to on or about December 23, 2010. Ms. Kruzykowski will be placed on TAID Step 3 as per CSEA contract, and will work *2 hours per day/5 days per week*. Ms. Kruzykowski will be replacing Ms. Engelhardt.

Mr. Jason Simone

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Jason Simone as a Substitute Teacher, Grades K - 12, for the 2010-2011 school year, at the substitute rate of \$85.00 for the first 10 days; \$95 thereafter.

Ms. Laura Birchman

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Laura Birchman as a Substitute Teacher, Grades K - 5, for the 2010-2011 school year, at the substitute rate of \$85.00 for the first 10 days; \$95 thereafter.

Mr. John Urgola

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. John Urgola as a Per Diem Leave Replacement Special Education Teacher, beginning on or about March 7, 2011 thru June 24, 2011 at the rate of \$277.69/day. Mr. Urgola will be replacing Kim Simon.

Classified

Ms. Lia Buchanan

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Lia Buchanan as a Substitute Paraprofessional, Grades K - 5, for the 2010-2011 school year, at the substitute rate of \$11.00 per hour.

Mr. Jason Simone

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Jason Simone, as a Substitute Paraprofessional for the 2010-2011 school year, at the rate of \$11.00 per hour.

Mr. Brian Richards

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Brian Richards, as a Substitute Paraprofessional for the 2010-2011 school year, at the rate of \$11.00 per hour.

Home Tutor

Ms. Samantha Zaffiro

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Ms. Samantha Zaffiro for home tutoring on an as needed basis at a rate of \$45 an hour for the 2010-2011 school year.

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Ms. Kim Simon

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education grants Ms. Kim Simon unpaid leave of absence from on or about June 6, 2011 to on or about June 30, 2011.

Stipend

Ms. Lisa Harde

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Lisa Harde to fill the stipend position of Musical Costumer effective January 3, 2011 per contracted rate.

Student Teacher

Ms. Aileen Shaffer

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the recommendation of Ms. Aileen Shaffer as a Student Teacher for Mathematics & Physics in the MS/HS between January 18, 2011 and May 10, 2011.

Curriculum Work

Ms. Lauren Gardner

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the recommendation of Ms. Lauren Gardner for Curriculum Work, Project: Design Graphics for the Mission Project, 7 hours @ \$32.14/hr = \$225.00, to be completed by March 1, 2011.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Rhuda
District Clerk