

**NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NY 10560**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 7, 2005**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District of North Salem, New York, was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2005, in the North Salem Middle School Cafeteria. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Ms. Hublard Hershman.

Board

Members:

Douglas
Giamundo
Hart
Hershman
Martell
O'Meara
Palma

Present:

Ms. Carla Palma, President*
Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman**
Ms. Lisa Douglas***
Mr. Paul Giamundo
Ms. Norma Hart
Ms. Marie L. Martell
Mr. John O'Meara
*Arrived at 7:05 p.m.
**Arrived at 7:18 p.m.
***Arrived at 8:30 p.m.

Also Present:

Dr. Peter R. Litchka, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michael Courtney, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Personnel
Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Director of Finance
Mr. Noel MacCarry
Trooper Neil Merritt
Ross Garrett, Videographer
Student Representative, Leigh Smadbeck
Student Representative, Christopher DosSantos
Community and staff members-approximately 50

Pledge of Allegiance:

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Palma welcomed all present.

**Public Presentation and
Discussion:**

Facilities and Fields CAC - 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The possibility of constructing:

- **Multipurpose turf athletic field**
- **Lighting**
- **Tennis courts**

Mr. O'Meara began the meeting by presenting a brief overview on the following items:

Scheduling Impacts on Athletic Fields
Consistency
Safety
Enhancement of Fields

Ms. Hublard Hershman arrived at 7:18 p.m.

Facilities and Fields Citizens' Advisory Committee Proposals:

(Synthetic) Turf Fields↔Field Lights
Tennis Courts (4/6)↔Tennis Court Lights
Walkways↔Walkway Lights
Additional Parking Area↔Baseball Lights
Restrooms

Questions and answers followed.

Ms. Douglas arrived at 8:30 p.m.

Comments on Agenda Items:

There were none offered at this time.

Student Reports:

Student Representatives Leigh Smadbeck and Christopher DosSantos reported on the events happening in our schools.

Acceptance of Minutes:

On a motion by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. O'Meara and carried 6-0, the Board accepted the minutes of the Board of Education Meetings of October 6, 2005; October 20, 2005; and November 2, 2005.

President's Report:

Ms. Palma made mention that several Board members had attended a workshop on Fiscal Planning in Tarrytown. She stated that there were a series of new requirements that were discussed at this workshop. She asked that the information she had received be included in the Board packet on Friday. Please be sure to get a copy of the Certificate of Completion to Ms. Freer, District Clerk, for her records.

Board Member Reports:

Policy Committee

Ms. Hart reported that the Policy Committee meeting had been cancelled in November. The next meeting has been scheduled for December 20, 2005 @ 6:30 p.m. Ms. Hart stated that the committee has two (2) new policies to review: Health and Wellness and Homeless Students. She also stated that the Attendance Policy, as well as the Field Trip Policy will be discussed at the meeting scheduled for January 17, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m. At the meeting scheduled for February 7, 2006, they will be discussing Purchasing and Budget Transfers. The April meeting date is scheduled too late; therefore it will be rescheduled for sometime in March, at which time they will be discussing Internet Copyright Acceptance Use Policy/Email Policy.

Ms. Martell reported that the used book drive for the New York State School Boards Association brought in over sixty (60) boxes of books that were delivered to the Association on Friday, December 2nd. She noted that she and Ms. Rita Driscoll drove to Latham, New York, to deliver the books. They received a standing ovation. Ms. Martell thanked all those who participated to make this event possible: Dr. Cyganovich, Mr. DiGaetano, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Dzubak, Mrs. Reiner, Ms. Hendrie, Ms. Driscoll, the faculty, staff, students and parents of both the Middle School/High School and Pequenakonck Elementary School, as well as the generosity of Pequenakonck's PTO for their donation of \$1,000 in new books.

Curriculum Committee

Ms. Martell reported that the Curriculum Committee met to discuss learning styles and brain-based research. Dr. Bovino gave an overall view of what the Hidden Intelligence Committee has been doing and the Kaleidoscope Learning Style Inventory students have taken in grades 9-12 to determine what their learning style is audio, visual, tactual, or kinesthetic. Dr. Courtney reported to the committee the feedback that was given by teachers regarding how they are implementing some of the strategies in their classrooms that were provided through the workshop they attended. The committee also had discussion regarding AP Courses. The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee is scheduled for January 24, 2006.

Board Member Reports:

Facilities and Fields Turf Sub-Committee

Mr. Giamundo reported that the Facilities and Fields Turf Sub-Committee met

and discussed the legalities and next steps involved if they were to go out for a bond. It was mentioned that the District may want to have an environmental consultant come to a Board of Education meeting.

Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee

Ms. Palma reported that the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee will be breaking into sub-committees for the purpose of discussion on data collection; surveys; best of the breed; and long-term strategy components.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Litchka reported that he received a letter from Ms. Jo Drawec regarding the possible formulation of a North Salem Alumnae Association. Dr. Litchka said that he would move ahead with the plans to formulate an exploratory committee if it were the pleasure of the Board.

Dr. Litchka spoke briefly regarding the parking situation at the Middle School/High School.

He reported that on Friday morning he and Ms. Fassler-Wallach were going to attend a workshop with Alan Hevesi.

It was reported that the Town Highway Department, as well as Fleet Weather would be contacted in the event of inclement weather to provide information that would be used in the determination of any weather-related school delays and/or cancellations. Prior to 5:00 a.m. Mr. Waldron would notify the bus garage, administrators, and staff of any such occurrence. Cablevision 12 will also be notified.

Library - Changing Model - Mr. Noel MacCarry

Presentations:

Mr. Noel MacCarry gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled:

Pequenakonck School Library

Media Program

- Yesterday
- Today
- Tomorrow

In his presentation he reviewed the history of the library beginning with the past when the library had seventeen (17) half-hour classes; from there they went to thirty-four (34) forty-minute classes to today when they are using flexible scheduling. Following his presentation, Mr. MacCarry then offered some recommendations to the Board which he felt would enhance his program in the library. These recommendations included an increase in hours to allow for a full-time library assistant (currently the library assistant is assigned to the library 2/3 of the time); as well as the possibility of redesigning and refurbishing the existing space by the addition of new furniture, increased shelving; adding more computer space, sound and visual adaptations for learning and aesthetics, and architectural considerations.

D.A.R.E. - Dr. Michael Courtney and Trooper Neil Merritt

Dr. Courtney noted that Trooper Neil Merritt, who is now our Student Resource Officer, was here this evening to speak about D.A.R.E. He then turned it over to Trooper Merritt. Trooper Merritt spoke briefly regarding The New D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) Program and its curricula. Questions and answers followed.

Discussion Items:

Policy Reading: The Board will conduct the first reading of Proposed Policy #3490 - Use of Cellular Telephones

The Board conducted a first reading of Proposed Policy #3490. A brief discussion followed. No formal action was taken.

Policy Reading: The Board will conduct the first reading of Proposed Policy #3500 - School District Credit Cards

The Board conducted a first reading of Proposed Policy #3500. A brief discussion followed. No formal action was taken.

Policy Reading: The Board will conduct the first reading of Proposed Policy #8140 - Meetings and Conferences - Board of Education

The Board conducted a first reading of Proposed Policy #8140. A brief discussion followed. No formal action was taken.

Consent Agenda - Personnel Actions

On a motion by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. O'Meara and carried 7-0, the Board agreed to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented, in accordance with the following:

Amendments

Resolution amending resolution, dated July 5, 2005; amending title of committee from "Health and Wellness Committee" to "Health, Safety, and Wellness Committee".

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District be and hereby approves the amendment of a resolution adopted on July 5, 2005 at the Annual Reorganization Meeting, amending the title of committee and member listing, as follows:

FROM: Health and Wellness Committee

MEMBERS: Rita Marie Carey
William Dahl
Rita Driscoll
Nancy Griffin
Henry Sassone
Mary Sireci
Cyndi Spar
Member of the Clergy (TBD)
Student (TBD)

TO: Health, Safety, and Wellness Committee

MEMBERS: George Bovino
Rita Marie Carey
William Dahl
Donna DeMeo
Rita Driscoll
Nancy Griffin
MaryJo Hauser
Peter R. Litchka
Marc Miller
Msgr. James Moore
Susan Papp
Cyndi Spar-David
Rocco Staino
Mary Ellen Tiernan
Kenneth Waldron

and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution will be effective immediately.

Appointments

Instructional

Action Items:

Action Items:

Patrice Milillo, extension of long-term leave replacement for Mimma Bartholdi, effective September 1, 2005 through December 2, 2005 (amended from December 1, 2005)

Marc Albert, emergency conditional, long-term leave replacement for Scott Lenhart (FMLA), physics teacher, November 30, 2005 through December 23, 2005

Georgia Batey, substitute teacher, effective December 8, 2005

Edward Douglas, emergency conditional, long-term leave replacement for Kathryn Cammann (FMLA), sixth grade Mathematics teacher, December 6, 2005 through March 15, 2006

Michael Facciola, extension of long-term leave replacement for Stacy O'Donnell, December 26, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Stephanie Hill, substitute teacher, effective December 8, 2005

Karyn Johnson, AIS Support, English 6

Karyn Johnson, AIS Support, English 8

Catherine Murphy, substitute teacher, effective December 8, 2005

Eric Pechenko, AIS Support, Social Studies 8

Suzanne Platt-Taylor, AIS Support, Math 8

Chris Regan, AIS Support, Global History II

Janet Robinson, extension of long-term leave replacement for Amy Hester, December 2, 2005 through December 16, 2005

Elizabeth J. Tompkins, AIS Support, English 11

Laurel Tyson, substitute teacher, effective December 8, 2005

Non-Instructional

Patricia Banfield, parent representative CSE/CPSE

Patricia Gumbs, parent representative CSE/CPSE

Stephanie Lado, parent representative CSE/CPSE

Patricia Stepanovic, parent representative CSE/CPSE

Jennifer Ryan, emergency conditional, musical play director, 2005-2006 school year, per stipend schedule (\$3,442.00)

Lynda Vincent, student data management position, per stipend schedule

Leaves of Absence

Instructional

Stacy O'Donnell, English teacher, unpaid leave of absence beyond original FMLA leave (September 1, 2005-January 6, 2006), January 6, 2006 through June 30, 2006

All appointments of new staff are conditioned upon timely receipt of required criminal background check materials.

Acceptance of Gift of Microphones and Soundboard from Cablevision

On a motion by Ms. Hublard Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara and carried 7-0, the Board accepted the gift of microphones and soundboard from Cablevision with thanks.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports and the Activities Fund of October 2005

On a motion by Ms. Hublard Hershman, seconded by Ms. Douglas and carried 7-0, the Board accepted the Treasurer's Reports and the Activities Fund of

Action Items:

October 2005, as presented.

Approval of Resolution for Half-Day Dismissal Day in Order to Facilitate a Staff Development Day on April 18, 2006

On a motion by Ms. Hublard Hershman, seconded by Ms. Douglas and carried 7-0, the Board approved the resolution for half-day dismissal day in order to facilitate a staff development day on April 18, 2006.

There were none offered at this time.

Comments on Items not on the Agenda:

Old Business:

Agenda and Commencement Time for Board of Education Meetings

Mr. Giamundo suggested to the Board the possibility of changing the commencement time for the Board of Education meetings to begin with public session at 7:00 p.m., with a target time of 10:00 p.m. for adjournment of the public session of the meetings. This would then allow to Board to vote to enter executive session for the appropriate discussion of items not included on the public agenda from 10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Perhaps this would allow for the possibility of more public participation at the meetings, given an earlier starting and ending time for the meetings. A lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Giamundo made a motion for the Board to vote to at least try his suggestion. There being no second, Mr. Giamundo withdrew the original motion.

None was offered at this time.

New Business:

Consideration of Executive Session Subject to Board

Approval:

At 11:50 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Hublard Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara and carried 7-0, the Board voted to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Ms. Hublard Hershman was appointed Clerk *Pro Tem* for this executive session.

At 12:15 a.m., on a motion by Ms. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Hart, and carried 7-0, the Board adjourned executive session and reconvened to public session.

Reconvene to Public Session:

There was no further business before the Board and on a motion by Ms. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Hart and carried 7-0, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted,

(Minutes accepted at BOE meeting on
January 25, 2006.)

Marsha S. Freer, District Clerk