

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 14, 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 14, 2005, in the North Salem Middle School Cafeteria. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Ms. Hublard Hershman.

Board

Members:

Douglas
Giamundo
Hart
Hershman
Martell
O'Meara
Palma

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 8:02 p.m.
**Arrived at 7:09 p.m.
***Arrived at 7:18 p.m.

Present:

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. Henry Sassone, Athletic Director
Dr. Patricia Cyganovich, Principal, MS/HS
Ms. Roberta Reiner, Principal, PQ
Ross Garrett, Videographer
Community and staff members-approximately 35

Executive Session:

At 7:07 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Douglas and carried 4-0, the Board entered executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Ms. Fassler-Wallach was appointed Clerk *Pro Tem* for this executive session.

Reconvene to Public Session:

At 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. O'Meara, seconded by Ms. Douglas and carried 6-0, the Board reconvened to public session.
Ms. Palma arrived at 8:02 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

There were none offered at this time.

Comments on Agenda Items:

Ms. Palma stated that at our last Board meeting we asked for community members to submit any comments that they would like regarding the fields to the District Clerk's email address. She in turn will get copies to the members of the Board. Ms. Palma asked that the community continue to submit comments because they appreciate the feedback.

President's Report:

Ms. Hublard Hershman stated that last week she attended the Drama Club's presentation of "Inside the Mind of Neil Simon", which was a wonderful production from the kids and Jay Krass's drama club. She commented that it was nice to see them do a comedy.

Board Member Reports:

Dr. Litchka mentioned that the session with Alan Hevesi which was originally scheduled for December 9, 2006, was cancelled due to inclement weather, and has been rescheduled for January 13, 2006. He stated that Ms. Fassler-Wallach and he were both planning on being in attendance.

Superintendent's Report:

Follow-up Discussion - Athletic Resource Assessment

Mr. O'Meara reported that they had received questions from Board members,

Presentation/Discussion
Items:

with a number of assignments to take care of...they certainly deal with funding as a critical piece. Mr. O'Meara stated that he thought that if we were to have a vote tonight, it would not pass because the burden on taxpayers is too substantial. He noted that one of the things they need to see is some demonstration from some part of this community to say that funding would come. Some real proof that about one-third to one-half of the budget would come from private funding. It would take the creation of a committee or action group. He stated that Ms. Fassler-Wallach and Mr. Waldron are working on putting together the real dollars around an exact budget impact. Mr. Giamundo noted that at their meeting last night it was mentioned that many people are in support of the project, but they have concerns regarding the fundraising. More research has to be done to look at the ability of the community to be successful in the fundraising aspect. It was noted that the target date for a Board decision is scheduled for the second meeting in January. Mr. Giamundo stated that hopefully at our next Board meeting on January 4, 2006 we would have the environmental attorney present and he will give us the legal fees on the project. We will also have two (2) written proposals from project designers as to what it will cost us to move to the resolution portion of it. At this point, Ms. Palma opened up the floor to the public for any additional comments. Discussion followed.

Proposed Budget - Full Day Kindergarten - Ms. Roberta Reiner

Ms. Reiner reported that the current cost for the proposed full day kindergarten program would be much less than the presentation given to the Board of Education the previous year. Additional costs initially were projected at \$300,000, but now are at \$59,200. Ms. Beth Savarese, Ms. Lauren Hussey, and Ms. Beverly Mittelstadt, kindergarten teachers at Pequenakonck Elementary School, gave their views regarding full day kindergarten. Questions and answers followed.

Athletics and Co-Curricular Status Report - Dr. Patricia Cyganovich & Mr. Henry Sassone

Mr. Sassone reviewed the individual athletic teams and number of participants in each for the Spring of 2004-2005, Fall of 2005-2006 and Winter of 2005-2006. He stated that he would be recommending the following proposed new teams for the 2006-2007 school year:

- ✓ Modified Boys and Girls Winter Track
- ✓ Modified Boys and Girls Spring Track
- ✓ Varsity Boys Lacrosse
- ✓ Varsity Girls Lacrosse
- ✓ Bowling

Dr. Cyganovich reviewed the co-curricular activities offered for the 2005-2006 school year at both the middle school and high school levels. A historical review of the co-curricular activities at both the high school and middle school levels for the 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2005-2006 were also provided. Questions and answers followed.

Progress Report on Roof & HVAC Repairs (Mold) - Mr. Kenneth Waldron

In the absence of Mr. Waldron, who was taken ill, Ms. Fassler-Wallach provided the Board with an anticipated cost for the roof replacement. She reminded the

Items:
(continued)

Board that this estimate is only for the existing roofing...the old roof (not the new addition) at Pequenakonck Elementary School and the roof at the Middle School. The reports are calling the damages 100%, stating that they need to be replaced. The estimated cost of this work would be \$1.8 million.

Ms. Fassler-Wallach noted that the cost involved in any damages that are revealed after the old roofs are taken off is not included in the estimate. With the permission of the Board, the District would like to start legal proceedings against both GE Silicones and Hygrade Insulation.

2005/06 Teacher of the Year Update - Dr. Michael Courtney

Dr. Courtney stated that this would be the second year for the North Salem Central School District Teacher of the Year award. Mr. John Urgola, the 2005 NSCSD Teacher of the Year, is working on the state competition application. Dr. Courtney noted that the committee is currently comprised of twelve (12) members. The new brochures will be distributed in early January. The NSCSD selection committee is accepting nominations through February 17, 2006.

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Ms. Hublard Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara and carried 7-0, the Board approved the Consent Agenda, as presented at the meeting, in accordance with the following:

Appointments

Instructional

Patrice Milillo, substitute teacher, effective December 5, 2005

Non-Instructional

Ejll (Angel) Vljaj, emergency conditional probationary appointment, night custodian, Step One, Custodial Compensation Schedule C, effective December 15, 2005

Resignations

Non-Instructional

Marsha S. Freer, resignation from the position of District Clerk, effective at the close of business on December 30, 2005

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

Approval for the Disposal of Fixed Assets

1. Blogett RE-44 Oven Serial #0780J5972101
2. GE Commercial Equipment Model CN50
FAC CN50102208G001, 3hp, kw 6.2

Approval for the Transfer of Funds

<u>1. Account to Decrease</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account to Increase</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Grade 7-12 Teacher Salaries		BOES-Educational Technology CSC	

Action Items:
(continued)

A2110.130-00-0000	<u>\$142,500.00</u>	A2110.491-00-1000	<u>\$142,500.00</u>
	Total		<u>\$142,500.00</u>
<u>2. Account to Decrease</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account to Increase</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Building Repairs		Emergency Repairs	
A1621.428-03-0000	<u>\$15,000.00</u>	A1620.426-03-0000	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
	Total		<u>\$15,000.00</u>

Acceptance of Donation from the Booster Club

- One scoreboard for Tompkins Field
- One scoreboard to be used in combination for Field Hockey and Soccer located in the back of the school
- One scoreboard for the PQ softball field

Many thanks to the Booster Club for their continued support.

Ms. Palma took a moment to thank Marsha for her work as the District Clerk for the last year, filling in quickly. We appreciate your service. It's been a pleasure and I really appreciate your taking the time to work with us, especially when we were cut short. Thanks a lot.

Approval of the Recommendations of the CSE/CPSE

On a motion by Ms. Hublard Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara and carried 7-0, the Board approved the recommendations of the CSE/CPSE as presented. Ms. Martell noted that she met with Ms. Nancy Horsey and she agrees with the recommendations of the CSE/CPSE.

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

On a motion by Ms. Hublard Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara and carried 7-0, the Board accepted the second reading of Proposed Policy #8140, as presented at the meeting.

There were none offered at this time.

Comments on Items not on the Agenda:

Old Business:

Ms. Douglas questioned the Appropriation Status Report from the previous week. She would like to request that the Audit Committee receive a printout of all the money transfers that have been spent out of the North Salem CSD accounting; specifically the encumbered accounting money that is supposed to be going for fuel.

Ms. Martell asked for an explanation with regard to the situation involving the airing of our Board of Education meetings on Suscom, the cable station in Brewster. Mr. Giamundo responded by stating that he had contacted the cable company and made an appointment with them for next week.

Additionally Mr. Giamundo stated that he had been in Senator Liebell's office today and was trying to schedule an appointment for next week. Dr. Litchka stated that the original agreement was made between him and the Superintendent of the Brewster CSD, who said that there would be no problem with us latching onto their Tuesday evenings. The Brewster Superintendent said he had spoken

Old Business:
 (continued)

to his Board and everything was fine. In the meantime, he left and an Interim Superintendent was appointed, who “pulled the plug” because he was told to. When Dr. Litchka contacted him he said the reason was because they had received some complaints from Brewster residents asking why North Salem is on their station. Dr. Litchka stated that the next step would be to go to Suscom and ask if we can have another station to put North Salem things on because we have a number of residents who have Suscom as their cable company. Ms. Martell stated that according to the lateness report provided by Dr. Bovino, in the course of a two-week period, 91 of the reported absences were excused and 65 were unexcused. She stated that the cost involved in the mailing of these notices to parents amounted to \$121.00, which did not include the cost of supplies such as paper, envelopes, etc. and the human resources involved in both writing and mailing these notices. Ms. Martell respectfully requested what the next procedure would be in order to have this item added as a discussion item or motion for the next agenda or if this was something that could be decided as a Board-that only unexcused absence notices get mailed home to parents. Discussion followed.

New Business:

Ms. Martell noted reported on December 8th the New York State Regents decided to launch a new math exam for ninth graders in the spring of 2008. She quoted Newsday as saying: “The new algebra test will replace the state’s six (6) year old Math A exam, which is normally taken by students in the middle of 10th grade.” Once introduced, Algebra will be required for graduation. There was also talk of two (2) other tests being phased in; that of geometry in 2009 and trigonometry in 2010. Ms. Martell wanted to know how the District is preparing our current middle school students for this transition. She also asked whether or not the current PSAT scores have arrived yet.

Ms. Martell stated that she met with Ms. Fassler-Wallach with regard to some questions she had on the Appropriation Status Report. Her questions were as follows:

- A2110.400 Communication System Pace, which is our telephone automated response to parents and code A2630.400 Contractual - she asked for an explanation as to whether or not Notification Technologies is one in the same or different from Pace Communications.
- Additionally, Ms. Martell asked about the amounts that were frozen in different accounts to make sure we are in compliance with accounting regulations. She also asked for a detailed copy of the transfers.

Ms. Palma noted that the current policy regarding budget transfers states that transfers greater than \$10,000 shall be approved by the Board of Education. She stated that the current policy in place needs to be aligned with our current practices regarding budget transfers, which has been at \$5,000.

At 10:35 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Hublard Hershman, seconded by Ms. Martell and carried 7-0, the Board voted to return to executive session to discuss personnel. Ms. Fassler-Wallach was appointed Clerk *Pro Tem* for this executive session.

**Consideration of Executive
Session Subject to Board
Approval:**

At 10:42 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Palma, seconded by Ms. Hart and carried 7-0, the Board reconvened to public session.

Reconvene to Public Session:

There was no further business before the Board and on a motion by Ms. Palma, seconded by Ms. Hart and carried 7-0, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted,

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

Marsha S. Freer, District Clerk