

NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NORTH SALEM, NY 10560  
[www.northsalem.k12.ny.us](http://www.northsalem.k12.ny.us)

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 in the Board Conference Room, by President Carla Palma.

**Board members present at this time:**

Carla Palma, President  
Alison Hublard-Hershman, Vice President  
Marie Martell, Trustee  
Norma Hart, Trustee  
John O'Meara, Trustee  
Lisa Douglas, Trustee  
Paul Giamundo, Trustee

**Also present:**

Peter R. Litchka, Superintendent  
Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Director of Finance  
MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Personnel  
Jennifer Wilson, Educational Technology Customer Service Coordinator

**Executive Session**

At 7:01 motion was made by Alison Hublard-Hershman, seconded by John O'Meara, and carried, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Dr. Litchka was appointed Clerk Pro-Tem for the Executive Session.

At 8:20 p.m., a motion was made by Carla Palma, seconded by Alison Hublard-Hershman and carried to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene to public session. Public session was reconvened in the middle school cafeteria.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the Pledge, Board President Carla Palma welcomed all present.

**ACTION PERTAINING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None at this time.

**COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None at this time.

## **STUDENT REPORTS**

None at this time.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

None at this time.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Litchka stated that the math test regents scores were excellent. The majority scored at or above 85%. Social Studies assessment results were as follows: 97% of 5<sup>th</sup> graders scored at levels 3 and 4; level 4 being the standard of excellence. In comparison regionally, North Salem has tested the highest. Dr. Litchka also announced he will be interviewing the Board of Education student representatives on the next monthly television program.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Marie Martell reported on the Foundation for Learning.

- The Foundation will host a fundraiser on April 28 at the Salem Golf Club
- The Foundation is working on a brochure to get information out highlighting the Foundation's work and accomplishments.
- Upcoming interview on cable program with Dr. Bovino and Bill Pearson, Foundation President.
- Foundation website still a work in progress.
- Two grant requests submitted by the Art Department were granted – to display art at upcoming art show and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade legacy project.
- Next Foundation meeting will be February 16, 2006.

Paul Giamundo reported on the Facilities and Field Committee.

- Committee was briefed regarding donation of score board.
- Detailed discussion regarding the proposed sports complex.
- Committee is proposing daytime meetings.
- Committee feels Board needs to hear public comments before voting.

Carla Palma stated she is comfortable that the Board has received sufficient information to allow the Board to make their recommendations on the proposed sports complex.

Norma Hart reported on the Policy Committee.

- Committee will be meeting February 7, 2006 to discuss field trips, nepotism, and leave of absence and hiring practices.

Carla Palma reported that the Curriculum sub-committee will be meeting on February 28, 2006.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Special Education Status Report** – *Mrs. MaryJo Hauser*

Mrs. Hauser spoke about improving outcomes. The number of classified students has declined from 14% to 13% and she wants to work towards lowering the percentage. There is a distribution of Special Ed throughout the District between special (self-contained) and collaborative classes. Can these students make it in the mainstream and what support do they require? The number of North Salem students graduating with a regents diploma has increased. CPSE classified students have remained constant. With reference to the CSE referrals – the bulk of referrals are from grades K-5. Mrs. Hauser would like to close the gap between the number of student referrals to students classified. Section 504 students have remained constant overall. An example of a Section 504 reason for classification was given. Children diagnosed with ADD does not necessarily classify a student. Mrs. Hauser stated that North Salem’s Special Education goals include:

- Improve reading comprehension skills.
- Early intervention services.
- Professional development, i.e., workshops, etc.

North Salem will be looking at a curriculum based measurement and high quality reading instruction with research base, as we move forward. Federal law states that special education teachers must be highly qualified in all core areas. One way of achieving “highly qualified” status is through the SED’s Housse procedure. There must be in place a problem solving team vs. “what’s the problem with this child” team. There must also be a homeless liaison procedure in place. To improve academic and function outcomes, the special education team will be focusing on building skills, enhancing fluency, earlier identification and intervention, continued support and training for building level teams, and a three tier model of intervention.

### **Discussion** –

Mrs. Palma asked whether special ed students can take a regents subject and are the high school teachers qualified to support the students who have special needs in certain subjects.

Mrs. Hart questioned the budgetary implications of this program, i.e., training, seminars, etc.

Mr. Giamundo asked for clarification on how grant dollars are spent. Mrs. Hauser stated that grant money, approximately \$200,000 this year, is used to support the special ed programs and include the assistive technology such as computer purchase, training for teachers, and BOCES conferences.

### **Technology Update/Distance Learning**

*Mrs. Jennifer Wilson, Educational Technology Customer Service Coordinator*

Dr. Litchka stated that Jennifer Wilson has been with the North Salem Central School District for four months. Mrs. Wilson made a presentation to the Board entitled, “Crystal Ball”. Board members were provided with a handout to refer to during the presentation. Every child registering for kindergarten was born in the new millennium. Students now will be able to learn with technology, instead of learning about technology.

The virtual high school will give students a competitive edge when applying for college. There is a non-profit collaboration of more than 300 high schools offering innovative

online courses. Videoconferencing gives students the ability to connect with students from all over the world. Learningstation.com is a website that can be centered in your school district to run applications, programs, school resources and virtual education backpack. Mrs. Wilson will be supplying the Board members with a sample DVD.

**Discussion** –

Mrs. Palma asked what kind of server hardware is necessary to house all of these potential applications, etc.

Mrs. Hart questioned whether the present database should be integrated into a “master” database.

Mrs. Hart was curious as to the number of teachers who currently post homework on the website.

Mrs. Palma suggested adding this item to a future agenda.

Mrs. Palma inquired as to the conditions of our current inventory of computers.

Mrs. Wilson indicated that the computers are currently all in good working order.

**District Wide Safety Plan**

*Dr. Peter R. Litchka*

Dr. Litchka stated that this year we formed a District-Wide Safety Committee. Mrs. Martell has joined the committee as the Board Liaison. It is necessary to make the Plan available to the community before the Board can adopt the plan. It is anticipated that the Board will be in a position to adopt the plan at the March 1, 2006 Board meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the building safety issues that resulted during the damaging storms in January. The District does not have any source of back-up electricity (generators) large enough to handle what happened in January. The loss of heat in a part of the high school building caused pipes to freeze and resulted in significant damage to the heating system in a small number of classrooms. In addition, the building was without power and the telephone system was out of operation because of poles being downed during the windstorm. Dr. Litchka stated a more detailed report will be forthcoming. Dr. Litchka suggested that perhaps some assistance from the Town of North Salem, could be sought since North Salem High School has been designated as an emergency shelter.

**Discussion Items:**

Mrs. Palma read the discussion items below. Mrs. Palma stated that the Board will look to adopt the policies at the next meeting. Mrs. Palma indicated that copies of the proposed policies are available and located in the rear of the cafeteria.

**Policy Reading #9170** – Second reading of Proposed Policy #9170, Meals and Refreshments. No comments.

**Policy Reading #3500** – Second reading of Proposed Policy #3500, District Credit Cards. No comments.

**Policy Reading #5151** – Second reading of Proposed Policy #5151, Homeless Children, and Proposed Policy #5151-R, Homeless Children Regulations. No comments.

Resolution for Preliminary Authorization of a project at the June Road campus.

Proposed Joint Meeting between the Board of Education and the Town of North Salem.

### **Action Items**

Mrs. Palma recommended the Board consider a proposal on certain listing of items. The Board will have a discussion to add, delete, or do nothing.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Motion was made by Alison Hublard-Hershman, seconded by John O'Meara, and carried, 7-0, to approve the Consent Agenda.
- B. Policy Reading- The Board will conduct the third reading and adoption of Revised Policy #6150 – Budget Transfers.
- C. Approval of the Resolution for Preliminary Authorization of a Project at the June Road Campus.

John O'Meara made a motion, seconded by Paul Giamundo to accept Item C. The subcommittee would like to make further recommendations, i.e., present bond for public vote, and approve the expenditures, up to \$35,000, for consulting fees. Original budget was \$3.2 million. The subcommittee felt the scope of the project should be reduced. Recommended to exclude tennis courts, baseball lights, exterior restrooms from the publicly funded bond. Proposal includes the site work, turf fields, stands, walkways, parking areas, and lights along the fields and walkways. The net cost as presented is \$2,263,500. Mr. Giamundo agrees with Mr. O'Meara's proposal. His only concern is the deletion of the restrooms/concessions. Mr. Giamundo suggested putting it back into the project on a smaller scale.

Mrs. Palma stated that this is a good time for this project and feels certain that it adds value to our community. Mrs. Palma opened up this discussion to other Board members and the public.

Mr. John White made a presentation regarding the level of outstanding debt in North Salem. The presentation contained factual data on the debt. Mr. White recommends paying off the debt in 15 years.

Considerable discussion carried on regarding the Project at the June Road Campus. Board members voiced opinions.

- Mrs. Hart started off the discussion by stating that she does not feel this is the best use of educational tax dollars. Mrs. Hart feels the district cannot afford this project at this time, and that it is unlikely to have the support from the families in North Salem.
- Mrs. Martell feels that the school has more pressing issues to spend money on right now; replacing the roof, etc. and needed to hear answers to financial questions given to Ms. Fassler-Wallach

- Mrs. Hublard-Hershman feels that we need actual numbers. She suggested perhaps presenting a bond issue.
- Mrs. Palma stated that the Board must vote, at this meeting, whether to proceed with this project.
- Mr. O’Meara stated we are not allowed to put it forward in a Bond.
- Mr. Giamundo indicated that we must invest \$35,000 to survey this project.
- Mrs. Douglas feels the school cannot afford this project. She, too, is more concerned about the condition of the roof, etc.
- Mrs. Fassler-Wallach encumbered \$250,000 at the beginning of the year to transfer codes into energy codes. Because of the increase in energy costs. Energy costs will require \$125,000, leaving \$125,000, of which \$35,000 could be allocated to the architectural and legal fees necessary to move forward with the State Environmental Quality Review Assessment.
- Dr. Litchka suggested delaying the \$35,000 until July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mrs. Palma again stated that she would like to vote tonight on going forward with this project.
- Mr. Giamundo felt that one-third of this project has been cut. He feels we’re falling behind in the community with reference to school spirit.
- At 11:15 p.m., Mrs. Palma solicits opinion from the public regarding this proposal.

Mr. Andrew Brown commented that sports and education should be equal. Students who play sports have a 1-point higher grade average; drop-out rate is lower; and graduation rate is higher among students who play sports. Mr. Brown feels that this is an excellent venue to boost student’s self-esteem, and hopes the Board will consider this project. Mr. Brown presented the Board with 210 signatures and 99 e-mails from community members in support of this project.

Mrs. Jo Drawec commented on the postponement of making such a decision. Our budget cannot be taken for granted and perhaps we should be looking at a five-year plan.

Mr. Kevin Loftus feels there are liabilities involved in busing children to other schools’ fields. He also expressed concern that the schools may lose the use of Purdy’s Fields. He feels the people in the community should have the right to vote on this project.

The Board made a resolution to present a Bond to the public for vote unless costs are greater than 15%, or greater than \$2,263,500, subject to review by Counsel.

Mr. O’Meara made a motion, seconded by Mr. Giamundo. A poll was taken of Board Members.

- Mr. O’Meara – yes
- Mr. Giamundo – yes
- Mrs. Douglas – no
- Mrs. Hublard-Hershman – yes
- Mrs. Martell – yes
- Mrs. Palma – yes

Mrs. Hart – no  
Motion carried by a vote of 5 for; 2 against.

Mr. O’Meara rescinds his motion, seconded by Mr. Giamundo, and asked that the item be added to the next meeting’s agenda.

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the following as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools:

**PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

**Appointments**

**Carol Galligan**, part-time, three-hour teacher’s aide, effective February 2, 2006 through June 26, 2006

**Jayne Lamana**, probationary appointment, typist, step 1, CSEA clerical scale, effective February 2, 2006

**Patrick O’Connor**, bus driver, four (4) hours per day, Bus Driver Contract Schedule, change in status from Step P to Step 1, effective January 11, 2006

**Resignations**

**Catherine Sperry**, resignation from position as Office Assistant-Financial Support, effective at the close of business on February 10, 2006.

**Catherine Sperry**, resignation from position as Continuing Education Advisor, effective at the close of business on January 13, 2006.

**Leaves of Absence**

**Patricia A. Tompkins**, bus driver, leave of absence without pay, effective January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006

**NON-CONTRACTED PERSONNEL**

**Appointments**

**Dan Collea**, coach, modified softball, per stipend schedule

**Laura DelSavio**, advisor, Model UN Program, per stipend schedule (pro-rated at \$720.00)

**Louis Grasso**, coach, JV baseball, per stipend schedule

**Recisions**

**Lawrence Petriccione**, coach, boys modified lacrosse, per stipend schedule

**APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING**

**Approval for the Closing of Accounts**

<b><u>Bank</u></b>	<b><u>Account Number</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>	<b><u>Reason</u></b>	<b><u>Action Requested</u></b>
Chase	590-381903	\$.05	Inactive	Close account
Chase	590-381881	\$.05	Inactive	Close account

**Approval for the disposal of fixed assets:**

1. 1HVBBCFNOLH243136 - #90 – 1990 Bluebird/International 66-passenger bus, DT-360, automatic, air brakes. Mileage – 111,830
2. 1HVBBNEN4MH327667 - #96 – 1991 Bluebird/International, 66-passenger bus, DT-360, automatic, air brakes. Mileage – 125,800
3. 1GDHG39Y3TF505049 - #112 – Vancon/GMC, 16-passenger van 6.5L (non-turbo) automatic, mileage – 136,850

**Comments on Items not on Agenda**

Mrs. Palma suggested the following items be placed on future agenda:

- Communications
- Housing development
- Shared services between town and school
- School designated emergency shelter
- Legislative issues

**Old Business**

- Mrs. Martell brought up the issue of heat in the classrooms.
- Mr. Giamundo requested an update on custodial overtime.
- Mrs. Douglas questioned the implementation of a contingency plan to roll-over phone service to another party during an emergency.

**New Business**

- Mrs. Palma requested that any items Board members would like explored in the budget process that have not been identified at this time be submitted.
- Mrs. Douglas would like a strategy, or a plan, on how the \$100,000 line item for technology will be spent.
- Mrs. Martell questioned Mrs. Fassler-Wallach on the building reserve funds.

**Consideration of Executive Session**

At 12:10 a.m., a motion was made by John O’Meara, seconded by Norma Hart, and carried to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Dr. Litchka was appointed Clerk Pro-Tem for this Executive Session.

**Adjournment**

At 12:35 a.m., a motion was made by John O’Meara, seconded by Norma Hart, and carried to adjourn Executive Session.

