

NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
www.northsalem.k12.ny.us

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was held on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 in the middle school cafeteria. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Carla Palma.

Board Members Present at this Time

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

Also Present:

Peter R. Litchka, Superintendent
Michael Courtney, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Personnel
MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Personnel Services
Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Director of Finance

Executive Session

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Hart, seconded by Ms. Martell, and carried to enter into Executive Session. Ms. Fassler-Wallach was appointed Clerk Pro Tem for this Executive Session.

At 8:06 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. O'Meara, seconded by Ms. Martell, and carried to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene to Public Session in the middle school cafeteria.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After the Pledge, Ms. Palma welcomed all present.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Inquiry about Cablevision for Somers.
- Brewster has control over channel.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Carla Palma reported she will not be going to the March 24th meeting.
- Mid-Summer Nights Dream will be presented in May.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Peter R. Litchka

- Almost all of the district's test scores are improving. Slight drop in English Regents, Math B and US History and Government. Likely attributable to the performance of a single student. Not of significant concern.
- School improvement planning. This is first year for formal school improvement plans, and long term strategic planning committees. Teachers in both schools have been working on these plans under the leadership of Dr. Courtney.
- Science curriculum review for grades 5-12 to be sure we have an aligned science program.
- Strong commitment of District to staff development.
- Currently working on finding out how safe our students feel while in school.
- Policy and Wellness committees are drafting proposals.
- Our best interest to take a long, hard look and do a real, meaningful Wellness plan.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. O'Meara reported that March is PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) month at PQ. Lots of activities during the entire month at PQ. Mr. O'Meara encouraged members of the Board to participate. There are opportunities during the day and evening hours to do so.

Mr. Giamundo and **Ms. Martell** and **Ms. Hublard-Hershman** went to Legislative Breakfast meeting attended by Senator Nicholas Spano. School districts are encouraged to get involved. All agreed that state aid needs to be addressed. Full-day kindergarten will cost districts money. The current STAR program was based on home values from 1997. Assemblyman Stevens suggested it should be updated to reflect current home values, thus

saving homeowners more. E-mail addresses of our local legislators should be posted on our website and our community members/taxpayers encouraged to become more active in legislative process. Board members discussed the possibility of appointing legislative liaisons. We, (BOE) in the past had a Legislative Action Committee.

Mr. Giamundo reported that the Facilities Committee meets Friday. Some topics they will be discussing:

- Henry Sassone’s “wish list” for fields for upcoming Spring season.
- Master electrician, community member, will be explaining how District could benefit from a back-up generator.
- Paul and Ken Waldron were surveying possible dugouts when one of our school buses was involved in accident. (At this time Mr. Giamundo commended district employees involved at the scene of the accident – their response and professionalism).

Ms. Palma reported that the Long-Term Strategic Planning Committee met on March 7th. The committee is beginning to look at each initiative that Michael and the team has put together. The committee is in the process of prioritizing the input from the various sub-committees.

Petitions are available for people interested in running for the school board. There are two seats up for election this year. Membership on the school board requires a major commitment. Jennifer Wilson is in charge of running the District Budget vote and school board election. Community members interested may direct questions and inquiries to her. All information, including a time-line for those who may be interested is posted on our website.

There will be a Roundtable Discussion for School Board candidates on March 29th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the high school library.

The Fiscal Planning Committee is meeting on Friday, 3/10 at 8:30 a.m. and the Audit Committee is meeting on Wednesday, 3/15 at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Budget Presentation, Curriculum Development and Supervision

Dr. Michael Courtney

- We are looking at a 5.8% budget increase for Curriculum and Supervision. This is a 1% increase of our total budget. If you take

out salaries, it is less than .5%. We are not adding any additional staff.

- We are doing curriculum analyses to support new testing. Two new courses – history and physical education electives.
- No changes in equipment, travel, or staff allocations.

Ms. Palma asked about history elective and why we need another chemistry course. Ms. Martell asked about applied Biology requirement to graduate. Students are required to take regents exam. Can we offer biology without regents requirement. What need are we filling?

Community member asked if a course were to be cut, would we know that now? At this time, no. A class would only be cut in terms of enrollment. We will wait until course selections are made in April. At this time, there is no plan to cut any courses.

Ms. Palma made inquiry about science offerings. Some districts regents/honors classes are not offered, but instead offered AP classes. Ms. Hart stated that some districts do not have honors classes. Can we do a study of similarly sized schools to see what they are doing in this area. Also, does this budget reflect Math with a lab? No.

- An additional \$3,000 has been allocated for conferences, district-wide travel, etc.
- PQ to integrate activities under one umbrella. Different kinds of intervention strategies are being developed as part of report card to indicate whether students are meeting developmental milestones.
- Student and staff wellness – When people feel better, they can teach better and learn better.

Ms. Fassler-Wallach stated that last year's budget was built on 04-05 salaries. This year's budget is based on 06-07 salaries.

Mr. O'Meara – regarding salaries, would like a change from the old way, and total addition for doing new way and what we should look to see.

- Substitute clerical .5FTE position at PQ has been taken out of budget.
- Adult Education is 100% offsetting. It is a slight revenue maker.

- Only real new addition is full-day kindergarten. The rollover was 6.5%, but is is 8.5% overall.

Budget Presentation – Pupil Personnel Services

MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent

Guidance:

- New printer for guidance office.
- The addition of new counselor has given counselors additional student contact time, and reduced the student load for each counselor. They meet more consistently, and follow-up has improved.
- Travel and dues for guidance – important aspect of the college placement process is to understand the schools to which you are sending your students. This year guidance has used a little more of this money. We need to understand better what their plan is in this area.
- Dollars paid to other districts for health services for students we send out of district; we get money from other districts for this also. This amount may go higher.
- Three nurses – conferences, travel, dues money, enough for one conference per nurse per year.
- Supplies have increased. Nurses would like oximeter for each school to help with asthma control. Nurses have requested scrub uniforms for all three nurses. Two scrub suits and a lab coat per nurse. Projects professionalism, eliminate ruining clothing with bodily fluids, also ability to quickly identify, etc.

Budget Presentation – Special Education

MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent

- Home tutoring – increased
- Aides for special education students – continued need, no longer on grant funds
- Tuition for out-of-district placements – fewer of our students are attending BOCES programs. Every program is maintained as is. We are adding one additional aide.

Budget Presentation – BOCES

- Administration and rental – attendance and true value determined by BOCES
- Alternative high school (disabled students) has 3 students
- Learning center and SCD are consolidated to learning center Option 3. Increases by one tuition. We are not holding places for potential students.
- Career & Tech Ed. – calculated from last two years. Rate went down because our enrollment has gone down. Annual allocation based on 7 data points.
- Walkabout – Yorktown – All of our students who have attended this program have gone on to college. We have three (3) seats. Pre-screening is done by us and BOCES.
- Arts & Education and Environment & Outdoor Education Programs. Both have offsetting revenue. PTO and student charges, as well as BOCES aid. Budget is revenue driven.
- Also included in budget:
 - Young Authors Program
 - Writing Day
 - Women Helping Girls Make Choices
 - Destination Imagination
 - Evaluations
 - Curriculum Center
 - Library services/computer services
 - Technology coordinator salary & benefits
 - Internet and internet maintenance
 - Management services/sub-finder – not raising rates
 - Regional recruitment based on usage. Advertising, teachers, administrators, coaching positions.
 - Small districts need BOCES services/consultants; whereas larger districts may have own coordinator. BOCES is great value for our educational and administrative staffs.
 - Public relations – newsletters/mailings/brochures, writing and graphics.
 - Fingerprinting services (costs have not increased in years)

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Litchka – follow-ups, new courses

John O'Meara – concerns –

- One year contract & totally new way
- Substitute clerical
- Copying increases
- BOCES students classified and non-classified

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

APPOINTMENTS

Imre Berta, coach, tennis, emergency conditional appointment, per stipend schedule.

Edward Douglas, extension of appointment, long-term leave replacement for Kathryn Cammann (FMLA), sixth grade mathematics teacher, effective March 16, 2006 through June 30, 2006.

Donna I'Innocenzo, substitute teacher and substitute aide, grades K-5, effective March 9, 2006.

Patrice Milillo, extension of appointment, long-term leave replacement for **Lenora Bettcher**, (FMLA), second grade teacher, effective March 1, 2006 through March 28, 2006.

Zurab Mukhuradze, coach, tennis, emergency conditional appointment, per stipend schedule.

Steven Trinchillo, substitute teacher, grades 6-12, effective March 9, 2006.

Gerard Williams, substitute teacher, grades 6-12, effective March 9, 2006.

SALARY ADVANCEMENTS/LANE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 2/1/06

Name	Current Deg. Status	Current Step	New Lane Req.
Kathryn Cammann	MA	2	2F – MA30
Amy Hester	MA	7	7F - MA30
Tara Carl	BA	4	4D - MA

COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

- Ms.Martell – supervision and chaperone roles. Henry will be talking about selection process, numbers, etc. (per Peter)
- Tiles in high school computer room that were broken but not replaced. Will we be replacing all asbestos tiles?
- Policy book – Code of Conduct – has not received corrected copy.

- RFP's – Jennifer Wilson is bringing people in. She and Ms. Fassler-Wallach will be involved in process.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Giamundo stated the need to speak to principals – if any money were to be returned to their budgets, which codes do they need them in? Need better understanding of leftover encumbered money - @ \$90,000. Deadline for purchase orders is April 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion around need for new roof. Options – bond, insurance money, transfer from capital fund, roof and fields in same bond, new proposition on this years budget for a roof. (no). Further discussion on budgetary implications, time-line, very lengthy process with the SED, etc. Status of current water analysis?

CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.