

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:45 p.m., a motion was made by Carla Palma, seconded by Norma Hart, and carried to move into Executive Session.

At 7:00 p.m., a motion was made by John O'Meara, seconded by Marie Martell, and carried to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene to public session.

A District-wide Roundtable Discussion was held in the middle school cafeteria from 7-8 p.m.

The public session of the regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 8:23 p.m. by Board President Carla Palma.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dr. Michael Courtney, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Personnel  
Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Personnel Services  
Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Director of Finance  
Dr. Patricia Cyganovich, Principal, MS/HS  
Mrs. Roberta Reiner, Principal, PQ  
Mr. Henry Sassone, Athletic Director

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

After the Pledge, Ms. Palma welcomed all present.

## **ACTION PERTAINING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None at this time.

## **COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None at this time.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Minutes from 1/25/06, 2/1/06, 2/15/06 tabled. Added to next agenda.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### ***Carla Palma***

Several people who participated in Roundtable offered to help with budget communication process. Ms. Fassler-Wallach met with the Chamber of Commerce on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Plans for several other events prior to the vote on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

### ***Marie Martell***

- Paul and Marie attended presentation by Dr. Marcia Tate.
- The Halloran Wine-Tasting Fundraiser is this weekend. Percentage of profits go to scholarship fund.

### ***Paul Giamundo***

- Cable – NS is on cable for one night. Brewster School District has control. NS should be back on the air on Tuesdays @ 9 p.m.
- Sylvia and Paul met with Russ Davidson to discuss turf field. Developed timetable for development. Topographicals have been completed by the DEC. Have a definite plan of action.

### ***Carla Palma***

- Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- BOCES Budget vote is Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m.
- Currently have two community members interested in the two vacancies on the Board.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### ***Dr. Michael Courtney for Dr. Peter Litchka***

- Dr. Marcia Tate was here and presented to staff. Evaluations received were very positive.
- Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> is the North Salem Safety Summit. Representatives from Westchester County Emergency Planning and the Red Cross, as well as community organizations will be in attendance. Summit will be held at PQ from 10-2 in the Multi-Purpose Room.
- Helen Pashley's programs are coming to a conclusion.
- Teacher of the Year Initiative is under way. Interviewing candidates on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Teacher of the Year will be announced on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Finance Citizen's Advisory Committee

*Mr. John White*

- Rise in tax rate.
- Reduction of state aid.
- Allowing data to drive our work.
- Teaching cost – big number.
- Transportation and plant operations are very high for our district.
- Having smallest class size versus average class size is costing district \$3million +.
- No benefit seen to contract versus in-house transportation.
- Computer based learning is an area to look into further.
- Some districts not continuing to offer retirees health benefits.

Ms. Fassler-Wallach thanked Mr. White for an excellent presentation.

Ms. Palma also thanked all who participated on this committee for the tremendous amount of work.

## **AIS UPDATE**

*Dr. Michael Courtney*

- Measure of success –
- Compare test scores year-to-year –
- Annual testing will help us analyze the success rate of the program.
- At PQ special ed students receive services within their regular schedules. After school programs are also well attended.
- At MS/HS students are identified either by their scores that come with them from PQ or from teacher recommendations. An effort is made to schedule AIS for students to allow them to also take electives. Not always possible if student needs AIS support in more than one subject area. Increasing scores over the last several years was a result of providing additional support with our regular instruction. Special education students get the support in their special education program. We also have room for students who don't qualify for additional support but are recommended by their teachers. Support programs have been very helpful.

## **AP STUDENT SURVEYS**

*Dr. Michael Courtney*

- Twenty-five juniors and twenty-five seniors were surveyed.
- Of the AP courses offered, AP English and AP Calculus most popular.
- Student's perception is AP classes help them get prepared and accepted for college.
- Most students felt the courses met or exceeded their expectations.
- Only 10% felt the courses had fewer demands than expected.
- Some students felt the AP courses were very difficult and they weren't really prepared for them.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Proposed Budget – 2006-2007**

No comments at this time.

### **Eighth Grade Eligibility for Varsity Sports**

#### ***Henry Sassone***

- North Salem has adopted a new form for the selection process.
- Like most NYS policies, we can be more restrictive, but not less restrictive.
- Seventh graders are not allowed to participate.
- Eighth graders are allowed to participate in sports that are exclusive NS sports, but not any that are combined with John Jay.
- Athletic Director (Henry Sassone) administers the physical analysis of specific strengths to 8<sup>th</sup> graders looking to participate on the varsity level.
- NS has never granted a waiver to a student who does not show proficiency in all areas of physical ability, fitness, strength, and maturation. State standards vary depending on sport and the level you are trying out for.
- Selection criteria is not designed to provide opportunity when none exists. Sometimes allowing students to participate on higher levels does more harm than good. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders should participate at their own level. Participating at the varsity level, for younger kids, puts them in situations where peer pressure becomes greater; modified teams practice less, leaving more time for academics.

A community member expressed personal concerns and why NS is not in the practice of granting waivers. Questioned why granting a waiver is at the discretion of the Athletic Director and asked for a bonafide explanation regarding his personal situation.

- Mr. Sassone stated that it has been the philosophy of our district that we do not decide waivers on a case-by-case basis.

At this point, Ms. Palma tabled the conversation.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara to approve the Consent Agenda.

## **PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Appointments**

***Carole Lanzarone***, Alternate CSE Chairperson

***Joan Gabel-Myers***, substitute clerical, effective March 27, 2006.

***Patrice Milillo***, extension of long-term leave replacement from March 28, 2006 to March 31, 2006.

***Patrice Milillo***, long-term leave replacement for Marissa Oddo, (FMLA), fifth grade teacher, effective on or about May 1, 2006 to August 31, 2006.

***Ann Foster***, Director, musical portion of spring musical.

***Karyn Johnson***, advisor, Project S.T.A.N.D.

**Karen Koestner**, advisor, Project S.T.A.N.D.  
**Robert Gilchrist**, intramural coach, basketball and floor hockey

### **Corrections**

**Tara Caley**, appointed as spring track coach, varsity (girls) incorrectly on March 22, 2006 Consent Agenda. Correct appointment should read spring track coach, varsity (boys).

**Eric Pechenko** was appointed as advisor, fall intramurals, incorrectly on March 22, 2006 Consent Agenda. Correct appointment should read appointed as coach, fall intramurals.

### **RESIGNATION**

**Marsha S. Freer**, resignation as Secretary to Chief School Official, effective May 1, 2006.

### **APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CORSTAR COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Corstar Communications LLC to provide Managed Network and Technical Support Services for July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, with the ability to renew for up to three years upon mutual agreement and consideration.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS**

- Mr. and Mrs. Bryson - \$775.00 to purchase JV lacrosse uniform shirts.
- Mr. Sherman - \$300.00 to purchase modified lacrosse uniform shirts.
- Mr. and Mrs. Caulfield - \$500.00 to purchase modified lacrosse uniform shirts.

**APPROVAL OF THE DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS**, (per attached).

### **APPROVAL FOR INCLUSION IN THE CURRICULUM**

**Stargirl**, by Jerry Spinelli, ISBN#329-28320-0, for use in 7<sup>th</sup> grade English curriculum.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following appointments:  
Affirmative Action/EEOC, Sexual Harassment: **Kenneth Waldron**, Director of School Facilities, Operations, Maintenance and Transportation (replaces Ray Clauser).  
AHERA Officer: **Kenneth Waldron**, Director of School Facilities, Operations, Maintenance and Transportation (replaces Ray Clauser).  
Asbestos (LEA) Designee: **Kenneth Waldron**, Director of School Facilities, Operations, Maintenance and Transportation (replaces Ray Clauser).  
Safety Coordinator: **Kenneth Waldron**, Director of School Facilities, Operations, Maintenance and Transportation (replaces Ray Clauser).  
Chief of Election: **Jennifer Harriton-Wilson** (replaces Marsha Freer)  
Election Inspectors and Poll Workers: **Patricia Galluccio** (addition).

**APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF CSE/CPSE**

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O’Meara, and carried to approve.

**APPROVAL OF PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the Property Tax Report Card for the 2006-2007 school year.

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O’Meara, and carried to approve.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PUTNAM COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE CONTRACT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Real Property Tax Service Contract between the school district and the County of Putnam made effective as of March 31, 2006 with respect to the school district’s 2006-2007 tax roll be, and the same hereby is, ratified and approved.

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O’Meara, and carried to approve.

**RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COOPERATIVE BIDS OF THE SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES FOR THE 2006-2007 FISCALYEAR**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education adopts the attached resolution to participate in the cooperative bids of the Southern Westchester BOCES for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O’Meara, and carried to accept Resolution.

**ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURERS REPORT AND THE EXTRA CLASSROOM REPORT OF FEBRUARY, 2006.**

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O’Meara, and carried.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFER**

See attached	<u>\$330,217.01</u>	See attached	<u>\$330,271.01</u>
TOTAL	\$330,217.01		\$330,271.01

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O’Meara, and carried to approve.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET INCREASE**

<u>Revenue Appropriation to Increase</u>	<u>Budget Appropriation to Increase</u>
A2280 <u>\$30,000.00</u>	A2815.400.90.000 <u>\$30,000.00</u>
Health Services – other districts	Health Services – other districts

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O’Meara, and carried to approve.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET INCREASE**

<u>Revenue Appropriation to Increase</u>	<u>Budget Appropriation to Increase</u>
A1335.4 <u>\$5,265.00</u>	A2850.400-90-0000 <u>\$5,265.00</u>
Student fees and charges-ticket sales	Advisors’ Salaries – HS

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

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED 2006-2007 SCHOOL BUDGET**

**RESOLVED**, that the proposed budget for the 2006-2007 school year in the amount of \$35,549,785.00 be, and hereby is, adopted by the Board of Education.

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to accept.

**RESOLUTION RETAINING ARCHITECT FOR MS/HS TURF FIELD**

**RESOLVED**, the architectural firm of Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson Architects, P.C. is hereby retained as architect for the North Salem Central School District's Middle School/High School Turf Field on the terms and conditions of the architect's letter dated January 3, 2006, attached to and made a part of this motion.

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara and carried.

**RESOLUTION FOR PARTIAL TAX EXEMPTION FOR QUALIFIED PERSONS AGED 65 OR OLDER AND FOR QUALIFIED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOME**

**RESOLVED**, that real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or who qualify as persons with disabilities and limited income as defined by Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, shall be exempt from taxation by the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District of the Towns of North Salem and Somers in Westchester County, and the Towns of Carmel and Southeast in Putnam County, State of New York, to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation thereof, subject to the provisions and limitation contained in Sections 467 and 459 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York; provided however, that the property is vested in either the husband or the wife, the combined income of the husband and wife for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making the application for exemption is \$32,399.00. This exemption would be in effect from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

**ANNUAL INCOME**

**PERCENTAGE OF ASSESSED VALUE EXEMPT FROM TAXATION**

Up to and including \$24,000.00	50%
\$24,000.01 to \$24,999.99	45%
\$25,000.00 to \$25,999.99	40%
\$26,000.00 to \$26,999.99	35%
\$27,000.00 to \$27,899.99	30%
\$27,900.00 to \$28,799.99	25%
\$28,800.00 to \$29,699.99	20%
\$29,700.00 to \$30,599.00	15%
\$30,600.00 to \$31,499.99	10%
\$31,500.00 to \$32,399.99	5%
\$32,400 or more	Not eligible

*Be it further resolved*, that this resolution be effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

Motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried.

**COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA**

- We are spending less than average on sports than comparative districts.
- Steve Fuller – Commended the Board this evening for the process.
- Comments on science labs, schedule process, etc.
- Have still not received report on water quality.
- How do we become a designated emergency shelter?
- Comparison overtime report for last year and this year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Jgl  
5.13.06  
5.18.06