

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room by President Carla Palma.

At 6:33 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Ms. Hart, and carried, to enter into Executive Session.

At 8:10 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. O'Meara, seconded by Mr. Giamundo, and carried to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene to Public Session.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT THIS TIME

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

ALSO PRESENT AT THIS TIME

Dr. Peter R. Litchka, Superintendent
Dr. Michael Courtney, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Director of Finance
Dr. Patricia P. Cyganovich, Principal, MS/HS
Mrs. Roberta Reiner, Principal, PQ
Mr. Henry Sassone, Director, Physical Education

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After the Pledge, Ms. Palma welcomed all present.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Lengthy discussion among Board of Education members and members of the North Salem community. Following are highlights of discussion.

- Many, many parents did not vote.
- Journal News should print a retraction of comments regarding Dr. Litchka's comments.
- Need to re-emphasize how the school budget and success of schools impact property values.
- Just because something is good for students, not a good reason to put into budget.
- Cut where people said they wanted cuts.
- North Salem has an overstaffed teaching group.
- Must not ignore what voters are saying.
- AP classes are not electives – and are necessary.
- 23 votes is not a mandate – poor voter turnout.

Ms. Carla Palma

The Board was disappointed, as was I. It is unfortunate we did not have this kind of input two months ago. The Board has some ideas on what the next steps will be. Thanks to all who helped us build our budget and shared their opinions.

STUDENT REPORTS

None at this time.

ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDED MINUTES: March 1, 2006; March 8, 2006, March 15, 2006

A motion was made by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to accept the minutes of March 1. A motion was made by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to table the minutes of March 8 and 15 to allow noted corrections to be made.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Carla Palma

- Outstanding Science Students were recognized by Ciba. Three of our students have been accepted into the Ciba Summer Program.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

None at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Litchka wishes to congratulate Ms. Judy Schurmacher and Mr. Paul Giamundo on being elected to the Board of Education.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Food Service Update

Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach

- Bids will be returned to the District May 22, 2006.
- Working with consultant to determine needs
- Adding St. Joseph's can make it more cost-effective.
- We will not be cooking for St. Joseph's.
- Current program not addressing needs of the students or the adult population.
- Will be making a site visit to other schools who are using companies we know are submitting bids.
- The district will be guaranteed a surplus of \$15,000/year.
- Food, labor and miscellaneous expenses are included in the bids.
- We are hoping to have a bid for the Board to accept on June 7th.

Budget Update

Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach

Dr. Peter R. Litchka

If your budget fails, one option is to bring a reduced budget back to the voters on June 20th. The other option is to go directly to a contingency budget. The third option is to put the same budget (the budget that was defeated) back up to the voters on June 20th. This must be decided over the next couple of weeks. The Board of Education will have two public meetings – Tuesday, May 23rd, and Wednesday, May 24th. On May 30th, the Board will finalize and adopt the budget that will be presented to voters on June 20, 2006.

Contingency budget would result in us having to cut \$185,000 from the administration codes, \$1,003,000 from the program codes, and \$283,000 from the capital codes.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. Palma

We must make some cuts. I have experience with re-submitting the same budget and it was not a successful outcome.

Ms. Hart

I am not comfortable re-running the same budget.

Mr. O'Meara

We conduct budget hearings and make a responsible budget based on the information we have. We only hear about discontent from the public through the vote. We will be meeting next Tuesday and Wednesday and encourage you to come. Proposing the budget "as is" is not a reasonable response. The budget and propositions, if any, will be accepted or rejected by voters on June 20th.

Additional comments by community members:

- Rate of growth of the school budget is directly related to pension requirements.
- Seniors living on Peach Lake are being assessed an additional \$100/month for sewers. Many seniors voted no because of this other assessment.
- Need to get budget information to non-parent community members.
- Will current food service employees be with us with new food service contract?
- How much of the budget defeat is because of full-day kindergarten?
- We need to communicate to the parents the dates of the budget meetings and the second vote.
- We don't offer as wide an array of AP opportunities as other schools.
- We need to get the word out that we are starting to make changes. We need to start educating people on the issues.

Ms. Palma thanked everyone from the community for their input.

ACTION ITEMS
CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to accept the Consent Agenda.

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Resignations

Dr. Peter R. Litchka, Superintendent, North Salem Central School District, resignation effective at the close of business on August 7, 2006, with the intent to retire from New York State.

Amy DeCrenza, Secretary to School Official, resignation effective at the close of business on May 26, 2006.

Helen Phillips, Teacher Aide, resignation effective June 30, 2006, with the intent to retire.

Helen Anthony, Special Education Teacher, resignation effective June 30, 2006, with the intent to retire.

Emily Watson, Physical education teacher, resignation effective June 30, 2006, with the intent to retire.

APPOINTMENTS

Mary Lou Giannetto, recommended for Math B AIS

Dan Collea, recommended for Biology AIS

Jay Jazayeri, recommended for Math A AIS

Joan Gillroy, substitute teacher

Thei Johnson Cherry, substitute teacher

Marguerite Leder, substitute teacher

Deidre Tyson, as a teacher aide

APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS

<u>Account to decrease</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account to increase</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fuel oil		Propane gas	
1620.435-03-0000	\$3,057.50	A1620.400-03-1000	\$3,057.50
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$3,057.50</u>		<u>\$3,057.50</u>

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2006-2007, WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION.

A motion was made by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to accept the Slate of Officers and Executive Committee Members for 1006-1007, Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association.

POLICY READING

Policy 8635, Information Security Breach and Notification.

Postponed. Second reading will be at next meeting. Expect to adopt May 24, 2006.

Policy 9121, Nepotism and Significant Relationships. First reading of policy today, second reading May 23rd, expect to adopt May 24, 2006.

ACCEPTANCE OF VOTE – ANNUAL DISTRICT ELECTION AND BUDGET

APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA).

A motion was made by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to approve the collective bargaining agreement.

COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Food service employees will not be on school retirement system but will have option to join plans of food service management company.

NEW BUSINESS

We are still looking for a community member with appropriate credentials to serve on the Audit Committee.

CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:20 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. O'Meara, seconded by Mr. Giamundo, and carried to enter into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:15 a.m. a motion was made by Ms. Hublard-Hershman, seconded by Mr. O'Meara, and carried to adjourn Executive Session.