

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

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

I. Call to Order

- A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:43 pm in the Board Conference Room by President Marie Martell.

Board Members Present at this Meeting

Mrs. Marie Martell, President
Mr. Paul Giamundo, Trustee
Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman, Trustee
Ms. Carla Palma, Trustee
Ms. Judith Schurmacher, Trustee

Absent

Ms. Lisa Douglas, Vice President

II. Motion to Enter Executive Session

- At 6:45 pm, on a motion by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried, the Board moved to an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing specific personnel and litigation.

III. Motion to Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene to Public Session

- At 7:25 pm, on a motion by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried, the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened to the Public Session.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Announcements

A. School Board Recognition

- On behalf of the community, Dr. Freund acknowledged the Board of Education's dedication and presented the trustees with a token of the community's appreciation and a certificate from the New York State Board Association.

B. Referendum on 12/05/06

1. Dr. Freund reminded the public of the referendum on December 5, 2006 on the roof replacement/repair at PQ and the MS/HS. There will also be an election for a school Board Trustee.
2. Mrs. Martell announced that Lisa Douglas had submitted a letter of resignation as Trustee effective that evening. Board members expressed their regret and complimented Mrs. Douglas for her hard work in service of the District. The procedure for filling a vacancy on the Board was reviewed. Mr. O'Meara's seat will be filled in December. The candidate with the most votes will fill the remainder of the term. Dr. Freund will seek legal advice on options for filling the new Board of Education vacancy.

Motion to accept the resignation of Lisa Douglas, School Board Trustee to become effective immediately by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman. Vote: 5-0

C. Sex Offender Notification

- Dr. Freund announced that a letter was sent home to parents with the notification that a Class III Sex Offender has taken up residence in the District. Building Security is on high alert.
- State Senator Vincent Leibell, a special attendee, announced that he had secured \$60,000.00 in state funding on behalf of the District to provide security cameras and monitors for our schools. The Board of Education thanked Senator Leibell profusely for his continued support for our schools.

VI. Public Comments

- No citizen comments.

VII. Presentations

A. Grades 3 through 8 State Test Results

- Dr. Freund and Dr. Cyganovich presented the 3 through 8 New York State test results for 2005-06. Our results are very comparable to similar schools in Westchester identified as benchmarks by the New York State Education Department. The results have limited utility at this time, because we are waiting for specific test results so the data can be disaggregated and used to make informed decisions.

B. Budget Status Report

- Dr. Freund explained that from now on the Board of Education would be receiving a Budget Status Report at the end of each month and that it would be reviewed at the first meeting of the next month. Fund balance will be carefully monitored and the Board of Education will be informed of significant changes in the forecast each month. We will likely have a large fund balance again this year. Dr. Freund will work with the Fiscal Planning Committee to put forth a proposal to the Board of Education on how to dispose of the surplus. The Annual Fund Balance should be planned and carefully monitored. The Board of Education should decide on the planned balance as part of its budget deliberations.

Dr. Freund acknowledged Mr. Celente's role in forecasting this year's fund balance. He also acknowledged John White and the rest of the Fiscal Planning Committee.

C. Committee Updates

1. The Strategic Planning Committee met and formalized its role. It also heard a report from Dr. Courtney on Curriculum Council and Human Resources.
2. The Educational Technology Committee met to review its charge for the coming year.
3. The Facilities Committee met and discussed the roof project and began discussions on the process for developing its five year plan.
4. The Communication Committee met with a representative from Cablevision and its BOCES communications consultant. Discussion ensued on the limitations imposed by the reduction in the budget for communications.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman. The Board of Education approved the minutes of the October 18, 2006 meeting. Vote: 5-0.

IX. Action Items

A. Purchase Policy #6700R – Final Reading

- Motion by Carla Palma, second by Allison Hublard Hershman. Vote: 5-0.

B. Facility Policy and Regulations #R1500 – Final Reading

- Motion by Carla Palma, second by Allison Hublard Hershman. Vote: 5-0.

C. Sex Offender Notification Policy #5450.1 – First Reading of Revision

- No action taken.

D. Safety Plan – 2006-2007 Board Acceptance

- Motion by Carla Palma, second by Allison Hublard Hershman. Vote: 5-0.

E. 2005-2006 Audit Report

- Motion by Carla Palma, second by Allison Hublard Hershman. Vote: 5-0.

F. Modified Wrestling

- The Board of Education continued its discussion of modified wrestling. The Board of Education approved Modified Wrestling for 2006-07 as an independent sport. Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman. Vote: 5-0.
- Mr. Giamundo introduced a resolution to waive the Athletic Policy in order for an 8th grade wrestler to be selectively classified to compete as an independent varsity wrestler with the John Jay Wrestling Team.

It was seconded for discussion purposes by Mrs. Palma.

Debate on the resolution ensued. On the one hand, it was felt that the student should be given the opportunity to compete at his skill level; on the other hand, there is existing policy and the approval had broader policy and budget implications.

The motion was defeated on a 2-3 vote. Aye: Paul Giamundo, Allison Hublard Hershman. Naye: Marie Martell, Carla Palma, Judith Schurmacher.

G. Consent Agenda

- Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman. Vote: 5-0.

X. Old Business

A. Follow Up List

- Mr. Celente reported that NYSIR, our insurance carrier, would complete a Fixed Asset Inventory this year at no cost to the District. It will cost \$1,100.00 annually to keep it updated.
- The Board of Education wants to review the Athletic Policy as soon as possible.

XI. New Business

1. Driver Education – Dr. Freund was asked to determine what other districts charge and how often the program is offered.
2. The Board of Education requested an update on video conferencing from Mrs. Wilson.
3. The Board of Education asked if the budgeted amount for Guidance Counselors to visit colleges is being spent and where they have visited.
4. The Board of Education asked if our students are availing themselves of the opportunity to attend College Fairs.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn Public Session

- At 10:13 pm, on a motion by Carla Palma, seconded by Judy Schurmacher and carried 5-0, the meeting was adjourned.