

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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 6:30 p.m. 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

**II. Motion to Enter Executive Session**

- At 6:35 p.m., on a motion by Paul Giamundo, seconded by Judy Schurmacher 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 p.m., on a motion by Paul Giamundo, seconded by Judy Schurmacher and carried, the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened to the Public Session.

**IV. Pledge of Allegiance**

**V. Announcements**

**A. Referendum of December 5, 2006**

- Mrs. Martell reminded the attendees of the Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, 11/21/06, at the Middle School Cafeteria, at 7:00 p.m. regarding the Referendum and School Board Vacancy.

- Mrs. Martell announced the five individuals who will be on the ballot for the school board vacancy and the order they will appear on the ballot, as follows: Gary Windus, Katherine Daniels, Paul Smadbeck, Jonathan Freeman, and Karen Aronian.
- Mrs. Martell announced that Meet the Candidates night will be held on November 27, 2006 in the Middle School Cafeteria, at 7:30 p.m. This is sponsored by The League of Women Voters.
- Mrs. Martell read the procedures for voter registration and absentee ballots.
- Mrs. Martell acknowledged 2006-2007 AP scholars and handed out awards along with Dr. Freund and Dr. Cyganovich.
- Mrs. Martell discussed the Promising Practices award.
- Congratulations were offered to the girls varsity soccer team for going to state finals.
- District Safety Meeting was discussed.
- Middle School/High School PTO meeting – learning styles – was discussed.
- Mr. Giamundo, of the Facilities Committee, has been charged with identifying major projects and fields for the coming year and sending a prioritized list to Dr. Freund. A report was received from the roof designer and everything is on schedule. The State Education Department in charge of approving plans generally takes two to three months to review and approve plans. We are on a tight schedule and we must send this in within two weeks after December 5, 2006, to get it done next school year.
- Mrs. Palma posed a question about borings on the field, which is being scheduled on November 22, 2006, at 8:30 a.m.
- Mr. Giamundo mentioned that the luncheon at the Senior Center was well received and another invitation is expected for Dr. Freund and him.
- Fiscal Committee – discussed roof referendum and how to move forward.
- Town Task Force was rescheduled for November 30, 2006.

- Student Reports – Chris DosSantos and Kerry Casey reported on upcoming student events.
- Mrs. Martell, on behalf of the BOE, congratulated the MS/HS on receiving the Blue Ribbon Award. Dr. Cyganovich displayed the Blue Ribbon Award Plaque which she received in Washington DC and announced that this will be on permanent display in the lobby. The Blue Ribbon flag is now flying outside the MS/HS building.

## **VI. Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **VII. Presentations**

### **A. School Improvement Plans**

Dr. Cyganovich, MS/HS Principal, and Mrs. Reiner, PQ Principal, presented an extensive program regarding School Improvement Plans. Discussion was held on the expectations of teachers/students/parents and how the elementary programs prepares students for MS/HS. 2006-2007 is a baseline year since assessments are new and not comparable to past years. Discussions were held on the benefits and challenges for the new kindergarten program, as well as how parents can bring their own children to their highest levels of performance. Dr. Freund stated that it has been determined that effective schools are those with principals who are strong instructional leaders and we have that with both Dr. Cyganovich and Mrs. Reiner.

Mr. Gary Windus asked how many of NSCSD students are going on to college and, of those entering college, what is the actual percentage of college graduates? Dr. Cyganovich stated that no formal tracking is done to date and proposed being in touch with students five years after high school graduation to track this.

### **B. Budget Building Assumptions and Parameters**

Dr. Freund explained that he is receiving input from the Fiscal Planning Committee and that he is working very hard on building the coming year's budget. He explained that some of the important factors are: Number of students/cost per student needs; "in-the-box" and "out-of-the-box" factors; and, the need of looking at the big ticket items and the overall picture for programs and personnel. We will have a balance at the end of the year and it is being monitored carefully. The disposition of the fund balance is yet to be determined. The Fiscal Planning Committee will address this issue and Dr. Freund will bring the committee's recommendations before the Board. Mrs. Martell asked to see a percentage of what all the monies are and Dr. Freund stated he would present a pie chart explanation of same.

### **VIII. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman. The Board of Education approved the minutes of the November 1, 2006, meeting with the corrections to take Lisa Douglas' name off the first page and, on page 4, the first reading of the Sex Offender Notification. Vote: 5-0.

Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman. The Board of Education approved the minutes of the October 4, 2006, minutes. Vote: 5-0.

### **IX. Action Items**

**A.** Discussion was held on filling the second BOE vacancy. An option is to not fill it and another option is that the second highest vote recipient on 12/05/06 would be sworn in and would hold the position until 05/15/06, whereas the top vote recipient would hold the position until 06/30/06. Yet a third option is to hold a separate election. Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman to fill second BOE vacancy with second highest vote recipient. Vote: 5-0 after no discussion.

**B. Sex Offender Notification Policy #5450.1 – Adoption of Policy**

Motion by Alison Hublard Hershman, second by Carla Palma. Dr. Freund discussed protocol, which is in the file. Motion passed; vote: 5-0.

**C. GASB 45**

Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman. Discussion by Bob Celente included benefit of the health consortium to band together for greatly decreased cost for the calculation of medical insurance for future retirees. Carla Palma had concerns about timing and the experience and track record of the company and the selection process. Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman to table this item until there is more information available about the actuarial firm. Vote: 5-0.

**D. Real Property Tax Refund – Tax Parcel 26-1765-17, located at 161-169 Vail Lane, North Salem, NY**

Motion by Carla Palma, second by Judy Schurmacher. Accepted after no discussion. Vote: 5-0.

**E. Consent Agenda**

Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman. Discussion to change Margaret Ianniello compensation to \$9.50 for time spent as an election worker on 12/05/06. Vote: 5-0.

Discussion was held regarding the resignation of Dr. Michael Courtney, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Personnel. An interim administrator for the remainder of this school year is under consideration. No need for a search team for this permanent replacement – will advertise in mid-January 2007.

It was announced that Louise Lynch was appointed as the new Director of Business Administration with enthusiastic endorsement by the members of the Audit Committee. Her first day will be 12/18/06.

## **X. Old Business**

**A.** Dr. Freund discussed the Video Streaming Memo – It is a costly option for the residents in Brewster that cannot access the cable information. Brewster schools have decided not to grant access to North Salem information. Mrs. Martell will talk with the Brewster BOE President to see if some resolution can be reached.

**B.** Mrs. Martell found the summary of state reports and administrative time lines.

### **C. School Cafeteria Financial Solvency**

NSCSD is showing a marked increase in the number of servings per month, with an estimated profit of over \$1,000 per month. The food service vendor was asked to project the net revenue by the end of the year and they will be working on a point-of-sale system.

Health insurance coverage for the cafeteria workers was also discussed and whether the projected profit reflected this. Bob Celente remarked that he believed Aramark was paying the insurance premiums as of 10/01/06.

### **D. Driver's Education**

Information to follow shortly.

### **E. Guidance Counselor Visitations**

Discussion on the lengthy visitation list and explanation by Mary Jo Hauser.

### **F. Athletic Policy Review**

The Board of Education would like to have a small group working with Henry Sassone. Alison Hublard Hershman, Marie Martell and Carla Palma would like to sit on this committee and requested 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. meetings. Paul Giamundo volunteered to be an alternate. Discussion on whether parents/coaches/booster club members should be part of this committee.

- G. Audit Management Letter** – Re: Cornell Fund – Waiting for information. Remaining balance in the account is approximately \$600 and is tied to a scholarship. Once additional information is received, Management Letter will be amended.
- H. Fixed Asset Inventory** – Follow-up from Bob Celente. Target date of January or early February. Inventory will be done by the end of the year and should be completed in a week's time.

#### **XI. New Business**

##### **A. Water Quality**

Additional information will be forthcoming. Carla Palma spoke about past years' low water table which showed chemicals in the water system. Discussion ensued about Board of Health providing standard testing routine. Dr. Freund will obtain information and ask that when tests are generated, the Board of Education receive copies, as well.

##### **B. Open Land Purchase**

Open land purchases removes the properties from the tax rolls and places an additional burden on the taxpayers. It was proposed that someone from the Board of Education speak with the town regarding this subject.

#### **XII. Future Agenda Items**

- A. Public Hearing on the Roof Project** – Tuesday, November 21, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
- B. Candidates' Night** – Monday, November 27, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
- C. Special Meeting (Voting Day)** – Tuesday, December 5, 2006.

**XIII. Motion by Carla Palma, second by Alison Hublard Hershman to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session at 10:31 p.m. for the purpose of discussing specific personnel. Vote: 5-0.**

**XIV. At 10:45 p.m., Judy Shurmacher made a motion to end Executive Session and go into public session, second by Carla Palma. Vote: 5-0.**

**XV. Nominations for Vice President:**

Carla Palma made a motion to nominate Alison Hublard-Hershman, second by Judith Schurmacher.

Paul Giamundo made a motion to nominate himself for Vice President, as well as comments from the rest of the Board.

Judith Schurmacher moved to close the nominations, second by Carla Palma. Vote to close nominations: 5-0.

Vote for Vice President:

Carla Palma – Alison Hublard-Hershman  
Judith Schurmacher – Alison Hublard-Hershman  
Alison Hublard-Hershman – Alison Hublard-Hershman  
Marie L. Martell – Alison Hublard-Hershman  
Paul Giamundo – Paul Giamundo

Alison Hublard-Hersman, with a vote of 4-1, is elected Vice President.

**XVI.** At 11:05 p.m., Judith Schurmacher made a motion to adjourn to public session with a second by Alison Hublard-Hershman. Vote: 5-0.