

**NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008**

**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 PM in the Board Conference Room by President Marie Martell.

At 6:35 PM., a motion was made by Ms. Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and carried, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and specific personnel.

At 7:35 PM, on a motion made by Ms. Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Mr. Paul Smadbeck and carried, the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened to the Public Session.

**Board Members Present at this Meeting:**

Mrs. Marie L. Martell, President  
Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman, Vice-President  
Mr. Paul Giamundo, Trustee  
Ms. Judith Schurmacher, Trustee  
Ms. Katherine Daniels, Trustee  
Mr. Paul Smadbeck, Trustee  
Mr. Jonathan Freeman, Trustee

**Also Present:** Dr. Kenneth Freeston, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent Pupil Personnel  
Dr. Michael Hibbard, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Human Resources  
Ms. Louise Lynch, Director of Business Administration  
Ms. Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk  
Ms. Sarah Capichioni,  
Members of North Salem School District Staff  
Members of the Public

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Board President Ms. Marie Martell and followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Announcements**

The District Clerk made the following announcement; nominating petitions for candidates interested in running for a seat on the Board of Education are due in the District Office no later than Monday, April 14, 2008.

The qualifications to run are that the candidate must: be a United States Citizen, eighteen years old by the date of the election, a resident of the district for 30 days and registered in the school district.

The nominating packets will be available for pick up from the district office Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

Ms. Marie Martell reminded those interested in running for Board of Education Trustee that there are two seats open this year and that there will be a workshop for prospective Board Members, Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the Education House in White Plains. For more information contact the District Clerk.

Ms. Katherine Daniels reminded those interested in running that the nominating petition must be signed by 25 people.

Ms. Martell also congratulated the Boy's Basketball Team, who will play this weekend at the County Center.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Andrew Brown congratulated Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and all involved for a very successful High School Musical, *42nd Street*. Ms. Hublard Hershman stated that the musical had raised \$11,400.00.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 6, 2008.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Freeston commented on all of the athletic successes for North Salem recently in addition to the Boy's Basketball Team. The Ice Hockey Team finished with an 18-7 record, their best record yet, the Varsity Girl's Basketball Team finished with a 16-6 record their best record in ten years, one Freshman Varsity Wrestler won a Section One Title and a member of the Ski Team won an individual award and moved onto the State competitions.

Dr. Freeston reported that the budget count down is winding down to the next meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Director of Business Administration's Report**

The Director of Business Administration, Ms. Louise Lynch, reported on some of the items on the agenda, including the budget transfers and the financial reporting with the January Fund Balance projection.

There was a beef recall this past week and Ms. Lynch reported that she had confirmed with the food service provider for the district, that the district was not affected by this in any way.

Lastly, Ms. Lynch reported that the peer review was completed after months of planning. The group included a representative from the State Education Department, a Facilities Director, as well as two engineers. The review included interviewing many individuals from the district and reviewing best practices with regard to facilities maintenance and staffing. A report will be prepared and presented to the district and the Board. Ms. Lynch felt it was an exciting and interesting program.

Mr. Paul Giamundo asked Ms. Lynch about the Food Service Program and the possibility of a questionnaire going out to the district. With regard to any ongoing concerns that individuals have, Ms. Lynch reported that the e-mail address to send comments to, has been made readily available and that both she and Aramark are receiving e-mails. Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Chair of the Wellness Committee, stated that the committee is looking into whether or not to send out a questionnaire as they work on the committee's vision statement.

Mr. Giamundo also asked about the district receiving the contribution back from Aramark, Ms. Lynch stated that she is currently working with school counsel on that matter.

Ms. Marie Martell asked about the vending machines being filled to which Ms. Lynch responded that it is her understanding that they are being filled.

Ms. Martell asked about the timeline for the purchasing season and how the end of purchasing is handled via communication with staff. Ms. Lynch stated that she has not done this as of yet due to some outstanding purchases and estimates late April and early May to cover graduation items.

### **Board Reports**

Mr. Jonathan Freeman reported that the Technology Plan has been approved by the LHRIC (Lower Hudson Regional Information Center) through the year 2010 for e-rate funding.

Ms. Katherine Daniels reported on the Wellness Committee meeting during which the committee worked on the District Wellness Vision Statement.

Ms. Daniels reported that the Audit Committee met and reviewed the purchasing policy procedure and also reviewed the bids received (through an RFP) for the external auditor. Mr. Bob Herlihy will come to a future meeting to share the committee's recommendations.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee for Fiscal Planning will meet this week to discuss the March 5 presentation which will discuss the funding options for years 1, 2, 3 for the five year facilities plan.

Mr. Paul Giamundo stated that he attended the Communications Committee and that there was a good discussion on the district being more "green" by trying to eliminate duplicate mailings, putting two mailings in one envelope and using more e-mail communication.

Mr. Giamundo attended the Peer Review meeting and was pleased with the meeting and discussion; Mr. Giamundo liked the framework of the group which was to come up with best practices and not things that were being done wrong and also stated that the group validated a lot of the issues raised by the district architect.

Ms. Marie Martell stated that she had met with Dr. Freeston, Ms. Lynch and the peer review team this past week as they began their meetings and interviews with staff, parents and community members.

Ms. Martell reported that the Safety Committee discussed an off site evacuation drill for PQ, last year the off-site drill was completed for the High School Middle School. The final stages of the plan are being put into place.

Ms. Martell stated that March will be a very busy month with budget presentations and encouraged community members to attend the meetings; the website has agendas and presentation schedules posted.

### **Action Items**

#### **Budget Transfers**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 the Board of Education approved the following budget transfers.

**08-021**

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer \$16,000.00 from A 2010-150-04-0000 Curriculum, Development and Administration - Assistant Superintendent to A 2010-150-04-1500 Curriculum, Development and Administration – Mentoring.

**08-022**

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer \$2500.00 from A 2110-120-00-0000 Regular Day Instruction to A 2010-150- 04-1500 Curriculum, Development and Administration – Mentoring.

**08-023**

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$13,200.00 from A 9030-830-00-0000 Employee Benefits – FICA to A 1240-400-01-0000 Central Administration – Contractual.

**08-024**

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$2,080.00 from A 2110-130-00-0000 Regular Day Instruction – Salaries 7-12 to A 2010-150-04-1800 Curriculum, Development & Supervision – Orientation Salaries.

**08-025**

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$4,462.00 from A 2110-130-00-0000 Regular Day Instruction – Salaries 7-12 to A 2250-150-00-1000 Special Ed – Occupational Therapist Salary.

**Policy Adoption**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 the Board of Education adopted the following policies.

# **4321.6** The Board conducted the third and final reading and adoption of the policy titled, Availability of Alternative Format Instructional Materials for Students with Disabilities Policy.

# **2160** The Board conducted the second and final reading and adoption of the Revised Code of Ethics Policy.

**Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status and Revenue Status for the month ending December 31, 2007 and the Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status, Revenue Status and Fund Balance for the month ending January 31, 2008**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 the Board of Education accepted the following reports.

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status and Revenue Status for the month of December 2007 and Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status, Revenue Status and Fund Balance for the month ending January 2008.

### **Acceptance of Student Activities Reports for January 2008**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 the Board of Education accepted the following report.

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the acceptance of the Student Activities Reports for January 2008.

### **Acceptance of CSE and CPSE Reports dated February 27, 2008**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 the Board of Education accepted the following report.

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the acceptance of CSE and CPSE Reports dated February 27, 2008.

### **Consent Agenda**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 the Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda.

### **Personnel Recommendations**

#### **Appointments**

#### **Applied Behavior Analysis Consultant**

Ms. Elizabeth O'Brien

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Elizabeth O'Brien as an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) provider effective February 14, 2008 through June 30, 2008. This appointment will be satisfying a CSE recommendation for BA Therapy, two hours per week, at a rate of \$55.00 per hour.

Ms. Johanna Pfeiffer

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Johanna Pfeiffer as an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) provider effective February 14, 2008 through June 30, 2008. This appointment will be satisfying a CSE recommendation for BA Therapy, two hours per week, at a rate of \$35.00 per hour.

Both individuals serve as Teacher Assistants at the Fred S. Keller Special Education School for Preschool Children.

#### **Consultant**

Cheshire Fitness Zone

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Cheshire Fitness Zone as an itinerant provider of Physical Therapy Services effective January 2, 2008 through June 30, 2008 at a rate of \$52.50 per half hour. This appointment will be satisfying a CSE recommendation for Physical Therapy services, in an out-of-district school placement.

#### **Stipends**

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following individuals to fill the stipend positions as listed for the 2007-08 school year.

<u>Name of Individual</u>	<u>Stipend Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Louis Grasso	JV Baseball	\$4375.00
Bob Kear	JV Lacrosse (B)	\$4486.00
Patrice Farney	JV Lacrosse (G)	\$4732.00
Jordan Birdsall	Modified Baseball	\$3806.00
Eric Pechenko	Modified Lacrosse (B)	\$3848.00
James Barysh	Modified Lacrosse (G)	\$3848.00
Damien Holst	Modified Track & Field (B)	\$4391.00
John Davis	Modified Track & Field (G)	\$4391.00
Greg Blake	Varsity Baseball	\$5920.00
Chris Regan	Varsity Golf	\$3645.00
Brendan Curran	Varsity Lacrosse (B)	\$5916.00
Jennifer Pihota	Varsity Lacrosse (G)	\$5929.00
Bop Mittelstadt	Varsity Softball	\$7388.00
Tara Caley	Varsity Track & Field (B)	\$5913.00
Patricia Glover	Varsity Track & Field (G)	\$7278.00

### ***FMLA***

#### **Ms. Rebecca Narvaez**

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education grants Ms. Rebecca Narvaez, Secretary to Superintendent, a leave pursuant to FMLA effective on or about March 3, 2008 and following an unpaid child care leave of absence, Ms. Narvaez will return to work effective on or about May 1, 2008.

### **Discussion Item**

- **North Salem Volunteer Ambulance Corp/Croton Falls Volunteer Fire Department 10% school tax exemption**

Mr. Angelo D'Agostino, Vice President of the Croton Falls Volunteer Fire Department (CFVFD) and a Croton Falls Fire District Commissioner was present with other representatives from the fire district and ambulance core. Mr. D'Agostino spoke on behalf of the two volunteer agencies requesting the Board's consideration of a 10 % School Tax Exemption; this exemption would assist in the recruitment of more volunteers and help the core do more with less when trying to get more programs and services. This exemption has been showed to help in recruitment as an incentive and there are other Towns that have approved this exemption. The Board thanked Mr. D'Agostino for his request and for the information presented; Dr. Freeston will follow up with School Counsel and the Director of Business Administration to track the next steps to take.

- **2008-2009 School Calendar**

The draft calendar has been reviewed by the Union Executive Board, the Union President and the Teacher's Association and is the draft that the Superintendent is recommending to the Board for acceptance. The calendar will be put onto the next agenda for acceptance by the Board.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Rosamaria DosSantos stated that she had spoken to Senator Leibell recently regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in order to lend North Salem's support in his recommendation to restoring \$14 million dollars to the State Budget for the SRO program. Senator Leibell asked Ms. DosSantos to communicate to the district the fact that he is firmly committed to SRO program and will do everything he

can to get it put back into the budget; he also encourages community members to continue to write letters. Ms. DosSantos invited him to come to North Salem to rally support.

Ms. Katherine Daniels asked about the next step with the Geothermal Study and gave an article to the other Board Members about innovative ways to look at power and resources.

Ms. Louise Lynch stated that North Salem Capital Projects has been approved at the Facilities SED level and the project will be heading towards going out to bid. The project is an expedited project, budgeted for in the 07-08 budget, for HVAC work to the technology department, HVAC to special education offices, the water storage work and the generators.

### **New Business**

Ms. Judy Schurmacher asked about the budget presentations and the process that was streamlined last year, as well as keeping the presentation and public comment within a given time frame. Dr. Freeston reported that he is working with this streamlined process and will put the presentations at the beginning of the meetings and keep the presentations brief.

### **Adjournment**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rebecca Narvaez  
District Clerk