

**NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008**

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:32 PM in the Board Conference Room by President Marie Martell.

At 6:33 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 7:37 PM, on a motion made by Ms. Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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. 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. Sarah Capichioni, Administrative Clerk  
Members of North Salem School District Staff  
Members of the Public

**Absent:** Mr. Paul Smadbeck, Trustee

**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**

Ms. Marie Martell made the following announcement; the 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 21, 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.

Nominating packets for those interested in running for the Board of Education are available in the District Office.

The deadline to register to vote is May 13, 2008, applications for absentee ballots are available in the District Office. Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed to the voters should be received by May 12<sup>th</sup> by the District Clerk and those applications picked up in person should be received by May 19<sup>th</sup>. The District Clerk must receive absentee ballots by 5 PM on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Marie Martell also reminded those interested in running for Board of Education Trustee 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 at 5 Homeside Lane in White Plains.

## **Public Comments**

Mr. Pablo Rodriguez stated that he wished to appeal the suspension of his son to the Board of Education for 9 weeks.

Superintendent Kenneth Freeston stated that, as he had explained to Mr. Rodriguez in a previous meeting, student discipline matters cannot be discussed in public.

Mr. Rodriguez submitted a letter to Board of Education.

The Board of Education listened to comments and questions from members of the public and answered procedural questions. Some of the questions asked by the members of the public were:

- Can the Board lengthen the process for the appeal, to which Board President Ms. Marie Martell stated the process is part of policy number 5300, The Code of Conduct, which is part of the student handbook that every family in the district receives.
- How the ten days in the appeal process were counted, calendar days or school days and does the school vacation factor in.
- Is there a policy on criminal behavior-does it include punishing the child that reports the crime?

Dr. Freeston stated that there is a process set up by the State, for Superintendent Hearings, and these hearings and the entire process is conducted in accordance with New York State School Law.

Mr. Rodriguez stated to the Board that he felt that there were many concerned parties in the community and that he felt the school is sending the wrong message to the community.

### **Student Reports**

The student representatives from North Salem High School spoke of the recent and upcoming events in the High School/Middle School as well as the Elementary School. The two students spoke of a recent meeting with the Peer Review for Facilities during which the cutting of the SRO program was discussed and urged the public to contact State Legislators to voice opposition to the cutting of this program.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Freeston congratulated the Boys' Basketball Team on the recent victory and commented on the tremendous community support for the team.

### **Director of Business Administration Report**

The Internal Audit has been completed by Accume; the audit and updated the risk assessment should be available for the Board and the Audit Committee within the next 10 days.

The district sent out a request to Senator Vincent Leibell for a grant to increase funding for generators and emergency power back up.

Ms. Lynch stated that there had been a question from a Board Member regarding the set up of capital fund to which Ms. Lynch responded that there are several different ways to fund capital projects—in the last three years this district has not voted to establish a capital reserve, therefore, the district does transfers to capital funds through general fund appropriations from the annual budget.

Ms. Lynch stated that going forward the district will bid for Instructional Supplies and that the Board will see this year's bid awards on the a future agenda.

### **Board Reports**

Ms. Marie Martell reported on the Legislative Breakfast she had attended with the Superintendent and other members of the School Board. There were three questions asked to the legislators related to the property tax cap: BOCES Aid, Foundation Aid and how to help the legislators develop goals in relation to the proposed cuts. The legislators spoke of a broken promise from the governor who had promised to increase the Foundation Aid from 2% to 3%; also the regional cost factor was less because Westchester is grouped with upstate as opposed to Long Island and therefore Westchester does not get treated fairly. 25% of the cuts came from Westchester Schools.

The Pupil Personnel Committee met on March 4, 2008 to continue their work on the co-teaching model. A survey will go through BOCES to our component districts with questions on their co-teaching models and will be shared with the committee.

Mr. Paul Giamundo also attended and spoke about the Legislative Breakfast and the issue of the shifting of costs from the State to local governments.

Mr. Giamundo attended a symposium on creating healthy turf with fewer chemicals and will give the information to Mr. Ken Waldron, Director of Facilities and the Board.

Mr. Giamundo attended a Commission Meeting on tax relief chaired by Thomas Suozzi the County Executive from Nassau County. The meeting discussed the systemic problem of high taxes and how to create a tax cap and expense cap to control taxes.

### **Budget Work Session Presentations**

#### **Fiscal Committee Presentation - Mr. John White, Fiscal Committee**

Mr. John White, Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Fiscal Planning, gave a presentation looking at scenarios to fund the 15 million dollars for the Facilities plan with an additional 5 million dollars adding a turf field.

#### **Budget Overview – Superintendent Kenneth Freeston**

Dr. Freeston explained the budget overview presentation and recapped the previously stated goals stating that the numbers revolve around improved student performance, safety and wellness, as well as the development and support of leadership, to support student performance. Dr. Freeston's goal is that all budget deliberations be thoughtful, purposeful and measurable.

The model presented by Dr. Freeston examines current capacity to improve student performance, looking at what works and what does not work, and establishing goals that are best for the students. The model includes the development and cultivation of leadership roles for members of the organization that may not currently occupy leadership roles to achieve long term measurable goals and create annual doable student goals.

The five areas being recommended for funding are: Security, Science, Math, World Language, Music and Wellness.

The proposed increase for the budget is 5.45 %.

#### **Curriculum, Student Performance and Leadership Levers – Assistant Superintendent Michael Hibbard**

Dr. Hibbard discussed the proposed budget with respect to Curriculum, Student Performance and Leadership. The focus is to continue to improve student performance in math and science. Also the proposed model involves a concentration on creating, performing and responding to music, as well as world knowledge and wellness.

Dr. Hibbard stated that the continuous focus will remain on student performance including academic performance/testing, research projects, students' intro-personal performance (time management, organization skills), inter-personal performance and setting long term student performance goals that are doable.

#### **Building/Grounds/Transportation – Ken Waldron**

Mr. Ken Waldron gave an update on the upcoming year's operations and maintenance budget, recapping the past year's projects. Mr. Waldron reported most numbers particularly staffing, building and grounds are somewhat constant and are similar to this year's budget and that the numbers contain projections for fuel/utility costs which are somewhat unknowns due to rising costs.

Mr. Waldron proposed to catch up with the ten-year bus replacement schedule by replacing three six passenger buses, one van and one suburban.

### **Central Administration and Security Levers – Ken Freeston**

Dr. Freeston reported on increases to Central Services including the anticipated increases in election costs due to an upcoming referendum affecting next year's budget vote, an increase in Treasurer's stipend and an increase in liability insurance. Some security information was presented and the numbers will be given to the Board; there will also be information presented only to the Board in Executive Session.

### **Action Items**

#### **Recommendation of External Auditor for 2007-2008**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 the Board of Education approved the following resolution.

*RESOLVED*, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the firm of Bennett, Kielson, Storch & Desantis to be the external auditor for the 2007-2008 school year at a cost not to exceed \$32,500.

#### **Adoption of North Salem School Central School District 2008/2009 School Calendar**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 the Board of Education approved the following resolution.

*RESOLVED*, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the North Salem School District 2008/2009 School Calendar.

#### **Consent Agenda**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 the Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda.

#### **Certified Appointments**

##### **Mr. Joseph Cook**

*RESOLVED*, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Joseph Cook as a substitute teacher, Grades 6-12 all areas except PE, for the 2007-08 school year, at the substitute rate of \$85.00 per day for the first 10 days and \$95.00 per day thereafter, subject to fingerprint clearance.

##### **Mr. Gerard Percoco**

*RESOLVED*, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Gerard Percoco as a substitute teacher, Grades 6-12 all areas, for the 2007-08 school year, at the substitute rate of \$85.00 per day for the first 10 days and \$95.00 per day thereafter, subject to fingerprint clearance.

**Ms. Lia Buchanan**

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Lia Buchanan as a substitute teacher, Grades K-5, for the 2007-08 school year, at the substitute rate of \$85.00 per day for the first 10 days and \$95.00 per day thereafter, subject to fingerprint clearance.

**Approval of 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.

<b><u>Name of Individual</u></b>	<b><u>Stipend Title</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Bill Dahl	JV Softball Coach	\$4355.00
Emily Watson	Field Hockey Intramural	\$21.00 per hour (Chaperone Rate)

**Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session**

At 11:00 PM on a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and specific personnel.

**Adjournment**

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 adjourned the meeting at 12:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk