

**NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:27 PM in the Board Conference Room by President Marie Martell.

At 6:27 PM., a motion was made by Ms. Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo and carried, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

At 7:32 PM, on a motion made by Ms. Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Freeman 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
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
Dr. Patricia Cyganovich, Principal North Salem Middle School/High School
Ms. Roberta Reiner, Principal Pequenaconck Elementary School
Mr. Henry Sassone, Athletic Director
Ms. Sarah Capichioni, Administrative Clerk
Members of North Salem School District Staff
Members of the Public

Absent:

Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman, Vice-President

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by Board President Ms. Marie Martell and followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements

Ms. Sarah Capichioni made the following announcement; requests for transportation for private and parochial schools should be made to the Transportation Department by April 1, 2008.

Also, 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.

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

Ms. Rosemaria DosSantos, Co-President of North Salem High School/Middle School PTO, stated that Senator Leibell will be coming to the district on Tuesday, March 25th, at 2:15 PM to hear concerns from parents, faculty, staff and students regarding the proposed elimination of the School Resource Officer program by the State. Ms. DosSantos publicly invited all who can attend to come and show support for Senator Leibell, who is trying to get the money and program put back into the upcoming State budget.

Mr. Stephen Fuller thanked Dr. Freeston for adding to the Board packets letters from district teachers regarding the Instructional Technology Assistant position at the elementary school, proposed for next year's budget. Mr. Fuller advocated for this position, stating that immediate technological needs can be met for the teacher and the student's learning process can remain uninterrupted by having this kind of support. Mr. Fuller read the following excerpt from Dr. Mayer's (PQ reading specialist) letter to the Board-

“As a teacher here I have had occasion to go into a classroom where technology is being used; having that kind of assistance allows the teacher to concentrate on the lesson and children, and not have to wait due to hardware or connectivity issues. I have also benefited from having a technology instructional assistant as I have prepared for staff development courses this year. With the new initiatives in math and science, a technological person would be vital and offer real world experience. Technology is a critical tool in teaching to reach the end of the means and help students solve problems and allow for creativity”.

Mr. Fuller thanked the Board for their consideration.

Ms. Martell asked if this is a new position to which Ms. Roberta Reiner answered yes; currently if a teacher has a particular need help can be scheduled through Jennifer Wilson, the Director of Technology, for help with a specific lesson but there is not a person on staff. This would be a fulltime position working in classrooms and the portable lab.

As there was no more public comment, Ms. Marie Martell announced the budget hearing presentation agenda.

Budget Work Session Presentations

Budget Overview – Superintendent Kenneth Freeston

Dr. Freeston reported on the continuing budget overview stating that there were some technical adjustments made since the last meeting, not cuts, but working budget to budget new information found reflected new numbers and a decrease in the budget % increase for 2008-2009. The new number is 4.42% this includes the six areas of concentration that were previously highlighted.

Special Education and Pupil Services

Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, presented the budget for Special Education and Pupil Services for the 2008-2009 proposed budget focusing first on Special Education. The trend in the district shows a steady decline in the number of students as well as the percentage. This results from a variety of factors including: the re-engineering of child studies and support systems, delivering services more quickly with more direct focused special services, earlier identification and screening and an increase in the data collected. Ms. Hauser stated that overall while there are less students in the district these students generally have more significant problems and challenges.

There is only one change in staffing in the proposal, and this is to increase the Speech Therapist at the Middle School/High from .5 to .6 allowing for greater flexibility in scheduling one on one meetings with the children that require individual service.

Ms. Hauser presented the numbers for out of district services and stated that the more involved the student is, the greater the cost. A question was asked regarding the reimbursement for some of the cost to which Ms. Hauser responded that reimbursement takes years to receive and therefore the costs need to be included into the budget proposal.

A discussion took place regarding managing cost. Ms. Hauser stated that cost is always looked at and considered and that the goal is to try to serve as many students as possible in-house, however, the department also has to look at balance when it becomes a detriment to the other students.

Co-curricular Activities and Athletics

Mr. Henry Sassone, Athletic Director, presented the proposed budget for 2008-2009 Athletics stating that the number of teams will reduce by one in the next year with the merger of varsity football due to the student eligibility; this will take place for one year as there are students that will be eligible the following year.

Mr. Sassone showed that enrollment, programs as well as modified programs are growing with multiple awards, achievements and accomplishments reached by the athletes in these programs.

Mr. Sassone stated that 50 % of the increase proposed for next year's budget is to fully fund the Ice Hockey Program. The other percentage of the increase reflects the rising cost of fuel, freight cost and equipment as well as the administration fee of athletic programs by BOCES that increases next year.

A discussion took place regarding the cost of the Ice Hockey Program, Mr. Sassone stated that this program is extremely expensive due to equipment, ice time and officials.

Also discussed was the proposal to increase the chaperone rate and have more chaperones at events, there is a greater need for more chaperones and the increase would assist in finding additional chaperones. Mr. Sassone discussed the need for more chaperones at different events and how this is determined, the key being to keep the students and the environment safe.

A question was asked about looking to the future and keeping athletic costs in line to which Mr. Sassone stated to expect the same increases in the future due to the constants, however, it was stated that the Athletic Programs in the district may be meeting saturation will probably stay at about 59 teams. Mr. Sassone stated cost will go up every year, the department does its best to contain them with equipment, uniforms and staffing.

Dr. Patricia Cyganovich presented the proposed budget on co-curricular programs; program expansion will be supported through grant funding, the two programs being added are Peer Mediation and The Hidden Intelligence Club. Dr. Cyganovich gave an overview of the many different and diverse programs offered.

Public Comment

A discussion took place with regard to the Ice Hockey Program; parents with children involved in the program stated that it is difficult to understand why Ice Hockey is the only program in the school that is not fully funded and that the money spent by parents for uniforms and equipment is high, in addition to the dollars families have to pay for their children to be involved in the program.

Budget Work Session:

A budget work session took place during which the Board discussed which items to put onto the scorecard to be discussed further at the next meeting. The areas include: bus replacement, fuel, gas and diesel cost, exit interviews, the Ice Hockey Program, service contracts, and clerical codes.

Action Items

Budget Transfers

On a motion made by Ms. Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 that the following resolutions be approved:

08-026

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer \$63,500.00 from A 9020-820-90-0000 Employee Benefits-Retirement to A 1964-400-90-0000 Refund on Real Property Taxes for the 2007-2008 year.

08-027

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer \$474.00 from A 2110-450-31-2500 from Regular Day Instruction Materials and Supplies-Social Studies to A 2110-480-31-2500 Regular Day Instruction-Textbooks-Social Studies for the 2007-2008 year.

08-028

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer \$903.26 from A 2110-450-31-0000 from Regular Day Instruction Textbooks-CORE to A 2110-480-31-2500 Regular Day Instruction-Textbooks-Social Studies for the 2007-2008 year.

08-029

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer \$173.54 from A 2110-480-31-0000 from Regular Day Instruction Textbooks-English to A 2110-480-31-2500 Regular Day Instruction-Textbooks-Social Studies for the 2007-2008 year.

08-030

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer \$628.00 from A 2110-480-31-1600 from Regular Day Instruction Textbooks-World Language to A 2110-480-31-2500 Regular Day Instruction-Textbooks-Social Studies for the 2007-2008 year.

Adoption of Textbooks

On a motion made by Ms. Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 that the following resolution be approved:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the adoption of the following textbook, for the 2007-2008 school year:

Title	United States History
Authors	Emma J. Lapsansky-Werner Peter B. Levey Randy Roberts Alan Taylor
Publisher	Pearson Prentice Hall
Copyright Date	2008 by Pearson Education, Inc.

Mr. Paul Giamundo questioned the timing of the ordering of these textbooks to which Dr. Hibbard responded that it had to do with the publishing, availability and copyright date of the textbook.

Science Labs	Science Supplies
VWR/Sargent-Welch	Science Supplies
Ward's Natural Science	Science Supplies
Zams, Inc.	Science Supplies
Brodhead-Garrett Company	Technology Ed. Supplies
Midwest Technology Products	Technology Ed. Supplies
Paxton/Patterson LLC	Technology Ed. Supplies
Satco Supply	Technology Ed. Supplies
Aluminum Athletic Equipment	Athletic Supplies
ARC Sports	Athletic Supplies
Blue Star Sportswear Inc.	Athletic Supplies
Cannon Sports Inc.	Athletic Supplies
Circle/Schutt Reconditioning	Athletic Supplies
Jish Inc./Bill Pearson Sports	Athletic Supplies
Levy's Inc.	Athletic Supplies
Longstreth Sporting Goods	Athletic Supplies
Massapequa Soccer Shop	Athletic Supplies
Metuchen Center Inc.	Athletic Supplies
Passon's Sports/Sports Supply	Athletic Supplies
Port Jefferson Sporting Goods	Athletic Supplies
Pyramid School Products	Athletic Supplies
R&R Trophy & Sporting Goods	Athletic Supplies
Riddell/All American	Athletic Supplies
Sportsman's	Athletic Supplies

Acknowledgement of Tax Cert Obligation – Old Salem Farm

On a motion made by Ms. Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 that the following resolution be approved:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education acknowledges the judgment to refund taxes to Old Salem Farm Acquisition Corporation for tax years 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 in the total amount of \$84,243.38.

Increase Budget

On a motion made by Ms. Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 that the following resolution be approved:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education increases the budget as follows:

A2855-451-31-0000	<i>Uniforms</i>	\$1,000
A2770.00	<i>Other Unclassified Revenue</i>	\$1,000

Consent Agenda

On a motion made by Ms. Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 that the following resolution be approved:

Resignation

Mrs. Tiffany Zrodowski

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Mrs. Tiffany Zrodowski, first grade teacher at PQ, effective March 12, 2008.

Rescind

Ms. Lia Buchanan

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education rescind 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.

Appointments

Certified

Ms. Kathleen F. Bischoff

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Kathleen F. Bischoff as a substitute teacher, Grades 1-6, 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Kathleen F. Bischoff as the regular education teacher to the Preschool Committee on Special Education. This position is paid through the CPSE grant.

Classified

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 aide, K-5, for the 2007-08 school year, at an hourly rate of \$11.00, subject to fingerprint clearance.

Ms. Phyllis Campbell

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Phyllis Campbell as a clerical substitute assigned to the District Office, effective March 17, 2008 to May 2, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$16.00, subject to fingerprint clearance. Ms. Campbell will be replacing Mrs. Rebecca Narvaez who is on FMLA.

Mrs. Sarah Capichioni

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mrs. Sarah Capichioni as administrative support to the Superintendent of Schools and BOE during the FML leave of Mrs. Rebecca Narvaez, at an hourly rate of \$27.00.

Ms. Alicia Grasso

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Alicia Grasso as a substitute teacher aide, assigned to PQ, for the 2007-08 school year, at an hourly rate of \$11.00, subject to fingerprint clearance.

Ms. Karon Lawrence

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Karon Lawrence as a clerical substitute, for the 2007-08 school year, at an hourly rate of \$16.00, subject to fingerprint clearance.

Mr. Joseph Wooley

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Joseph Wooley as Discipline Hearing Officer, at an hourly rate of \$150.00.

Old Business

Ms. Marie Martell asked about the status on the Volunteer Firefighter/Ambulance Corp tax exemption, to which Ms. Louise Lynch answered information was still be gathered by the Volunteer Corp and the next step would be to present all the information to school counsel for advising.

Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session

At 9:50 PM on a motion made by Ms. Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk