

**NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:35 PM in the Board Conference Room by President Marie Martell.

At 6:36 PM., a motion was made by Mr. Paul Smadbeck, seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo and carried, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

At 7:37 PM, on a motion made by Ms. Katherine Daniels, 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:

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

Absent: Ms. Judith Schurmacher, 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. Pat Cyganovich, Principal of the High School/Middle School
Ms. Sarah Capichioni, Administrative Clerk
Members of North Salem School District Staff
Members of the Public

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 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 can 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.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 that the minutes from February 27, 2008 be approved.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Freeston recognized the North Salem High School student that donated a Zeiss Steim DV-4 stereo microscope won in a raffle at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair. Dr. Freeston congratulated the high school junior for placing third in the Engineering Division of the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair with a solar powered robot that clears leaves off a lawn.

Dr. Freeston commented on the end of the school year approaching and the events involved, and made a request to the Board regarding diplomas and graduation.

Board Reports

Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman congratulated the High School Drama Club for the wonderful production "All I ever need to know I learned in Kindergarten."

Mr. Paul Giamundo recapped the Communication Committee Meeting, stating that the committee remains committed to becoming as "green" as possible; an effort was made to consolidate mailings recently by the High School/Middle School.

Mr. Giamundo reported on the Facilities Committee Meeting during which the committee looked at the plans for the treatment plant being built and decided that close attention should be paid to the aesthetics of the exterior of the building, so that it conforms to those around.

Lastly, Mr. Giamundo met with Mr. MaryJo Hauser regarding the CSE and CPSE recommendations on the agenda, and complimented the new format.

Mr. Katherine Daniels commented on the last Wellness Committee meeting commenting on the excellent work being done; the committee continues working on the self-analysis and looking at district policy and safety issues.

Director of Business Administration's Report

Ms. Louise Lynch presented the Board with the State Budget information, the Westchester County and North Salem portion, which provides \$155,000 more aid than had been previously budgeted for.

Ms. Lynch talked about purchasing and the different ways districts can purchase items including public bids, State contract or through BOCES. When purchasing from a component BOCES, a resolution needs to come before the Board. Ms. Lynch stated that the district will be doing this in the future, to expand its purchasing options.

A discussion took place with regard to the budget status report and the unreserved fund balance in the general fund. Ms. Lynch explained the various details that work into the budget status report. Dr. Freeston offered that going forward an end of the fiscal year "scorecard" that would encompass particularly the larger items on the fund balance report to further clarify.

Ms. Louise Lynch presented the budget figures stemming from the work sessions and score card, presenting four different scenarios with regard to the local share and the Appropriated Fund Balance.

Action Items

Adoption of Proposed 2008-2009 School Budget in the amount of \$38,194,990

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 adopts the Proposed 2008-09 School Budget in the total amount of \$38,194,990. Said amount of \$38,194,990 to be proposed to the District's voters on May 20, 2008.

Approval of Property Tax Report Card for the 2008-09 school year

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 adopts the Property Tax Report Card.

Approval of Exemptions for the Elderly/Disabled Person

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 adopts the Exemptions for the Elderly/Disable Person

For the period commencing July 1, 2008

<u>Annual Income Exempt</u>	<u>Percent of Assessed Value From Taxation</u>
\$ 0.00 to \$ 28,000.00	50%
\$ 28,000.01 to \$ 28,999.99	45%
\$ 29,000.00 to \$ 29,999.99	40%
\$ 30,000.00 to \$ 30,999.99	35%
\$ 31,000.00 to \$ 31,899.99	30%
\$ 31,900.00 to \$ 32,799.99	25%
\$ 32,800.00 to \$ 33,699.99	20%
\$ 33,700.00 to \$ 34,599.99	15%
\$ 34,600.00 to \$ 35,499.99	10%
\$ 35,500.00 to \$ 36,399.99	05%

Budget Transfers

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

08-028

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of

Education approves the transfer of \$15,000.00 from Special Aid Fund A9901-950-000000- to Maintenance of Plant - Contractual – A1621-400-03-0000.

08-029

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$12,000.00 from Regular Day Instruction-Grades 7-12 Salaries – A2110-130-00-0000 to Refund on Real Property Taxes – A1964-400-90-0000.

08-030

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$7,200.00 from Regular Day Instruction-Grades K-3 Salaries – A2110-120-00-0000 to Regular Day Instruction – PQ Supplies- Science –A2110-450-11-2300.

08-031

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$3,300.00 from District Operated Transportation – Replacement Buses – A5510-210-02-000 to Regular Day Instruction – PQ Equipment- Science –A2110-200-11-2300.

08-032

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$7,500.00 from District Operated Transportation – Replacement Buses – A5510-210-02-000 to Security Equipment–A1625-200-00-000.

Acknowledgement of Tax Cert Obligation – John Aronian

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 John Aronian (or Counsel) for tax years 2003-2004 in the total amount of \$11,300.98.

Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status and Revenue Status for all funds for the month ending February 29, 2008 and the Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status, Revenue Status and Fund Balance for the month ending February 29, 2008

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status and Revenue Status for the month of February 2008.

Acceptance of Student Activities Reports from February 2008

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 acceptance of the Student Activities Report for February 2008.

Acceptance of Health Services contract for Non-Resident Students

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 acceptance of the contracts for health services provided to non- resident students enrolled in private or parochial schools within our boundaries.

Capital Project Completion

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 agree to return the unspent funds of \$765,686.47 in the form of a reduction to the tax levy as required by Education Law§3651 (5).

Acceptance of CSE and CPSE Reports dated April 9, 2008

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 acceptance of CSE and CPSE Reports dated April 9, 2008.

Gift Acceptance

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 gift of a Zeiss Steim DV-4 stereo microscope that was won in a raffle at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair. The microscope is valued at \$1675.00.**Adoption of**

Text Books

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman 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 2008-2009 school year:

Title Chemistry

Authors: Michael S. Matta

Dennis D. Staley

Edward L. Waterman

Antony C. Wilbraham

Publisher Pearson Prentice Hall

Copyright Date 2008 by Pearson Education, Inc.

Mr. Paul Giamundo expressed his concern over the approval of textbooks as well as the timing of the purchasing of the textbooks and requested more information be provided with regards to the recommending of textbooks from Dr. Hibbard. Dr. Freeston stated this textbook approval could not have taken place any earlier, due to Board approval of the Department Head.

Consent Agenda

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

Action Items

Personnel Recommendations

Resignation

Mr. Evan Horowitz

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Mr. Evan Horowitz, Chemistry Teacher, effective June 30, 2008.

Appointments

Certified

Ms. Ellen Fecci

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the emergency conditional appointment of Ms. Ellen Fecci, as a Leave Replacement Teacher for Ms. Mimma Bartholdi effective March 31, 2008 until on or about November 3, 2008, at an annual salary, to be prorated, of \$59,742, MA, Step 3, to serve at the pleasure of the Board. Ms. Fecci is certified as a Pre Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6 teacher, to serve in the schools of New York State. Ms. Fecci is replacing Ms. Mimma Bartholdi.

Ms. Maureen Haberstroh

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 52-week probationary appointment of Ms. Maureen Haberstroh as a Teacher Aide assigned to the MS/HS, effective April 7, 2008. Ms. Haberstroh will work 31.25 hours/week and will be placed on TAID, Step 1, at an hourly rate of \$13.79, subject to fingerprint clearance. Note: Ms. Haberstroh will be replacing Ms. Patricia Russell who is on a leave of absence.

Student Teacher

Mr. Bryan Lamana

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Bryan Lamana as a student teacher, Physical Education, in the Middle School/High School, effective March 25, 2008 to May 6, 2008. Ms. Mary Sireci will mentor Mr. Lamana.

Discussion Items

The Board conducted the first reading of Policy 5300 Appendix C Cyber Bullying.

Dr. Freeston stated that the Board had seen a version of this policy earlier this year and that there were questions as to whether or not to make this a policy stand on its own or incorporate it into the Code of Conduct (Policy 5300), the internet policy portion.

Mr. Paul Smadbeck asked the significance of the “on school grounds” portion of the policy to which Dr. Freeston responded gives the opportunity to bring the family in for more discussion on the situation. Legally, the “school grounds” portion needs to be incorporated into the policy and was added by School Counsel.

Mr. Jonathan Freeman suggested the Board expand the language to not only include students but also educators, faculty and administrators, and take a more modern approach to the wording of the policy.

A discussion took place with regard to the policy and who it should protect. Dr. Freeston suggested the union take a look at the issue as well.

Public Comments

Ms. Joan Kruzykowski asked about the tax exemptions approved on this agenda, and whether or not this is only respective to the 2008-2009 budget. Ms. Louise Lynch stated that these numbers generally change every year and are higher this year.

Mr. Bill Dahl asked about the approval for Ms. Ellen Fecci and the FMLA approval for Ms. Mimma Bartholdi.

Mr. Andrew Brown commented on the phrase “on school grounds” with regard to the Cyber bullying Policy stating that it gives the appearance of the school “washing their hands” of these issues. Mr. Brown stated that the language in the policy should reflect that the behavior or issues stems from something that happened at school.

Dr. Freeston responded to this by stating School Counsel advises that the phrase “on school grounds” be in the policy and that is what makes this a challenging policy to incorporate because the effects of the conduct very often take place off of school grounds, and it would be very hard for the school district to take action if this were the case. Dr. Freeston stated that the wording and the policy as a whole is to create was based on initiative by the Board not to constrict but to protect students and that the design of the policy was for the district to get more involved in helping with the problem.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk