

NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
www.northsalemsschools.org
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY MAY 7, 2008

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6.31 PM in the Board Conference Room by President Marie Martell.

At 6:31 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 contract negotiations and specific personnel.

At 7:30 PM, on a motion made by Ms. Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo 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
Ms. Judith Schurmacher, Trustee
Mr. Paul Giamundo, 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. Sarah Capichioni, Administrative Clerk
Mr. Henry Sassone, Athletic Director
Members of North Salem School District Staff
Mr. George Neuhaus, Audit Committee
Members of the Public

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Board President Ms. Marie Martell and followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements

Friday May 9th will be the League of Women Voters “Meet the Candidates Night” with the three candidates running for Board Trustee presenting and answering questions.

The School Budget Vote will take place on May 20, 2008 the polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM at the PQ Elementary School.

Student Recognition

The Winter 2008 Scholar Athlete Team Awards were presented to the student athletes, by Mr. Henry Sassone, Athletic Director.

Public Comment

Ms. Katherine Daniels commended Dr. Hibbard on his presentation to the PTO on the “Thinking Processes” remarking that it was fun and very informative.

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 from March 12, 2008, March 26, 2008 be approved and that the minutes from April 9, 2008 be approved with one modification.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Freeston stated that there will be “Committee Wrap-ups” -- verbal presentations to recap the year’s work, spread out over the next three Board Meetings.

Dr. Freeston publicly thanked the Director of Technology, Ms. Jennifer Wilson, for her leadership and hard work during her time in the district; stating that Ms. Wilson had recently found a new position.

Ms. Marie Martell also thanked and congratulated Ms. Jennifer Wilson on her new position.

Director of Business Administration’s Report

Ms. Louise Lynch reported the following

- An updated budget spreadsheet has been provided to the Board stating that the only change is in the projected expenditure which will continue to become more accurate as the year comes to a close
- There was an error in the budget information in *The Journal News*, that was off by \$8,000,000
- Aramark has been very responsive to incorporating healthier snack choices for students into the menu
- Construction bid openings for summer capital projects have been delayed due to lack of interest and a walk thru for the projects has been scheduled
- There will be many bid openings and RFP’s for professional services scheduled for the next couple of weeks

Board Reports

Mr. Paul Smadbeck reported on the Facilities Committee Meeting which discussed the following

- The Drinking Water Proposal
- An update on the geothermal testing results
- Discussion with regard to a costing estimator, to work collaboratively with the architect
- Update on current capital projects
- Renovation of the Math Classroom
- Turf Field Referendum--There is particular pre-construction work necessary for the field that would delay other projects, the committee was therefore unanimous that the turf field part of the Facilities Plan proceed as a separate referendum

Committee Report
Audit Committee

Mr. George Neuhaus reported on two separate meetings the committee had with the internal and external auditors.

With regard to the external audit and the completed external audit scope review, the auditors (Bennett Kielson) noted a couple of changes including how to incorporate the work from the internal auditors into their work and how to include the new risk assessment standards. Bennett Kielson will follow the same format this year with the audit, a balance sheet approach and will primarily focus on Accounts Payable above \$10,000 and larger encumbrances. The district will be required to have reporting mechanism for the employee retirement obligations, in place a year from now, to include in financial statement.

The committee also met with internal auditors (Accume), the results of the recent audit show that the internal controls are good, but the district still needs to have a Five Year Strategic Plan in place. Payroll shows some control deficiencies but the district is making the appropriate reviews and changes.

In terms of risk assessment and disaster recovery, while the risk has gone down due to a plan being put in place, the disaster recovery plan still needs to be tested.

The Audit Committee recommends that Bennett Kielson proceed with the external audit as planned. The committee recommends that the district do a Purchasing and Accounts Payable Internal Audit this year by June 30, 2008, and is asking the Board for approval to proceed with internal audit to review purchasing and accounts payable.

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

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the internal audit of purchasing and accounts payable by Accume at the contracted hourly rate.

Mr. Neuhaus stated that the committee is going to go over the Risk Assessment Update at the next Audit Committee Meeting.

The Board thanked Mr. Neuhaus for his presentation.

2008-09 Budget Public Hearing

The Board of Education held a Public Hearing on the 2008-2009 budget as required by law, on which qualified voters may vote on Tuesday May 20th from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on the budget and two seats on the Board of Education.

Action Items

Appointment of Elections Co-Chair

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

Resolved, that Ms. Jennifer Wilson be appointed as an Election Co-Chair for the 2007-2008 school year with no compensation.

Acceptance of CSE and CPSE Reports dated May 7, 2008

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 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 May 7, 2008.

Policy Adoption

The Board conducted the third and final reading and adoption of Policy #5300 Appendix C entitled Harassment, Hazing, Bullying and Cyber Bullying.

Consent Agenda

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

Appointments

Teacher Mentor Program

Ms. Mimma Bartholdi

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Ms. Mimma Bartholdi, Teacher Mentor Leave Replacement, Remedial Mathematic, Stipend \$1,000 prorated starting March 31, 2008 for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year.

Certified

WHEREAS, Mr. F. Thomas DiGaetano was employed as a teacher of chemistry in the School District from September 1, 2004 through August 4, 2006 pursuant to a two-year probationary appointment as provided for by Education Law § 2509(1)(a); and

WHEREAS, upon the affirmative recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education voted on May 3, 2006 to grant tenure to Mr. F. Thomas DiGaetano effective upon his first service following the expiration of his probationary appointment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. F. Thomas DiGaetano resigned his position in the School District effective August 4, 2006 for another opportunity, and without rendering any service past his probationary term; and

WHEREAS, Mr. F. Thomas DiGaetano desires to return to teaching service in the School District and the School District desires to secure his services; and

WHEREAS, the quality of Mr. F. Thomas DiGaetano's abilities and service has already been found to merit tenure in the School District as aforesaid; now, therefore, be it

BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. F. Thomas DiGaetano be and hereby is appointed effective September 1, 2008 as a teacher in the secondary science tenure area (chemistry), salary lane MA30, Step 25, with tenure as of his first day of service in 2008, but with seniority for other purposes dating only from the date of his teaching service pursuant to this appointment.

Old Business

Mr. Paul Giamundo and Dr. Hibbard spoke about a creating a new and improved survey for graduating seniors; Dr. Hibbard will speak to a few seniors before the year is out.

New Business

Ms. Marie Martell asked that the follow up list be put back in action and that any policies that need to be revised or adopted be put onto the upcoming agendas.

Mr. Paul Giamundo commended Mr. Ken Waldron on the gym floors.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Alison Hublard Hershman and seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo, the Board of Education voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk