

NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
www.northsalemsschools.org
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2008

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:33 PM in the Board Conference Room by Board President Katherine Daniels.

At 6:33 PM, a motion was made by Judith Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0), to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing specific matters of personnel and contract negotiations. Judith Schurmacher was appointed Clerk Pro-Tem for this Executive Session.

At 7:32 PM, on a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Smadbeck and carried (7-0), the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened to the Public Session.

Board Members Present at this Meeting:

Ms. Katherine Daniels, President
Ms. Judith Schurmacher, Vice-President
Mr. Paul Giamundo, Trustee
Mr. Paul Smadbeck, Trustee
Mr. Jonathan Freeman, Trustee
Mr. Stephen Bobolia, Trustee
Mr. Andrew Brown, Trustee

Also Present:

Dr. Kenneth Freeston, Superintendent
Dr. Michael Hibbard, Asst. Superintendent for Instruction and Human Resources
Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Asst. Superintendent for PPS
Ms. Louise Lynch, Business Administration
Dr. George Bovino, Asst. Principal HS/MS
Ms. Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk
Mr. Christopher Round, Chazen Companies
Members of North Salem Staff
Members of the Public

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by Katherine Daniels and followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements

Board President Katherine Daniels made the following announcements:

- Open House at BOCES for school board members
- WPSBA Joint Dinner will be on November 13th the topic is *Unspoken Truths about Financing Education*

- Peggy Zugibe has won the election for the Area 10 Director.

School Board Recognition

Dr. Freeston thanked the Board of Education in honor of Board Recognition week and formerly recognized the time and sacrifice each board member commits, by preparing and coming to each meeting. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to each member of the Board.

Dr. George Bovino remarked on what great role models the members of the North Salem Board of Education are and how refreshing it is to see such a collaborative working relationship. Dr. Bovino thanked the Board for their support of the work being done by the teachers and administrators.

Bill Dahl, President of the North Salem Teacher's Association, thanked the Board for the hard decisions that they have to make and commented that it is evident that the Board puts the students and teachers first when making these difficult decisions.

Rosemaria DosSantos, Co-president of the Middle School/High School PTO, thanked the Board for their volunteerism and presented the Board with t-shirts on behalf of both the PQ and Middle School/High School Parent Teacher Organizations.

Acceptance of Minutes

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried 7-0, the Board of Education voted to accept the minutes for October 7, 2008.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Freeston presented the Board with the closing of district schools early (half day) on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, stating it is more family-friendly.

Dr. Freeston remarked on recent attendance at the annual Tri-State meeting and remarked on a presentation regarding the notion that America is using standardized tests in the wrong way.

Director of Business Administration's Report

Louise Lynch reported on the following:

- Monthly expenditure report has been included in the Board packet.
- Memo regarding the reconciliation of the Aramark account for the last two years.
- A resolution to accept Omni as the 403b plan for the district after School Counsel has reviewed the contract.

Board Reports

Paul Giamundo reported on attending the Communications Committee meeting and mentioned that members are looking at other district's websites to look for additional information and links to incorporate onto North Salem's website.

Paul Smadbeck stated the North Salem Town website includes web casts of board meetings that allow visitors to click onto an agenda item and view the meeting; commenting that this might be something for the Communications Committee to explore.

Mr. Giamundo reported on his attendance at the NYSSBA convention.

Katherine Daniels reported, as the voting delegate to the convention. The recommendations of the resolution committee all carried. However, not all of the resolutions were recommended by the resolutions committee. North Salem's resolution regarding World Languages was moved onto the floor by another delegate and got substantial support. The Green High Performing Schools resolution was moved onto the floor but was defeated by a narrow margin of 124-116. Ms. Daniels stated that the Board should try again next year with both resolutions.

Presentations

Dr. Freeston recapped the process the Board has been going through with regard to the two separate facilities projects.

- The first facilities project involves the necessary items such as boilers, generators, geothermal maintenance, HVAC upgrades and codes, as well as ADA compliance. This project will move forward with a Board Workshop (tentatively scheduled for November 25) during which the Board will review each item on the necessary items list prepared by CS Arch and the Facilities Committee.
- The second project is separate from the above and involves the Facilities Committee's recommendation to construct an artificial turf field. This project will be presented to the public in a separate referendum, only after the first facilities project has been approved by the voters. As required by State law, the Board will conduct an environmental impact review under SEQRA before the turf field project can be presented to the public for a vote. At the September 17th meeting the Board authorized the expenditure of \$118,000 to complete the SEQRA review. On October 7, 2008, the Board limited the authorization for SEQRA expenditures to \$43,000, which is the amount necessary to cover the environmental studies that must be completed this fall and the scoping (including the public comment).

Chris Round, Chazen Companies, then recapped process and procedures for scoping. He stated that once a date is confirmed for the public comment portion, it will be advertised to the district.

Discussion followed that resulted in the public session for the scoping process, being scheduled for December 3, 2008.

Priorities and Perspectives for the 2009-2010 Budget

The Board and Superintendent discussed the upcoming budget process, the state of the economy and the challenges the district will face during the upcoming budget process. Dr. Freeston stated that the district has the structure in place to view how the budget work was done last year, the framework to look at the current capacity and this will shape how the district prioritizes for the 2009-2010 budget. The Board members were invited to share their priorities and perspectives for the upcoming budget, which they did. The Board members stressed the importance of fiscal restraint.

Action Items

Supplementary Auditing Services

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and voted 7-0 the board approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Proposal for Consulting Services for supplementary auditing services not to exceed the amount of \$13,000, based on the hourly rates and estimate dated October 10, 2008 and submitted by Safir Rosetti.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to sign the contract, dated October 10, 2008, with two modifications.

Approval New Course

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and voted 7-0 the board approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the addition of an Advanced Placement European History course to the North Salem Central School curriculum; this course will replace the Global History & Geography Honors Class.

Resolution in Support of Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrator’s Statement regarding Education as a Civil Right

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and voted 6-1, the board approved the following resolution:

The vote was as follows:

Katherine Daniels	Yes
Judith Schurmacher	Yes
Paul Giamundo	Yes
Paul Smadbeck	Yes
Jonathan Freeman	Yes
Stephen Bobolia	Yes
Andrew Brown	No

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District endorse the statement of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrators Association which appears herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk upon adoption of such resolution, through a certified statement notify the president of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrator’s Association of such adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools review the statement of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrators with building principals and other administrators with the expectation that principals will review the statement with respective faculty groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the statement of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrators Association that appears below be incorporated in to the minutes of these proceedings to see the commitment of the North Salem Central School District Board of Education to the principals outlined in the statement.

Statement of Putnam/Westchester Chief School Administrators Association

In the history of our nation and our world, race and religion have been both powerful and motivations for progress, as well as a source of conflict and intolerance. In fact, intolerance often extends to perceived abilities, socio-economic status, life style and beyond.

The Superintendents of the Putnam/Northern Westchester region, in concert with the New York State Council of School Superintendents, believe strongly that education is a civil right, which is essential to the achievement of the fundamental, inalienable right of equality.

We believe:

- All students must have access to a rich and challenging educational experience.
- All students must be provided the necessary support to achieve at a level that prepares them to be successful in the 21st century.
- All students should learn and value their roles as citizens in a global society.
- All students should embrace our differences and distinctiveness and understand that those characteristics contribute to the greater good.
- All students, when confronted with issues of intolerance, should challenge such attitudes appropriately.

We believe that as school district leaders, it is our responsibility to:

- Promote and support open and honest discussion about issues of intolerance.
- Create a climate of respect for all.
- Educate our students to appreciate and celebrate differences.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, Budget Status and Revenue Status, Expenditure Report for the month of September 2008

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and voted 7-0 the board approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Report, Budget Status and Revenue Status, Expenditure Report for the month of September 2008.

Acceptance Student Activity Report September 2008

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and voted 7-0 the board approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Student Activity Report for the month of September 2008.

Acceptance of CSE and CPSE dated October 22, 2008

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and voted 7-0 the board approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the acceptance of CSE and CPSE Reports dated October 22, 2008.

Budget Transfers

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and voted 7-0 the board approved the following budget transfers:

09-012

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$42,700 to A 2110-130-00-000 Regular Day Instruction Salaries 7 – 12 from A 9020-820-90-000 Employee Benefits – Retirement.

09-013

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$15,000 to A 1625-400-00-0000 Security of Plant – Professional Consultants from A 9010-810-90-0000 Employee Benefits – NYS Employees Retirement.

Consent Agenda

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and voted 7-0 the board approved the following Consent Agenda:

Appointment Certified

Ms. Ellen Fecci

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Ms. Fecci to the position of Grade 2 Leave Replacement effective on or about November 3, 2008 until on or about February 2, 2009. Ms. Fecci holds permanent certifications in G 1 thru 6. Ms. Fecci's placement on the schedule will be at the MA Step 4. Ms. Fecci will be a leave replacement for Ms. Anna Frates.

Ms. Regina Vassak

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Regina Vassak as a substitute teacher, Grades 6-12, for the 2008-2009 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.

Parent Training

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Gail Maisel, Social Worker, to provide parent training at an additional increase of one

hour per month at the rate of \$65 an hour not to exceed \$650 for the 2008-2009 school year. *This service is to accommodate mandated services to a student with disabilities.*

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 2008-2009 school year.

<u>Name of Individual</u>	<u>Stipend Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rocco Varuolo	District Chief Information Officer	\$10,000
Rosemaria DosSantos	Continuing Education	\$4,500
Mary Sireci	Coach Boys Varsity Ski Team	per contract

LANE ADVANCEMENTS – EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

Name	Current Degree Status	Current Step	New Lane Requested	New Salary
Danielle LaJoie	MA	9	MA 30	Per contract
Jennifer Pihota	MA	5	MA +30	Per contract

Public Comments

Mr. Bill Dahl, President of the North Salem Teacher’s Association, thanked the board for their hard work and pledged his support during the negotiations.

Adjournment

At 10:15 PM on a motion by Ms. Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Mr. Paul Giamundo and carried 7-0, the Board of Education moved to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Narvaez