

**NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 25, 2009**

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 Board President Katherine Daniels.

At 6:31 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. Judith Schurmacher was appointed Clerk Pro-Tem for this Executive Session.

At 7:32 PM, on a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Katherine Daniels 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, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources
Ms. Louise Lynch, Business Administration
Ms. Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk
Mr. Jeffrey Kehl, Counsel (Executive Session)
Members of North Salem Staff
Members of the Public

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Katherine Daniels and followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements

Board President Katherine Daniels made the following announcements:

- The nominating packets for Prospective School Board members will be available in the District Office on March 2--the 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 20, 2008 at 5 PM.

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.

- Ms. Daniels welcomed Mr. Gary Green the new Director of Facilities.

Public Comment

Ms. Joan Kruzykowski commented on the World Language Program and a letter she had written previously to the World Language Committee, asking that the program incorporate inclusion teachers to help students succeed. Ms. Kruzykowski stated that if there were inclusion teachers in the classrooms, she believed more kids would study foreign languages and would try for the advanced regents.

Acceptance of Minutes

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education accepted the minutes from January 21, 2009 and February 4, 2009 with noted changes.

Presentations

World Language Report - Ms. Elizabeth Carson-Tompkins

Department Chairperson, Ms. Carson-Tompkins presented a summary and report of the comprehensive language program offered by the district for grades 6 thru 12 including: combined classes in French, measurable goals to follow trends, enrollment demographics, curriculum and instruction.

Included in the presentation was the action plan for 08-09—

- *Improving Student Achievement as defined by the goals of the World Language Self Study*
- *Improving Student Achievement through continuation of World Language Self Study*

Ms. Carson-Tompkins finalized the presentation with the future questions still being explored by the department-

How to use technology more productively?

How to maintain enrollment through senior year?

Exploration of offering a third language.

Can the district introduce World Language at an elementary school level and in what ways would this type of program impact the Middle/High School classes?

2009-2010 Budget – Dr. Kenneth Freeston, Superintendent

Dr. Freeston presented the 2009-2010 budget with a 0% increase budget (08-09) to budget (09-10). Dr. Freeston stated that the goals listed are the same as last years, keeping student assessment at the center of the district's decision making. The goals are:

1. Strengthen our current capacity to achieve goals
2. Center on goals to improve student performance
3. Develop and support leadership for student performance
4. Deliberate collaboratively, thoughtfully, and purposefully

Dr. Freeston stated that there are new realities for school budgeting and that North Salem's 09-10 budget needs to impact the decisions that will be made for the next three years. The district needs to continue to build voter confidence as expressed by voter approval and the passing of the budget, as well as staying competitive with other high performing school districts. Dr. Freeston stated that successful schools will fund improvements by re-engineering current capacity not increasing it, given the current economic climate.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Freeston reported on the following:

- (Federal stimulus) It is unclear at this time how the federal stimulus package will impact North Salem, as of the most recent information received, it looks like special education will be targeted

primarily and that the funds will be aid based. Therefore, it is probable that wealthier districts or districts treated in the formula as wealthy, will not receive as much funding.

- (Proposed new expenses for school districts) Included in the Governor's budget is an increase in district costs for preschool special education, this has not been passed into law yet and therefore is not currently included in the 09-10 budget. A health benefits tax, which is a \$1 per claim tax on health claims that the district would have to pay. There have been changes in federal COBRA legislation, the laws that govern the way medical benefits are covered after employees leave a job. There will be increases in employer costs for involuntary terminations; more of the cost will now go to employer.

Director of Business Administration's Report

Louise Lynch reported on the following:

- The district will be celebrating National Breakfast Day on March 4th, there will be free breakfast for all students in both the elementary and middle school/high school.
- The estimated salary expenditures for 08-09, in the budget binders, include current salaries for all unit members that have a current contract. For unit members do not have an agreement the salaries are estimated at last year's levels, therefore when comparing the budget projection to the fund balance projection there will be a difference.
- There will be change orders from the summer construction projects for Board approval, on the next meeting agenda.

Warrant Report-Paul Smadbeck asked about numbers (transaction ID's) skipped when looking at the warrant report and what these numbers reflect. Also, Mr. Smadbeck asked about the signature pages within the warrant report that are different from each other. Ms. Lynch responded that the signatures look different because there are two signature pages one before the Claims Auditor reviews and one after and that the report sent to the Board included both pages. Ms. Lynch stated she would get back to the Board as to why there were skipped transaction ID's, but that she felt they were probably voided or adjusted transactions.

Board Reports

Paul Giamundo reported on the Communications Committee which met on February 10th and is continuing to work on paperless communications. The committee hopes to link with the Town website.

Mr. Giamundo attended the WPSBA Network Panel Discussion and worked with a team regarding community collaboration and shared services. Mr. Giamundo stated that many of the ideas expressed by the team were projects that this district is already doing.

Action Items

Substitute Nurses

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools be and hereby is authorized to ascertain, through advertisement and other appropriate inquiries, the availability of qualified school nurses to serve as substitute on an as-needed basis, at a daily rate of \$125, and to present a list of suitable candidates for the Board of Education's review and approval.

Unemployment Reserve – Increase Budget

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education increases the 2008-2009 budget by \$1,607.57 by reducing \$1607.57 from the existing unemployment reserve.

Insurance Funds – Increase Budget

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of School, the Board of Education approves the increase of the 2008-2009 budget by \$6,600 A 1621-409-03-0000 allocation of “grounds improvement” along with the revenue allocation of “insurance recoveries” A 2680 for \$6,600.

Member Grant Received – Increase Budget

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of School, the Board of Education approves the increase of the 2008-2009 budget by \$20,0000 A 1621-428-03-0000 (building improvements) and the respective revenue allocation A 3289 (other State Aid).

Acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status and Revenue Status, Expenditure Report for the month of January 2009.

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education 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 January 2009.

Acceptance Student Activity Report for January 2009

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education 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 January 2009.

Health and Welfare Service Contracts

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of School, the Board of Education approves the Dobbs Ferry UFSD health and welfare services contract for two students in the total amount of \$1,499.58.

Health and Welfare Service Contracts

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of School, the Board of Education approves the Katonah-Lewisboro Central School District - Health and Welfare services contract for one student in the total amount of \$925.49.

Health and Welfare Service Contracts

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of School, the Board of Education approves the Brewster Central School District - Health and Welfare services contract for ten students in the total amount of \$7,981.20.

Policy #4321.3 E.1 Independent Educational Evaluations 2008-2009

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the revised regulation of policy #4321.3 E.1 Independent Educational Evaluations/Fee Schedule for 2008-2009.

Consent Agenda

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0) the Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda:

Appointments Certified

Ms. Cynthia Sandler

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Ms. Cynthia Sandler to the position of School Media Specialist Leave Replacement on or about February 26, 2009 until on or about April 9, 2009. Ms. Sandler holds permanent certifications in English and is working towards a certification in Library Media Specialist. Ms. Sandler's placement on the schedule will be at the MA Step 1. Ms. Sandler will be a leave replacement for Mr. Rocco Staino.

Ms. Patricia Ryan

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Patricia Ryan as a substitute teacher, Grades K-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.

Ms. Kelly Gleeson-Mungovovan

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Kelly Gleeson-Mungovovan as a substitute teacher, Grades K-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.

Mr. Jason Clark

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Jason Clark as a substitute teacher, Grades K-5, 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.

Mr. Douglas Mitchell

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. Douglas Mitchell 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.

Ms. Jacqueline Bisnett

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Jacqueline Bisnett as a substitute teacher, Grades K-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.

Appointments Classified

Ms. Christine Wissel

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Christine Wissel as a Substitute Teacher Aide for grades K thru 5, for the 2008-2009 school year, at an hourly rate of \$11.00.

Amend

Mr. Michael Bartos

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 52-week probationary appointment of Mr. Michael Bartos as Senior Account Clerk, effective March 9, 2009, CSEA Clerical Schedule A with a respective 2008-2009 annual salary of \$48,474 (Step 6) pro-rated, subject to fingerprint clearance. Mr. Bartos will be replacing Ms. Sarah Capichioni who resigned. The effective date approved previously was February 26, 2009.

Approvals

Ms. Carole Galligan

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Ms. Carole Galligan to serve as 1-1 Teacher Aide for After School Support one day a weeks effective January 28, 2009 through April 2, 2009, at her regular rate. This is a CSE mandated recommendation to support a student in a PTO sponsored activity.

World Language Research and Reporting

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Ms. Miriam Eisenstein Ebsworth to provide research and reporting regarding elementary world language programs at a daily rate of \$100.00, contracted for ten hours.

Unpaid Leave of Absence

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education grants Ms. Lauren Svendsen-Gardner unpaid leave of absence from on or about April 13, 2009 to on or about May 11, 2009.

Stipends

Rescind

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education rescinds the appointment of Bill Dahl for the stipend position of JV Softball coach previously appointed on July 16, 2008.

Appoint

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> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Neil Broderick | Volleyball Intramurals | \$21 per hour for 4 hours |
| Nicholas Kowgios | Test Debate/Test Analysis | \$100 per hour |
| Emily Watson | Advisor for Field Hockey Advisor | \$21 per hour for 5 hours |
| James Barysh | Modified Girls Lacrosse | per contract |
| Greg Blake | Varsity Baseball | per contract |
| Brendan Curran | Varsity Boys Lacrosse | per contract |
| Bill Dahl | Modified Softball | per contract |
| Patrice Farney | JV Girls Lacrosse | per contract |
| Lou Grasso | JV Baseball | per contract |
| Jen Pihota | Varsity Girls Lacrosse | per contract |
| Timothy Collins | JV Lacrosse Coach-Spring | per contract |
| Bill Fisher | Volunteer Varsity Baseball | no compensation |

Step and Lane Advancements – Effective February 1, 2009

| Name | Current Degree Status | Current Step | New Lane Requested | New Salary |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Eric Pechenko | MA-30 | Step 8 | MA-60 Step 8 | \$ 91,889 |

Old Business

Dr. Freeston stated that at the last board meeting a question was raised regarding the wrestling program and the sports mergers. Dr. Freeston stated that the issue is in the hands of the Athletic Director of the other school district, and that no decision has been made by the other district at this time.

Paul Giamundo asked about the Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and when the item would come before the Board.

Paul Smadbeck explained that he had met with representatives from the Town and from the fire department and that the agreement at the three-party meeting was to use the state standards for determining which members would qualify for the proposed benefit. The fire department has subsequently adopted a different standard in a recent modification of their by-laws. The Board will address the matter in April.

Andrew Brown asked when the next policy meeting would take place. Dr. Freeston responded that it will wait until after this next month of budget meetings.

Mr. Brown commented on a newspaper report that a representative from BOCES gave a presentation at PQ regarding environmental issues and impacts. Mr. Brown expressed concern that the segment of the presentation, regarding the effect of bottled water on the environment, may not have been balanced. He stated that given the practices in place throughout the district, with regard to bottled water, the presentation may have been confusing to elementary aged children. He also conveyed his hope that this presentation would be clarified for the students in the future.

Public Comments

Joan Kruzykowski thanked the Board and the Administration for their hard work on the budget and commended them on a job well done.

Paul Giamundo complimented Rosemaria DosSantos on a job well done with the Continuing Education brochure.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried 7-0 the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk