

NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
www.northsalemsschools.org
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2009

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:32 PM in the Board Conference Room by Board President Katherine Daniels.

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

At 7:31 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. MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services
Dr. Patricia Cyganovich, Principal of Middle School/High School
Ms. Roberta Reiner, Principal of Pequenakonck Elementary School
Ms. Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk
Members of North Salem Staff
Members of the Public

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Katherine Daniels and followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements

Jon Freeman announced that the North Salem Tigers mini and youth cheerleading team competed and won first place this past weekend and presented the trophy won by the team. Mr. Freeman acknowledged the hard work of volunteer coaches: Mackenzie Fauser, Millie Distefano and Kayla Baviello and complimented the coaches for their time, commitment and effort.

Judith Schurmacher praised the Art against Abuse program at the Hammond Museum that was well attended; the program uses art to teach young adults about healthy relationships and dating abuse presented by The Elizabeth Butler Angel Fund Committee and the North Salem Central School District.

Katherine Daniels thanked both of the district's Parent Teacher Organizations and the North Salem Teacher's Association, for publicizing and getting the word out about the budget and the upcoming presentations.

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 20, 2009.

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.

The deadline to register to vote is May 13, 2009; applications for absentee ballots are available in the District Office. Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed to the voters should be received by May 11th by the District Clerk and those applications picked up in person should be received by May 18th. The District Clerk must receive absentee ballots by 5 PM on May 19th.

Requests for transportation for private and parochial schools can made to the Transportation Department by April 1, 2009.

Public Comment

Mr. Richard O'Rourke presented the board with information regarding 7 Sutton Place, a partially completed commercial building located within the School District. The owner of the property has applied to the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency (PCIDA) for the purpose of tax abatement.

Mr. O'Rourke represents Palma Settimi Inc. who initiated the construction on the building. At this time, the owners of the building are concerned that construction may not be completed and that finding a tenant will be difficult, due to the downturn in the economy. The owners approached the PCIDA for options in receiving assistance. The process was initiated pursuant to the New York State Industrial Development Act and the Real Property Tax Law Section 412A to have the property leased to the IDA (which is tax exempt) and then leased back to the participants. The Town, County and School Tax authorities can decide on a tax abatement-payment in lieu of taxes. Palma Settimi Inc. is asking the North Salem School District for a 90 % tax abatement.

Mr. Burt Houseworth, CEO of the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency stated that the PCIDA has the right to grant 50 % abatement on its own and that through a resolution, the district could grant up to a 90% abatement.

Discussion followed regarding the assessment of the property, the outstanding mortgage and the finishing of the construction.

The Board agreed to look at the matter and discuss it further at the next Board Meeting.

Ms. Deborah Felton asked the Board and administration about parent and student dissatisfaction with the 8th grade math program. Ms. Felton stated that there were many parents who feel the program does not have sufficient help, textbooks and peer tutors. Dr. Freeston stated that he had just heard about the issue, had met with Dr. Cyganovich and Dr. Bovino and that the issue was being reviewed and researched.

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 February 25, 2009.

Student Board Representative Reports

A Student Board Representative from the North Salem High School/Middle School reported on recent and upcoming events in the High School/Middle School as well as events at Pequenakonck Elementary School.

2009-2010 Budget Presentations

Overview

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.

Dr. Freeston presented the 2009-2010 budget, \$38,182,390 essentially a 0% increase budget (08-09) to budget (09-10).

PQ Instruction and Supervision

Dr. Pat Cyganovich (Principal of North Salem High School Middle School) and Roberta Reiner (Principal of Pequenakonck Elementary School) reported on the K through 12 budgets.

The presentation showed staffing in the schools with no additional staff being added at Pequenakonck Elementary and with one additional 1.0 FTE teaching position in music being requested for the Middle/High School. The addition of this position is a result of the Music Study completed this year and would allow for the department to work towards an identified area of need-*to adequately prepare students for college admittance that lead to careers in music.*

The per pupil allocation in the proposed 209-2010 budget is as follows:

PQ: \$350.37 x 589 students = \$206,368

MS/HS: \$434.15 x 753 students = \$326,915

Items in the per pupil allocation include:

Textbooks

Instructional Equipment

Printing

Repairs

Classroom Supplies

Library Books

Conference and Travel
Professional Memberships

The PQ re-engineering capacity to improve student performance will concentrate on the following areas without increasing the budget:

- Science supplies for inquiry based science studies
- New math textbooks grades 1 – 5
- Math supplies to compliment the new text series grades K-5
- Additional musical instruments for the PQ band
- Musical scores to begin a musical library for instrumental and vocal music
- Portfolios for the PQ chorus

Similarly in the Middle School/High School without increasing the budget, but by utilizing re-engineering the following areas will be focused on:

- Science supplies working towards more hands on curriculum
- Math supplies and textbooks
- Additional calculators
- New support for new music teacher and courses
- World Language implementation of honors program new text books

Co-Curricular and Athletics

Ms. Reiner and Dr. Cyganovich stated that there will be no additions to the co-curricular budget and that the number of clubs will not be increased.

Mr. Henry Sassone, Director of Athletics, presented the 2009-2010 budget for athletics. Mr. Sassone stated that he is presenting a reduced athletic budget with no reduction in programs. The department will see savings through the re-alignment of the state athletic conferences, previously based on enrollment but now based on geography. This will provide for a decrease in transportation cost as well as a better quality of life for the athletes who will spend less time travelling to and from competitions.

Mr. Sassone stated that current year there are 58 teams and in 2009-2010 there will be 59 teams, as there will be 3 students participating in the varsity football. The number of 7th and 8th grade participants in athletic programs is 185 students and in 9th thru 12th the number is 300. Mr. Sassone remarked on the high percentage of overall students participating in such programs; 84% of 7th and 8th graders and 72 % of the High School population. The proposed budget for 2009-2010 is \$473,546 a 3.16 decrease in budget supporting 59 athletic teams.

Discussion followed regarding budgeted items and the 2009-2010 Athletics Budget.

Mr. Andrew Brown commended Mr. Sassone and the other Athletic Directors in Section 1, for proactively looking at the economic situation and coming to the Board with a decreased budget.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Freeston reported on the following:

- A very successful CSEA staff meeting.
- Asking the Board to consider at the March 25th meeting, a discussion on the optimum time for the referendum vote on the critical facilities project.
- A planning meeting regarding new data management software that will rank and sort the public data compiled by the State with regard to student scores and testing.
- The scheduling of the Strategic Planner, Mr. Jonathan Costa, to present at the second Board Meeting in April.

Board Reports

Paul Giamundo reported on the Communications Committee's ongoing work to go online and try to reduce paper usage. The committee is working on a plan to send out an electronic flyer "Tuesday Newsday" to provide parents with links to get information relative to school events and information.

Mr. Giamundo attended the Westchester Putnam School Board Association's Legislative Breakfast with Dr. Freeston, Ms. Arleen Henshaw and Ms. Rosemaria DosSantos.

Judy Schurmacher reported on the Fiscal Planning Committee as they meet to review the proposed budget.

Mr. Andrew Brown reported on the Safety Committee and a tour of the school buildings by the North Salem Police in order to fully understand the layout of the schools.

There will be a Safety Summit sponsored by the committee in May.

Action Items

Acceptance of CSE and CPSE Reports dated March 11, 2009

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 March 11, 2009.

Change Orders and Approval to Authorize--tabled

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo the Board of Education voted (7-0) to postpone consideration of the following resolution until the next board meeting.

This will enable the Facilities Committee to discuss the change orders with the architect prior to the Board vote.

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approves the following change orders, and authorizes the Superintendent to execute these change orders:

North Salem CSD, MS/HS and Pequenaconck EC-1 Foremost
North Salem CSD, MS/HS and Pequenaconck EC-2 Foremost

North Salem CSD, MS/HS and Pequenaconck EC-3 Foremost
North Salem CSD, MS/HS and Pequenaconck MC-1 TSJ Environment

Budget Transfers

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

09-033

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the transfer of \$9,825 to A 1620-426-03-0000 Operation of Plant-Contractual from A 1620-166-03-0000 Operation of Plant-Custodial Salaries *for salary of Interim Facilities Director*.

Health and Welfare Service Contracts

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 School, the Board of Education approves the Somers Central School District Health and Welfare services contract for thirteen students in the total amount of \$9,348.56 for the 2008-2009 school year.

Health and Welfare Service Contracts

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 School, the Board of Education approves the Bedford Central School District Health and Welfare services contract, for eight students in the total amount of \$7,688.32 for the 2008-2009 school year.

Consent Agenda

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

Appointments

Certified

Mr. John Giumarro

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. John Giumarro 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.

Mr. David Lewitt

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. David Lewitt 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. Jessica Braunwart

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Jessica Braunwart as a Substitute Teacher, Grades K thru 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.

Classified

Amend Mr. Gary Green

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the provisional appointment of Mr. Gary Green as Director of Facilities, Operations, Maintenance and Transportation, effective March 9, 2009, at an annual rate of \$115,000 subject to fingerprint clearance. The effective date approved previously was March 6, 2009.

Ms. Jessica Braunwart

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

Ms. Carol Galligan

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Carol Galligan as a Substitute Clerical for the District Office, for the 2008-2009 school year at an hourly rate of \$16.00.

Ms. Claudia Badia

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ms. Claudia Badia as a Substitute Clerical for the District Office, for the 2008-2009 school year at an hourly rate of \$16.00.

Approvals

Amend Academic Intervention Support

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following individuals to fill the positions for Academic Intervention Support for the Academic Intervention Service Math Program at a rate of \$65.00 per hour for 8 hours total.

January / February Classes

Grade 3	Susan Burch
Grade 3	Lynn Busch
Grade 4	Joan Tendler
Grade 4	Dorothea Breslow
Grade 4	Ellen Fecci
Grade 5	Deborah Oswald
Grade 5	Patrice Farney
Sustitute	Jenine Kugel

*****Approved previously on February 4th for ELA Support not Math Support***

Observational Internship

Michelle Delaney

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Ms. Michelle Delaney for an observational internship from March 9th thru May 1st. Ms. Delaney will be mentored by the Guidance Counselors.

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Ms. Diana Paproski

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following unpaid leave of absence for Ms. Diana Paproski from on or about January 30, 2009 until on or about June 30, 2009.

Discussion Item

The Board and Superintendent reviewed the draft School Calendar 2009-2010 which will be on the next agenda as an action item.

New Business

The Board discussed the tax abatement request from Palma Settimi. Paul Smadbeck and Steve Bobolia will research the matter and present the information to the Board, in order for the Board to vote on a resolution regarding the percentage of the tax abatement.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and voted 7-0 the board agreed to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Narvaez
District Clerk