

**NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560**  
[www.northsalemsschools.org](http://www.northsalemsschools.org)  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 17, 2010**

**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 Board Vice-President Judith Schurmacher.

At 6:35 PM, a motion was made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo, and carried (6-0), to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person. Judith Schurmacher was appointed Clerk Pro-Tem for this Executive Session.

At 7:25 PM, on a motion made by made Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Andrew Brown and carried (6-0), the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened to the Public Session.

**Board Members Present:**

Ms. Katherine Daniels, President  
Ms. Judith Schurmacher, Vice-President  
Mr. Paul Giamundo, Trustee  
Mr. Paul Smadbeck, Trustee  
Mr. Jonathan Freeman, 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  
Ms. Barbara Briganti, Director of Business Administration  
Ms. Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk  
Members of North Salem Staff  
Members of the Public

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM Board President Katherine Daniels followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Announcements**

Board President Katherine Daniels made the following announcements:

- Ms. Daniels encouraged the community to go to the “Guidance Section” of the website for helpful information regarding ACT and SAT prep courses and other useful tips.
- Congratulations to the girls basketball team; semifinal NY Class C Championship winners.
- The Board has received a few letters from residents regarding the budget work; two were received with no specific signatures. Ms. Daniels encouraged those letter writers to include contact information so that the Board can respond and initiate dialogue.

## **Board Trustee and Budget Vote**

There are four seats open in May 18, 2010 Trustee Election.

**To run for the School Board** a candidate must be a qualified voter of the district (i.e., a United States citizen); and must have resided in the School District for an uninterrupted period of at least one year prior to the election date. A person who has been convicted of a state or federal felony may not serve on a school board unless: (1) he/she has been pardoned or otherwise restored to the rights of citizenship by the Governor or the President; or (2) his/her maximum sentence of imprisonment has expired; or (3) he/she has been discharged from parole.

## **Petition Signatures**

In accordance with §2018 of the State Education Law, nominating petitions for the May 18, 2010 election require at least twenty-five (25) qualified signatures. (It is suggested that additional qualified signatures be obtained.)

The filing deadline for filing nominating petitions is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2010. Petitions must be filed with the District Clerk, in the District Office at 230 June Road, North Salem, New York.

## **Public Comment**

Glen LaFaber asked the Board about the policy to accept non resident students of employees and what the cost to the District is. Dr. Freeston stated that this issue has been discussed previously and will be addressed again in his presentation (located on the District's website as a presentation and on demand video) under the heading of Frequently Asked Questions.

## **Presentations**

- **Revisions to Superintendent's Proposed Budget and Budget Recap**

Dr. Kenneth R. Freeston, Superintendent of Schools, recapped his budget presentation regarding the proposed 2010-2011 budget, a copy of this presentation can be found online at [www.northsalemsschools.org](http://www.northsalemsschools.org) under the 2010-2011 Budget link.

- **Special Education and Pupil Services**

Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services, presented the proposed 2010-2011 budget for Pupil Personnel Services including the mission, numbers and trends of classified students, staffing and personnel reductions for the Special Education Department and program plans, a copy of this presentation can be found online at [www.northsalemsschools.org](http://www.northsalemsschools.org) under the 2010-2011 Budget link.

- **Instructional Media and Technology**

Mr. Rocco Varuolo recapped the proposed budget summary for technology and the re-engineering of the current capacity for 2010-2011. A copy of this presentation can be found online at [www.northsalemsschools.org](http://www.northsalemsschools.org) under the 2010-2011 Budget link.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Patricia Adams, retired North Salem teacher and resident, asked if the Assistant Principal position was being kept in the budget to which Dr. Freeston responded that this position has now become an unfilled position, due to retirement.

Ms. Carol Ann Hughes asked if the contingency budget is automatic, to which Dr. Freeston responded that the Board can decide to hold a second budget election or can decide to go with the contingency budget.

Ms. Hughes asked about the Middle School CORE program—last year during the budget season, there was talk about advertising to fill vacancies in the program, in order to generate revenue. MaryJo Hauser responded that the District is waiting to find the right fit for the vacancies and probably will not advertise to fill the spots.

Ms. Hughes thanked the Administration and Board for following up during the presentations on previously asked questions and for setting a positive tone to the meeting. She stated that at some points, the tone of previous meetings had been very negative, and that she feared voters might vote on the tone rather than what is in the budget.

Susan Moyer read two letters in support of the Walkabout Program urging the Board to keep at least one if not more slots available to students. The letters reflected upon the uniqueness and success of the program one that includes: academics, an internship, outdoor experiences to build self confidence, community service learning projects and college and career counseling. Ms. Moyer asked the Board to maintain this unique and useful program by keeping spots available to North Salem Students.

Jay Krass, Speech Therapist, remarked on having participated in student presentations recently, stating that when asked to present significant moments in their lives, the presentations given by the students were largely about negative incidents. Mr. Krass asked the Board and Administration to keep this mind, as well as the amount of stress today's school age children are under on a daily basis.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Freeston reported on the following:

The Facilities Committee met this week and discussed the critical issues that need to be addressed. The boiler at the elementary school and HVAC issues have to be fixed as there is currently no heat. The committee discussed and agreed to present to the Board, a bond proposal for the May ballot that would enable the District to fix all of the above as well as some security issues.

### **Action Items**

#### **MSG Contract**

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the School District's registration and participation in the MSG Varsity Network for the period from March 18, 2010 and ending on June 30, 2010, and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the School Registration and Participation Agreement with MSG Varsity Network LLC.

**Declaration of Lead Agency**

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District is contemplating a capital project involving HVAC system upgrades and boiler replacement at Pequenaconck Elementary School and security system replacement at both the Elementary School and Middle/High School buildings, including ancillary costs, (the "Proposed Action"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education wishes to comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has reviewed the proposed Scope of Work and views the collective Scope of Work as one Proposed Action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in the SEQRA Regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617.5 and has determined that the Proposed Action is a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1), (2) and (8) of the SEQRA Regulations;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District is hereby designated lead agency under SEQRA for the Proposed Action; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby determines that the proposed HVAC upgrades and boiler replacement at Pequenaconck Elementary School and security system replacement at both the Elementary School and Middle/High School buildings as one collective Proposed Action is a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1), (2) and (8) of the SEQRA Regulations and will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and that no further review of the Proposed Action is required. The contact person for the North Salem Central School District is: Barbara Briganti, Director of Business Administration.

**School Calendar 2010-2011**

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the North Salem Central School District Calendar for 2010-2011.

### **Public Comments**

Joan Krucykowski thanked the Board and the Administration for the hard work they have done on the budget, and asked that co-curricular be considered in the watch lists for possible savings as well as cuts from curriculum.

Scott Lenhart asked if the Administration had any research regarding possible cost savings in a four day school week. Dr. Freeston stated that he has not seen any such research and a change such as that would take legislative action, also for students in Districts where it is safer for the children to be in school then out, this would be a big issue.

Rosemaria DosSantos thanked the Board for all that they do, encouraged the community to get involved and urged the community to keep students' best interest in perspective.

### **Adjournment**

On a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (6-0) the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rebecca Narvaez*

Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk