



North Haven Public Schools
North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public School
Board of Education Meeting

Minutes

Regular Meeting/Special Meeting/Organizational Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Wesley O'Brien, Randi Petersen, Bryan Bogen, Matthew Kerzner, Jennifer Caldwell, Jennifer Cecarelli, Goldie Adele, Dorothy Logan, Tina Tanguay, Director of Business, Operations, and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, and Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

I. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes April 6, 2017
2. Retirement of the following:
 - a. Marjorie Dolan, Assistant Principal, North Haven Middle School
 - b. Susan McNamara, Social Worker, North Haven High School
 - c. Tracey Carter, Special Education Teacher, North Haven Middle School
 - d. Nancy McHugh, Special Education Teacher, North Haven Middle School
 - e. Christine Schwartz, Library/Media, North Haven Middle School
 - f. Alberta Bahls, R.N., Green Acres Elementary School

Motion: to approve the items on the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Mrs. Logan commented about each retiree, as she had contact with each of them at some point over her career in North Haven. She stated that they were all very devoted teachers and will be missed.

Mrs. Anderson also thanked them all for all of their hard work, and wished them well

II. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports

Information Item

Celeste reported:

- AP testing
- Junior Fundraiser was pushed back pending approval
- June 7th there will be a Badminton tournament
- NHHS Prom is tomorrow, May 12th
- Art Beat was May 4th
- Honor society inductions are approaching

- Two FPS teams are competing at the International Competition at the University of Wisconsin in June

III. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson reported:

- Mrs. Anderson thanked the North Haven Education Foundation for all of their hard work with the Annual Spelling Bee. There was a great turn out
- Also Thanked the North Haven Garden Club – Krista Kaplan, several of her colleagues and students did some gardening at the schools.
- Art Beat was a huge success – K-12 students represented at Art Beat
- Band competition in Boston in April– they did very well
- Seniors – wishing them a wonderful prom tomorrow. Mrs. Anderson reminded them to be safe and have fun

IV. Unfinished Business

Mrs. Caldwell wanted to discuss the turf fields and voiced her concerns; those are health concerns and the cost of installing and up keeping these fields. Mrs. Caldwell also handed the Board some literature regarding the turf fields.

Dr. O'Brien commented that he is in agreement with her regarding the different materials being used and would also like more information regarding the materials that are actually being used. Dr. O'Brien suggested perhaps a meeting with the BOE and the Building Committee and the vendor awarded the contract.

Mr. Kerzner also commented regarding the fields and acknowledged the public for all of their letters and emails regarding the turf fields. That being said, Mr. Kerzner stated that he is supportive of the turf fields. He also stated that meeting with the vendor is a good idea and one that the Board should have.

Dr. Cronin gave a review to the Board members regarding their responsibilities during this entire building project. He stated that the Board approved getting turf fields; however, the building committee are the ones to decide the type of turf that gets installed. That is the responsibility of the Building Committee. Dr. Cronin stated that he did contact the Board attorney and he stated that North Haven is very far in the process now to amend the decision. Dr. Cronin will once again contact him to confirm this.

Mrs. Anderson stated that the town attorney also stated that this could not be reversed. Mrs. Anderson stated that she would like to schedule a workshop with the Building committee and the vendor to be better educated regarding the turf fields and the products being used.

Mrs. Caldwell stated she believes that the "ed specs" can be amended and agrees the Board of Education should meet with the Building Committee and attorneys to get some of these important health and safety questions answered.

Mrs. Anderson agreed and stated that she will arrange to have a Workshop with the Board of Education and the North Haven Middle School Building Committee, as well as the town attorney and the Board attorney with hopes to get some answers/concerns answered.

V. New Business

VI. Reports of Standing Committees:

1. ACES

Information Item

Mrs. Logan reported:

- Wrapping up the school year

- Presentation from principal of ECA informing everyone that they are starting a new collaboration with China this upcoming school year. There will be four students from China attending ECA. This summer 10 elementary students and parents are coming to work with these students from China.
- North Haven Board of Education and the Town joined the ACES Health Insurance Collaborative

2. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning
Information Item

Dr. O'Brien reported:

- Two parents from Ridge Road attended and requested that their child be allowed to attend Common Ground School one day a week. The student's teacher is fully supportive and costs are being paid by the parents, and they are providing transportation. The Curriculum, Instruction and Planning Committee recommends that this request be approved. Parent coming back to give an update on the program.
- Met with Sue Bass regarding the adoption of the textbook series Collections. The series is aligned with state guidelines. The proposal is to phase in the series, which will include in-classroom hard copies and digital copies. The online material can be chosen based upon individual children. The phase-in will begin with grades 6 and 8, or possibly 6-8. The cost is substantial— estimated at \$12,000 per grade, and adoption and phase-in will, of course, be contingent upon budget constraints.
- Met with Jane Sanford to propose a Grade 8 physical education elective for the purpose of offering competitive and non-competitive options with the goal of reducing stress and expanding choice. Volunteers will work this summer to develop the curriculum. There are teachers in place who are willing to pilot the program, and Jane will return mid-year for a progress report.
- Melinda McKenna shared a proposal from herself and Dana Corriveau for something called iready, a universal screen/progress monitoring tool for grades k-8. The tool assesses students to determine grade-level performance and thereby identify any possible need for intervention. Screening takes place 3 times a year, and the process is common in other districts. The suggestion is to phase in the program, starting with grade 3 where greatest need exists, because that is where the "benchmark" for reading resides. The hope is to use end-of-year money to begin with K-2, 3 or 8 depending on available funds.
- Clubs at the Middle School were approved: Lego Club, NHMS Pokémon Club, Stem Club, Gamerz Club, Sketchbook Club.

a. Approval of North Haven High School field trip to the Fashion Institute of Technology Museum, New York City on May 23, 2017

Motion: to approve the North Haven High School field trip to the Fashion Institute of Technology Museum, New York City on May 23, 2017

Approved

MOVED: Jennifer Cecarelli
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

3. Finance and Operations

Information Item

Mr. Bogen reported:

- North Haven is now tied together with ACES for insurance. North Haven is going Self-Funding. Mr. Bogen reported that what this means is that we have to adjust our own claims/claims history, etc. This means that we could be running into a deficit, because we do not know exactly what our claims will be. Tina and Brian are going to meet with the town to see what this means for the Board being self-funding. Mr. Kerzner has some concerns regarding HIPPA. Dr. Cronin stated that

we will meet with attorneys regarding HIPPA and any violations. Ms. Caldwell stated that the Board has not approved a budget at this time for the 2017-2018 and need to do so. There was further discussion regarding the budget. There was clarification that the budget was voted on, however the line item changes have not been discussed to date as a Board and should be discussed further.

4. Middle School Building Committee

Information Item

Mr. Adele reported:

- Construction is on schedule
- Lower part of the wall is being soiled by students. Contractors are going to install something to cover the walls (some sort of plastic) to cover the wall and can just be washed instead of continuously painting it.
- Restrooms – tiles will be installed on the walls as well.
- Cafeteria has opened and all is well

5. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

Mr. Kerzner reported:

- The Spelling Bee was very successful this year. There were approximately 35 teams. Mr. Kerzner stated that the Committee did a wonderful job and almost \$25,000 was raised from this Spelling Bee.
- Mrs. Anderson stated that NHHS Culinary Arts students were able to go to Disney World Florida and compete. These students were able to do this because of the North Haven Education Foundation and the grant that they awarded the teacher. This group of students also made all the treats that were sold at the Spelling Bee.
- Mr. Kerzner also stated that the North Haven Education Foundation is always looking for community board members to join the committee for anyone interested, please contact them.

6. Policy

Information Item

Mrs. Caldwell reported:

- Trying to schedule a date for a Policy Committee Meeting

7. PTA Council

Information Item

Mrs. Cecarelli stated:

- PTA Council met on April 24th
- Lisa Burton has stepped down from PTA Council President, and Karen Simpson, parent from Clintonville School will now take on that role and Maryann Frost will continue working with PTA Council
- NHHS shared information regarding SATs, the band trip, the culinary arts trip, spring sports, the variety show success, how many young women went to a leadership conference that was held at Yale.
- NHMS shared their teacher appreciation week plans, and the Garden Club activities.
- Clintonville shared that they raised \$19,000 for St. Baldrick's, their Someone Special Dance and their teacher appreciation plans. They also have a plant sale coming up and their concert is May 22nd.
- Ridge Road shared that they had a blood drive on May 4th and April 28, 2017 was their parent/teacher basketball game
- There will be a NHMS/NHHS faculty basketball game on May 18, 2017.
- Next PTA Council Meeting will be on June 5, 2017
- Mrs. Anderson requested that the new leaders of Project Graduation join the Board at the June meeting to talk about the changes in that program this year.

VII. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report

Information Item

1. Discussion – End of year early dismissal days – June 19, 20, and 21. The Board has decided to just include those last three half days to be included on the district calendar and do not need to be voted on in the future.

Dr. Cronin also reported:

- Dr. Cronin stated that he wrote to the staff in April, also copying each Board Member, talking about the significance of change and it is worth considering doing some changes, when staff is considering a new grade or a new school, etc., and if it were something the staff was interested in to please let their principals know or Dr. Cronin know. He stated that there will be some changes this year and just wanted to raise that so that he is being completely transparent with everyone. Dr. Cronin stated that it is still in the talking stages, but has looked very closely at student data and looked very closely at the patterns and there are areas where we can use an expertise, maybe in another school. He stated that he is looking to make changes that are thoughtful and based on what we believe are in the best interest of children. Dr. Cronin stated also that he would look for volunteers first, and he would come back to the Board in June with some of those suggestions, or what those recommendations would be. Dr. Cronin reported that according to the teachers' contract we have to let them know, and ideally we will do that. He stated that anybody that is going to be changed will know two weeks before the last day of school, so that would be by June 7th. Dr. Cronin reported that he is thinking about this in a number of areas and stated that there have been a lot of conversations over the past year about ID and one of the discrepancies and disparities in the district, and he believes that there is experienced ID staff at Ridge Road and a novice staff primarily at Green Acres, and that is certainly something administrators are looking at and maybe need to considering blending them so we can get the programs more aligned, which has been a goal of ours since we began working on it and talking about this a while back. Again Dr. Cronin stated, with all of this we would ask for volunteers first and if there were no volunteers, we would have to go from there. Dr. Cronin stated that he has tried to be very clear about this since April. He reported that he wrote to the staff and has spoken in buildings, so he believes that people know that change is coming and we are looking at it everywhere, not only in classrooms, we are looking in special education personnel and how we are utilizing them, as well as looking at our reading and math personnel and how are we utilizing them. Dr. Cronin stated that he is not at all looking to change for change sake but he is trying to implement thoughtful, planned change and will be able to explain to you why we are doing it and the thought that was behind it.

Dr. Cronin reported that all teachers and staff in all schools need to realize that while they are hired for a particular position, they are employees of the district and they have to go where they are needed. He stated that change is hard, but thinks we do come out better for it in the long run. Dr. Cronin stated he believes if it is what is best for children, then it is for all the right reasons. Dr. Cronin ended his report stating that he will report back next month any regarding staffing.

- Dr. Cronin spoke regarding the 2017-2018 budget. Stating that the Board of Finance reduced the Board of Education Budget initially by \$328,000 and then they reduced it again, after the decision was made to go to self-funding by an additional \$600,000, making our total reduction \$928,000. Dr. Cronin presented a worksheet to the Board, for their review, and showed areas he thought reductions could happen. Dr. Cronin suggested that the Board take his worksheet and review it and it can be brought up for discussion at June's Board of Education Meeting.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- Elementary Principals and Mrs. McKenna held an information session for grade 4 parents regarding Natures Classroom in the NHMS new auditorium. They shared information about both options for next year's fifth graders, that being Natures Classroom and the week long activities. There were over 50 parents in attendance. She stated that surveys showed interest in both options.
- State mandate assessments are being completed. She reported that on Tuesday the district received preliminary results on the SATs, which was our assessment for the State that the 11th graders took. Mrs. McKenna stated that the HS average 1068, which is much higher than the stated guidelines. Dr. Cronin reported that North Haven is up 19 points from last year.

C. Director of Finance and Operations

1. Director of Finance and Operation's Report

Information Item

Mrs. Tanguay reported:

- Shared information from the Broker regarding funding vs. self-funding with the Board

2. Approval of the 2016-2017 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended transfers

Motion: to approve the 2016-2017 Monthly Financial Report, including Recommended transfers

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

VIII. Public Comments:

Mrs. Anderson began by stating that she has received many, many letters and emails regarding the turf fields, most of which she has read, but some of them, received today, she has not had the opportunity to do so, but will of course read all of them.

The following is a list of residents commenting about their disapproval of the Turf Fields at NHMS:

- Mary White
- Carrie Swanson
- Chandra Prasad
- Dr. Rich Weaver
- Dr. Michelle Serlin
- Danielle Morfi
- Tom White
- Tim Gabrielle
- Lisa Burton
- Grace Gavigan

Speaking in support of the Turf Fields were:

- Dave Mikus
- Chris Picora
- Steve Blumethal
- Dave Montano

Other Public Comments:

- Grace Gavigan –commented regarding the Integrated Day Program and her support of the program
- Tom Marak – commented regarding the change in insurance and how pleased he is with the information he has been given.
- Lisa Burton – commented regarding the iready program spoken about earlier.
- Mike Doraz – commented regarding the ID program

IX. Future Agenda Items Discussion Item
X. Executive Session – for matters of personnel

Motion: to enter into Executive Session for matters of personnel Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Returned to public session at 9:45 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Anderson

Anita Anderson
Chairperson