



North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting

REVISED Minutes

Regular Meeting/Special Meeting/Organizational Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2016 6:30 p.m.
5 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT 06473

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

Jennifer Cecarelli was absent

- I. Presentation – Steven Blumenthal – Strength and Conditioning Program Information Item

Mr. Blumenthal gave a presentation regarding the Strength and Conditioning Program at North Haven High School. In his presentation he spoke of the benefits of this program from a parent's perspective, as well as a Coaches perspective. He spoke of the benefits of the program with regards to reducing injuries of the athletes. Mr. Blumenthal also shared the other districts that have a similar program. Mr. Blumenthal is proposing a new position for Strength and Conditioning Coordinator explaining the hours and days said person would work and a suggested stipend for said position. This would be for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Blumenthal answered questions from the Board of Education.

- II. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes October 13, 2016

Motion: To approve the items on the Consent Agenda Approved

MOVED: Mathew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

- III. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports Information Item

Celeste reported:

- Maria Scarano – Grade 12 student was selected for the American Revolution Chapter Good Citizens Scholarship. The ceremony awarding her this scholarship is Monday, November 14, 2016
- Alicia Moen – running cross country in the New England Championship Tournament for Cross Country
- NHHS is having a Food Drive on November 19, 2016 at Stop and Shop in North Haven for the North Haven Food Bank
- Homecoming is next Friday, November 18, 2016
- Fall sports have ended
- Soccer just lost their first round in the States Tournament against Berlin 2 to 6
- Girls' Sports Banquet is November 17, 2016
- Boys Sports Banquet will be December 8, 2016

Mrs. Logan added that she attended the NHHS production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, and it was very good.

IV. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson spoke to the budget planning for the 2017-2018 and suggested the Board of Education visit the schools before budget season to get a sense of the schools and the programs and to see the programs at each school, talk with principals, teachers to see their wants and needs for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Anderson introduced Tracey Planinshek, Culinary Arts Teacher at NHHS. Ms. Planinshek presented a proposal for a field trip to Walt Disney World. Her students want to compete on a national level with other high school students. Ms. Planinshek explained to the Board of Education members that the students will be doing fundraising to help raise half of the funds for each student. She explained all of the opportunities this would open up for her students and hopes to get the support of the Board.

V. Unfinished Business

VI. New Business

VII. Reports of Standing Committees

1. ACES

Information Item

Mrs. Logan stated that she attended the ACES meeting. She reported that ACES continued their discussions from last month. Mrs. Logan stated that there were budget discussions, as well as further discussion regarding setting the 2017-2018 calendar. ACES polled all the superintendents and a vote was taken where the majority of them wanted students to begin the school year on a Monday. Mrs. Logan stated that there may be some flexibility in this with planning the calendar within our own district. Mrs. Logan also reported that ACES began their teacher negotiations.

2. Athletics

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson stated that "Athletics" can be removed from the monthly agendas at this time.

3. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning

Information Item

Dr. O'Brien reported on the two Curriculum, Instruction and Planning meetings:

October 17, 2016 Meeting

Phil Piazza discussed the benefits of rounding rather than "truncating" grades for middle school students. Rounding would align grading practices in the district, would provide a more accurate measure of student achievement, and would do away with parental confusion regarding grade ambiguities. The group approved this change.

The Teaching Assistant proposal for the high school was discussed. Sandra Preneta answered questions. This proposal was approved.

Sandra Preneta spoke to the committee about a credit recovery program using Edgenuity, a software product that would replace the current Odysseyware. Edgenuity is preferred for a number of reasons including a wider range of online courses aligned with the Common Core, direct instruction videos, text translation support for ELL students and supplemental resources to our SRBI interventionists. The efficacy of Edgenuity can be assessed after one year.

Mathematics Coordinator Tracy Romberg spoke to the committee regarding MobyMax.com, an online instructional program for mathematics. A salient feature of this program, which fills an ongoing need, is its diagnostic component. Beyond its diagnostic function, the program provides skill practice, can be adapted to individual student progress, is user friendly and is available at one quarter the price of the currently used program IXL. The committee approves of this purchase.

Carol Ardito joined the group to discuss EduType Jr.—web based keyboarding software for grades 4-6. Elementary technology teachers evaluated EduType Jr. during a 90-day free trial period and recommend its purchase, primarily for its updated, relevant content. The committee approves of this purchase.

Russ Dallai joined us briefly, as a follow up to the Teaching Assistant proposal at the high school.

Club Proposals:

North Haven Resilience Project

Field Trip Proposals:

Student Leadership Conference, Southbury. December 2-3,

North Haven Transitional Partnership field trip to NYC Approved pending submission of specific itinerary

International Future Problem Solving Conference at the University of Wisconsin, Lacrosse.

6/7/2017 to 6/11/2017

November 7, 2017 Meeting

Jill Metz joined the group to propose the purchase of a new history text—*The American Pageant*, 16th ed. Cengage, 2016—for Grade 11 AP. A new text is recommended for a number of reasons, including:

- 14 years since last update (this omitting much recent history)
- connection to AP
- thematically-based sections
- The group approved the purchase.

Tracy Planinshek joined us to discuss the Culinary Arts Program field trip to Disney World in Orlando, where students will participate on cooking teams constituted from students from all over the country and will receive instruction from a world-class chef. The trip leaves North Haven on April 20, 2017 and returns April 25. Five to 8 students will participate as well as 2 chaperones. Cost per student is \$1100.00. The committee participated in a long discussion regarding fundraising opportunities, available funding, and approved the trip unanimously to be brought before the full Board of Education for their approval. We invited Ms. Planinshek to attend the 11/10 board meeting to discuss the opportunity.

The annual High School Music Department field trip and competition was approved unanimously to be brought before the full Board of Education for their approval. The event is to be held in Boston, MA April 20 to April 24, 2017, and involves 160-175 student participants and 15-18 chaperones. The cost per student is \$785.00, which can be reduced by a number of fund raising initiatives. Additional funding will be available as needed.

A December 6 trip to Hyde Park, New York for grades 4-5 ID was approved to be brought to the full Board of Education for their approval. There are 57 students and 9 chaperones attending. Cost is \$30. There were some concerns raised with regard to weather conditions in December and distance. A suggestions was made to consider replacing this trip in the future with a trip to the birthplace of John Quincy Adams near Boston.

Also approved to go before the full Board of Education is a trip to the Student Leadership Conference in Meriden. Cost is \$60. Six students are expected to participate. There will be one chaperone.

The next meeting of Curriculum and Planning is scheduled for December 5, 2016.
Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

The Board discussed these out of state/overnight field trips and Mrs. Caldwell stated that she has concerns if families have to pay for these expensive field trips. Her concerns are for students who cannot attend these very expensive field trips because not all families can afford to send their children. Mrs. Anderson stated that if teachers/administrators know that there are families that need assistance there are funds available to assist them. Mr. Kerzner also suggested to Ms. Planinshek (as well as any other teachers) that they can also apply for a grant through the North Haven Education Foundation to help fund their trip, to help alleviate cost to families.

- a. Approval of NHHS Student Leadership overnight field trip to
Connecticut Association of Schools December 2-3, 2016

Motion: to approve the NHHS Student Leadership overnight field trip to
Connecticut Association of Schools December 2-3, 2016

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

- b. Approval of NHHS Culinary Arts Program field trip to Disney World,
Orlando, Florida April 20-24, 2017

Motion: to approve the NHHS Culinary Arts Program field trip to Disney World,
Orlando Florida, April 20-24, 2017

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 1

Jennifer Caldwell abstained for reasons stated above. She stated she wishes there was a plan to assist families with the funding. As she thinks the program is a great program and a fabulous opportunity but does not like to put the parents in such a position to have to pay for this.

c. Approval of NHHS Music Department field trip to Boston, MA
April 20-23, 2017

Motion: to approve the NHHS Music Department field trip to Boston, MA
April 20-23, 2017

Approved

MOVED: Anita Anderson
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 7
NAY: 1
ABSTAIN: 0

Jennifer Caldwell voted against this due to her concerns regarding the costs to the families related of this field trip.

d. Approval of Ridge Road (4-5 ID) field trip to Hyde Park,
New York, NY on December 6, 2016

Motion: to approve the Ridge Road (4-5 ID) field trip to Hyde Park,
New York, NY on December 6, 2016

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Mrs. Petersen asked if this field trip was also opened up to the students at Green Acres. It was not and Mrs. McKenna explained that moving forward she is trying to align some of those practices between schools so that there is some consistency.

4. Finance and Operations

Information Item

Mr. Bogen reported that Finance and Operations met this evening. He reported there is a new format for the Grant Report. Mr. Bogen reported there is a deficit in Property Services which is in electricity. This is due to the JCI energy project costs of 80/20 split of these costs and is exclusively in the electricity line item. Central Office is awaiting information regarding the appropriate split between the Town and the Board of Education along with the other utilities involved with any anticipated savings from the JCI energy project.

5. Middle School Building Committee

Information Item

Mr. Adele reported that the committee is going through and paying invoices. Contractors are moving along and the next meeting is Monday November 21, 2016.

Mrs. Petersen reported back to the Board regarding research she was doing surrounding the types of turf different towns have or are getting. Mrs. Petersen stated that she contacted the Athletic Director in Hamden because they have some turf fields and are presently installing another. The architects that Hamden hired brought in toxicology specialists to talk about the safety with the rubber fill and there was nothing that said there are safety concerns with the rubber fill. Their first field was a rubber and sand synthetic turf field, however the second field they are putting in, they decided to go with a coconut cork sand infill for the turf. The latter field is costing more money and takes more to upkeep because it has to be watered. She was informed that the up-keep for the rubber is minimal with a life span of 8-10 years. The Athletic Director gave an approximate cost of maintenance of \$8,000-\$10,000 per year. She will be contacting Quinnipiac University as well because they are currently installing turf as well.

There will be a Board of Education workshop November 22, 2016, at 6 p.m. The focus of the workshop will be the new North Haven Middle School and the Athletic Fields.

6. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

Mr. Kerzner reported that the North Haven Education met yesterday and stated that the Foundation is in need of someone to help with public relations. The Foundation has reached out to Quinnipiac University and would like to get an intern to work with both the Foundation and the Board of Education as part of his/her work study with no cost to the Foundation or the District.

- 7. Policy
- 8. PTA Council

Information Item
Information Item

VIII. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Dr. Cronin reported that the district has formed a Homework Committee. There are representatives from every level (Elementary, Middle, and High school teachers/principals). From the High School there is Dr. Dallai, Melissa Bader, English Teacher, and Kristine Blauvelt, Interventionist/Special Education Teacher, from the Middle School there is Shawna Bobbie, Interventionist, Krista Kaplan, Social Studies Teacher, and Pam Kendrick, Language Arts Teacher. From the elementary level we have Patrick Stirk, and Dr. Cronin is representing the District. In the first year the committee will be gathering information. There will be surveys going forward to parents, staff and students. The first of the surveys is to the parents, which is on line currently. From December to January the staff will be surveyed, and then from January to February the students will take part in the survey. The committee will gather the data from the surveys and report back to the Board of Education. This will take a full year to get the data gathered.

Dr. Cronin presented a proposal for High School field trips regarding transportation when only a handful of High School students going and a full bus would not be necessary. He has proposed a "draft" protocol for students with a license would be able to drive themselves and/or parents drive them (with parental permission). There are many juniors and seniors who have their license. There was discussion about how the Board of Education felt about students driving themselves to local field trips with parental permission, and any liability involved on the school's end. This subject will be revisited next month after the Board of Education members have reviewed the proposal and Dr. Cronin gets further advice from council.

Budget workshops will be scheduled for Thursdays in January, as in the past. The first workshop will be January 5th, then the regular Board of Education Meeting being January 12, 2016. Each Thursday in January after the 12th will be a Board of Education Budget Workshop.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Mrs. McKenna reported that Thursday was a Professional Development Day which was led by Department Coordinators. In August it was led by Principals and District Administrators, and the February Professional Development Day will be led by the teachers. There has been wonderful feedback regarding the whole day and Mrs. McKenna said she could not be happier with how it went.

Follow up from Natures Classroom - elementary principals continue to meet and are continuing the research with funding and if Natures Classroom can accommodate all four schools in the district at the same time. Clintonville and Montowese are meeting with their PTA to discuss funding this trip at their schools.

ID meetings have been going on with teachers and going well. The teachers have been working together to work on their curriculum and ID practices and design between schools. Mrs. McKenna will keep the Board of Education updated regarding this matter.

C. Director of Finance and Operations

1. Director of Finance and Operation's Report

Information Item

Mrs. Tanguay reported that there have been some issues with the internet at the High School and she is addressing them. She stated that the District is looking into replacing the firewall to correct these issues. Dr. Cronin stated that with all of the additional technology at the Middle School, it has slowed things down districtwide and they are trying to rectify this as soon as they can.

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: Bryan Bogen
SECOND: Matthew Kerzner
AYE: 8

NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

- IX. Public Comment
- X. Future Agenda Items
- XI. Executive Session –for matters of personnel

Discussion Item

Moved: to enter into Executive Session for matters of personnel

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

- XII. Adjournment

Moved: to Adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Jennifer Caldwell
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Anderson
Anita Anderson
Chairperson