



# North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

---

North Haven Public Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
5 Linsley Street  
North Haven, CT 06473

Thursday, January 13, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Joseph Solimene (virtual), Randi Petersen, Goldie Adele, Jennifer Cecarelli, Amanda Gabriele, Eleni Diakogeorgeou, Ronald Bathrick, Marie Devlin (virtual), Jen Stewart, Director of Student Services, Howard Wardlow, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent (virtual), and Patrick Stirk, Superintendent of Schools

## I. Consent Agenda

- A. December 9, 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. December 13, 2021 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
- C. Retirement of:
  - Joan Falcigno, School Psychologist at Green Acres Elementary
- D. Resignation of:
  - Christine August, Math Teacher at North Haven High School
- E. Maternity leave of Maria Sanzari, 4th/5th Grade ID Teacher at Ridge Road Elementary

Mrs. Anderson wished Joan Falcigno and Christine August thanked them for their service in North Haven, as well as wishing Maria Sanzari all the best with her new baby.

Motion: To approve the items on the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele  
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli  
AYE: 9  
NAY: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0

## II. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports

Information Item

Zeena Mohammed reported:

- The Phoenix (school newspaper) was published last month

Alex Randiato reported:

- The National Honor Society is hosting a Book Drive this Saturday, from 12-3 p.m.
- Alex also shared that outside of school Alex has a non-profit organization (More than Likes) and he did a toy drive at NHHS and was able to collect over 500 gifts for foster children in Connecticut. He stated the next project will be a Diaper Drive.

III. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson reported:

- Proposing that the April Board of Education meeting be canceled due to vacation beginning April 15th. Traditionally the school calendar is voted on in April, but it will be moved up to be discussed earlier.
- Proposal of an early dismissal day to recognize and say thank you to the teachers and staff. May 27th, which is the Friday before Memorial Day will be an early dismissal day for faculty and staff

Mr. Stirk stated that because the 2-hour delay was called late in the morning, he is proposing that this day not be added to the end of the school year. He stated that North Haven always has 181 school days, however only 180 are required by the State,

Mrs. Anderson made the following Motions:

Motion: to add motions to the Agenda concerning the school calendar

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele

SECOND: Randi Petersen

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Motion: to approve the cancellation of the Regular April Board of Education Meeting due to a lack of quorum

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele

SECOND: Goldie Adele

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Motion: to approve an early dismissal for students, faculty and staff on Friday, May 27, 2022

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele

SECOND: Randi Petersen

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Motion: to approve a reduction of one school day, equalling 180 days to the 2021-2022 school calendar

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele

SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

IV. Reports of Standing Committees:

1. ACES

Information Item

Mrs. Gabriele reported:

- ACES is switching their strategies for masks
- Financials update
- There is a plateau in Covid cases at ACES
- ACES is taking applications for magnet schools
- Discussed marketing strategies for hiring teachers

2. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning

Information Item

NO REPORT

3. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

Mr. Stirk reported:

- Welcomed a new NHHS Student Representative Andre Ohanyan
- Discussed details around a Comedy Night Fundraiser scheduled for early 2022
- Foundation will speaking to the administrators at an upcoming Administrative Council meeting in order to provide them an update in an effort to increase teacher grant requests
- The Foundation also asked if they could come speak at a Board of Education Meeting to discuss the Foundation in more detail. We will be putting the Foundation on the Agenda in March.

4. Policy

Information Item

NO REPORT

5. PTA Council

Information Item

NO REPORT

V. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Mr. Stirk shared a PowerPoint presentation with a Covid-19 Update summarizing some changes in Covid Requirements for Schools and Athletics including:

- Covid positive District numbers
- Remote Learning Update
- Isolation and Quarantine Requirements
- Contact tracing has ended
- Testing Updates
- Athletics guideline changes as of January 11, 2022
- Return to Play update

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Information Item

NO REPORT

C. Director of Student Services' Report

Information Item

Mrs. Stewart reported:

- Seven special education teachers are participating in a training called Orton Gillingham.
- Orton Gillingham is a direct, explicit, multisensory, and prescriptive way to teach literacy when reading, writing, and spelling is difficult for students.
- Upon completion of the training the teachers will have additional expertise in providing reading instruction to students. This type of reading instruction works well for students who are diagnosed with dyslexia.

Transition Night Update

- Parents of students who have an IEP and transitioning to kindergarten, 6th grade, and 9th grade will have the opportunity to learn more about each grade. Virtual night events will be offered later this month, February, and March.
- More information will be shared with families in the upcoming weeks.
- The virtual night for families of incoming 6th graders is January 27th at 6. The virtual night for families of incoming 9th graders is February 3rd at 6. The virtual night for families for incoming Kindergarten students is March 3rd at 6.

- D. Director of Finance, Operations and Humans Resources  
a. Director of Finance and Operations Report

Information Item

Mr Wardlow reported:

- Budget remains on track
- New van has been purchased and should arrive this week
- Reserve account from the Town will be forthcoming
- A short survey was sent out to staff with a video from Everside Health Clinic who spoke at a previous meeting. Will report back next month with results of survey

Mr. Stirk stated that he would like to thank Mr. Wardlow, as he has been helping out the Town during their staffing shortage. It is greatly appreciated that he stepped up to do this.

- b. Approval of the 2021-2022 Monthly Financial Report,  
including recommended transfers

Motion: to approve the 2021-2022 Monthly Financial Report, including the recommended transfers

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele  
SECOND: Goldie Adele  
AYE: 9  
NAY: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0

- VI. Public Comments  
VII. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele  
SECOND: Ronald Bathrick  
AYE: 9  
NAY: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,  
*Anita Anderson*  
Chairperson