



North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

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

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

Thursday, March 10, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

I. Presentation by the North Haven Education Foundation Information Item

Mrs. Anderson introduced Bernie Pellegrino, the President of the North Haven Education Foundation (NHEF). Mrs. Anderson thanked the entire North Haven Education Foundation for all that they do for NHPS. Mr. Pellegrino gave an overview of the NHEF, stating that it is going into its 18th year of raising money for grants for the North Haven Public Schools. The Foundation is open to new grant requests and will be continuing to fundraise. Mr. Pellegrino stated that applications are available for teachers to apply at <http://nhedfoundation.org/>

Mr. Pellegrino also stated that the next fundraiser is planned for May 13, 2022 at the Hook and Ladder in North Haven. It will be a Trivia Contest.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. February 10, 2022 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Retirement of:
 - Mary Zambrello, Social Studies Teacher @ NHMS
 - Jill Bryden, Science Teacher @ NHMS

Motion: To approve the items on the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOTION: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

III. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports Information Item

Zeena Mohammed reported:

- NHHS Unified Sports Team was presented with a banner to honor the community work that the Unified Sports Team and Best Buddies has completed
- March 11, 2022 is the NHHS Best Buddies Spring Dance
- National Honor Society has been hosting SAT tutoring sessions over the past couple of weeks
- Congratulations are in order to the entire cast/crew of Momma Mia, which was a huge success

Alex Ranciato reported:

- Cheerleading team is Class L first runner up of the Class L State Championship
- North Haven Ice Hockey Team defeated Lyman Hall 4-3 They will be playing tomorrow in West Haven
- Jr. Class hosting a 3 point contest to help raise money for Sr. Prom and other class needs.

IV. Board of Education Parent Representatives Reports

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson introduced Kristen Cohen and Jen Giering, who will be the Board of Education Parent Representatives, and asked them to share a little bit about themselves.

Kristen Cohen reported:

- PTSA Council Meeting was last week
- schools are holding fundraisers
- elementary schools are in the process of renewing all of their yearbook contracts
- Montowese is hosting St. Baldrick's Fundraiser on March 28, 2022, along with other fundraisers including the Scholastic Book Fair.
- Green Acres' new playground is underway and should be completed by the end of the month. They are also setting up a gratuity wall and as well as focusing on being better together
- Clintonville had the math and language arts coordinators at their last PTA meeting looking into adding an additional sensory pathway in their main hallway. Clintonville has also hosted a recent fundraiser with the support of Carbone's Deli, J Roos and Grand Apizza
- Ridge Road has their Spring Shred Day on April 16, 2022, a Blood Drive March 11, 2022, as well as a Game Drive Fundraiser and re starting their after school program
- NHHS is doing an Egg Your Yard fundraiser and getting ready for Earth Day

Jen Giering Reported

- All elementary schools are working on their 5th Grade Recognition and Teacher Appreciation Week
- NHMS is also working on the 8th Grade Recognition. Planning a Paradise Day on June 2, 2022, as well as an Infinite Nutrition fundraiser and raised \$600, which will be used for tee shirts. NHMS also did a Valentines Day flower sale
- Special Education Committee has been working with the schools and are happy to be connected to the community
- Last night the Attorney General was at the Connecticut PTA meeting and he spoke about the effects of social media on our youths. It was an important conversation and the PTAs would like to share more with parents and students.
- PTA is 125 years old this year

V. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Information Item

Mrs. Anderson reported:

- the Mascot Committee has begun the process of choosing a graphic design for our Night Hawks mascot

VI. Reports of Standing Committees:

1. ACES

Information Item

Mrs. Gabriele reported:

- Teacher Residency Program which is being looked at for ACES because hiring is still a challenge
- ACES is looking into selling property in New Haven
- ACES is also looking into adding three new positions in staff

2. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning

Information Item

Mrs. McKenna reported the following is the report from the December meeting:

- New Course Proposal Discussion:
 - UCONN Early College Experience Courses
 - Introduction to Allied Health Professions
 - Chemistry
 - Elementary Discrete Mathematics
 - Lifelong Games
 - Resistance and Mindfulness Training
 - World Language & Cultures Exploratory
 - CSDE Required Elective- African American/ Black and Puerto Rican/

The above courses were discussed and approved. All courses are contingent on funding, staffing, course enrollment and the ECE courses are pending UCONN approval. The group discussed the CSDE required elective. Mrs. McKenna, along with the K-12 Social Studies Coordinator and teacher who will teach this course next year will be attending professional development sessions after the new year. They are collectively following changes and requirements from the CSDE and reviewing the SERC curriculum.

- Textbook Proposal: Conceptual Physics, 13th ed. Pearson, 2021
This textbook was approved.

- New Club Proposals:
 - Japanese Language - NHMS
 - Athletes & Activists - NHHS
- The proposed clubs were approved.
Latino Studies

Mrs. McKenna reported the following report from the January 6, 2022 meeting:

- Mr. Solomene will Chair this committee and he will provide these reports going forward
- Proposed to combine Library and computer specials into one Library Media Course K-5
- Proposed to add an additional Science/STEM Course K-5
- NHMS Chess Club was approved

The above courses were discussed and approved.

Mrs. McKenna reported the following report from the February 10, 2022 meeting:

- Curriculum Presentations: K-5 Language Arts/ K-5 Mathematics (Tracey Gambardella, K-5 LA Coordinator and Jodie Wilcox, K-5 Mathematics Coordinator will join us for this discussion) - Jodie Wilcox and Tracey Gambardella shared a presentation highlighting the instructional work done at the K-5 level. The attached slide presentation highlights their presentation and was shared with BOE members.
 - New Club Proposal:
 - NHMS Lego Club
 - NHHS Model UN Club
- Both new clubs were approved

3. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

NO Report

4. Policy

Information Item

- a. First Read of Policy Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harrassment in the workplace (Personnel)

5. PTA Council

Information Item

Will be taking PTA Council off of the Standing Committees as our Parent Representatives will be reporting this.

VII. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Mr. Stirk reported:

- The Unified Sports event was a successful event. Mr. Stirk thanked the coaches Ms. Vivencio, Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Blumenthal for all of the work. The Unified Sports Banner will be displayed in the NHHS Fred Kelly Auditorium.
- Shared the new Vision of a Graduate graphic, created by NHHS student Jason Phan with support of Diana Blythe, Coordinator of the Art Department.
- 2021-2022 District Calendar - with snow days the last day of school will be Tuesday, June 21, 2022
- Juneteenth is now a federal holiday. It is June 19, 2022, however it is celebrated on June 20th. This is a federal holiday, not a state holiday, so the district is not mandated to take this day off.
- Graduation will be Friday, June 17, 2022

There was further discussion regarding Juneteenth and adding it to the district calendar in the future, as well as other holidays. There was further discussion regarding other holidays that are not on the calendar. Mr. Stirk shared other district calendars (Berlin and Wethersfield) where there are holidays that the district has no school and other holidays the districts observe as a district, but school is in session. Mr. Stirk also stated that the Board also has to take contractual obligations of our staff into consideration when deciding on these days.

Mr. Stirk stated that earlier this year, Jen, Eleni and Mr. Stirk met with Ms. Kahloan and two High School students and they proposed including the holiday Eid, which is a Muslim holiday, into the upcoming holiday.

1. Discussion and possible approval of the 2022-2023 District Calendar

The Board agreed to form a committee to take a look at all of the holidays and decide as a group which holidays schools will be off and holidays that school will observe but be in session. That committee will be: Mr. Stirk, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Jen Cecarelli, and Goldie Adele.

Motion: Approval of the 2022-2023 District Calendar as is with an amendment that if school goes to June 19, 2023, the district will recognize Juneteenth as a holiday and there will be no school.

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 7
NAY: 1
ABSTAIN: 1

Ron Bathrick voted no
Eleni Diakogeorgiou abstained

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- Online kindergarten registration is open
- CSDE testing and North Haven has completed the Last Links testing for all of our english learners in the district
- NHHS will participate in the Connecticut SAT school day for the 11th graders
- SATs will be on March 23-24, 2022
- SBAC testing opens for the State on March 28th and remains open until June 3, 2022 for students in Grades 3-8
- District will complete the Next Generation Science testing in Grades 11, 5 and 8
- Elementary marking period ended on February 24th and conference will be held on March 16, 17, and 18 at the elementary schools. There will be early dismissals

on those days.

- NHMS is in the process right now of parent conferences and also will be dismissed early on those days.
- Competed the elementary school extended day program 170 students participated across the four elementary schools
- NHMS/NHHS after school programs will begin
- Late Bus has been extended an additional two days a week (M-Th)
- Summer School planning is underway

C. Director of Student Services' Report

Information Item

Mrs. Stewart reported:

- School Based Health Community Services update
- College Transition Night will be on April 7, 2022. So far 9 schools participating
- Playground at GA will have a ribbon cutting on March 18, 2022 students and staff are thrilled that it is up and running. Mrs. Stewart thanked the Town for helping the District fund the playground

D. Director of Finance, Operations and Humans Resources

a. Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Information Item

Mr. Wardlow reported:

- The budget remains on track to date
 - Legal fees remain over budget. Mr. Wardlow would like to recommend, as suggested at the last Board Meeting, that the Special Education Reserve funds be used for legal fees for this fiscal year, if needed.
 - Fuel costs are going up, so the that account may be need to be adjusted due to the spike in fuel.
 - Everside Health Clinic update meeting with Mr. Freda on the 14th of March
 - Food Service Update
 - Reserve accounts update stating they are in good shape at this time
- b. Approval of the 2021-2022 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended transfers from January and February 2022

Motion: to approve the 2021-2022 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended transfers from January and February 2022

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele

SECOND: Joseph Solimene

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

c. Approval of extension year for Impressions Studio as Official School and Yearbook Photographer for High School

Motion: to approve the extension year for Impressions Studio as Official School and Yearbook Photographer for NHHS

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele

SECOND: Joseph Solimene

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Motion: to add an action item to the agenda concerning the Special Education Reserve Funds

Approved

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

Motion: to approve the utilization of the Special Education Reserve fund for the Special Education Reserve Fund for Special Education legal expenses incurred for the balance of fiscal year ending June 30, 2022

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

VIII. Public Comments

- Tim Gabriele, Renee Lane, commented regarding February's Board of Education Meetings environment, and steps that the Board could take in the future so it doesn't happen again.
- Jenny Caldwell, Kimberly Circle, commented regarding the behavior/tone of the public comments at February's Board of Education Meeting and encouraged the Board to take a look at their policies and enforce them during the public meetings to ensure things don't get out of control

IX. Executive Session (proposed)

- a. To discuss an attorney-client privileged document related to a confidential special education matter

Motion: To move into Executive Session to discuss an attorney-client privileged document related to a confidential special education matter, inviting Patrick Stirk and Jen Stewart

Approved

MOTION: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Returned to public session at 9:39 p.m.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Approved

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

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Anderson

Chairperson