



North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473
Patrick Stirk, Superintendent of Schools

North Haven Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
NHHS - Library
221 Elm Street
North Haven, CT 06473
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Thursday, September 8, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Ronald Bathrick, Joseph Solimene, Randi Petersen, Goldie Adele, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Amanda Gabriele, Marie Devlin, Thais Moore, Martin Rudnick, Jenn Kozniewski, Director of IT, Jen Stewart, Director of Student Services, Howard Wardlow, Director of Finance, Operations, and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, and Patrick Stirk, Superintendent of Schools.

I. Approval of the August 18, 2022 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the August 18, 2022 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabrielle
SECOND: Martin Rudnick
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

II. Organization of the Board of Education Officers

Information Item

As Chairman, Mr. Bathrick stated that this evening the Board will be voting for a new Vice Chairman and Secretary. Mr. Bathrick opened the floor for nominations for a Vice - Chairperson.

a. Vice Chairman

MOVED: Joseph Solimene nominated Dr. Randi Petersen for Vice-Chairman
SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Approved

Mr. Bathrick asked that the Board vote individually for Vice-Chairperson, and all voted for Dr. Petersen unanimously.

b. Secretary

Mr. Bathrick opened the floor for nominations for a Secretary..

MOVED: Randi Petersen nominated Eleni Diakogeorgiou for Secretary
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Approved

Mr. Bathrick asked that the Board vote individually for Secretary, and all voted for Eleni Diakogeorgiou unanimously.

III. Athletic Emergency Action Plan Presentation by Steven Blumenthal Information Item

Mr. Blumenthal gave a brief presentation regarding the Athletic Emergency Plan and answered any questions from the Board.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Retirement of Carol Ardito, Business Teacher at NHHS
- b. Retirement of Bohdana Rousseau, Secretary at NHMS
- c. Resignation of Natasha Domina, Grade 4 Teacher at Clintonville Elementary School
- d. Resignation of Pauline Fanfair, Special Education Paraprofessional Ridge Road Elementary School
- e. Resignation of Brittney Edwards, Special Education Paraprofessional at Ridge Road Elementary School
- f. Resignation of Jenna Malkin, Grade 5 Teacher at Montowese Elementary School

MOTION: to approve all items on the Consent Agenda Approved

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Mr. Bathrick thanked all that were mentioned for their time in North Haven.

V. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports Information Item

Alex Ranciato reported:

- There will be a PTA Meeting next week
- The first week of school went well
- Classes and Athletic activities have begun

VI. Board of Education Parent Representatives Reports Information Item

VII. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee Information Item

a. Board of Education School Representatives Discussion Item

Mr. Bathrick reported:

- He would like each Board Member to "adopt a school" to visit, attend any functions, etc. asked that they think about which school they would like and he will assign them next month according to their wishes.

b. Board of Education Agenda Update Information Item

Mr. Bathrick reported:

- Change in the Public Comment portion of BOE Meetings. Public Comments will be broken up into two portions beginning in October. The first portion will be at the beginning of the meetings where the public can comment on items that are NOT on the agenda; and then the second portion will be the usual portion at the end of the meeting for the public to comment on the Agenda items for that month.

VIII. Reports of Standing Committees:
1. ACES Information Item

The new Board Rep for ACES will be Martin Rudnick

2. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning Information Item

The Board Reps for Curriculum, Instruction and Planning Committee will be Joe Solimene,

Eleni Diakogeorgiou, and Marie Devlin

3. North Haven Education Foundation Information Item
4. Policy Information Item
 - a. Approval of the Policy for Equitable Identification of Gifted & Talented Students

MOTION: To approve the Policy for Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

5. Ad Hoc Athletic Committee Information Item

Board Reps for the Ad Hoc Athletic Committee will be Ron Bathrick Randi Petersen, and Amanda Gabriele

6. Ad Hoc District Calendar Committee Information Item

Board Reps for the Ad Hoc District Calendar Committee will be Thais Moore, Goldie Adele, and Eleni Diakogeorgiou

- IX. Staff Communications
1. Superintendent's Report Information Item
 - a. SBAC Update Information Item
 - b. District Data Update Information Item
 - c. District has made incredible progress comparing to both the State and our DRG

Mr. Stirk reported;

- Shared a slide presentation celebrating North Haven's tests scores on the SBAC, Next Generation Science Standards, and SATs North Haven is #3 in DRG in ELA and #6 in Math

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- Will be digging into individual school data as information comes in and will use that Data to plan instruction
- When district receives individual parent results for SBAC, there will be a mailing home o parents
- District summer programs, the Enrichment and Intervention Programs for K-12 students have been recognized by the Connecticut Association of School Superintendents. A representative came and visited the programs twice over the summer and they are sharing our program as a model across the State.
- K-5 Science STEM update
- Seal of Biliteracy update

Amanda Gabriele commended the district for these scores, stating that there is much to celebrate, and how proud she is of everyone's efforts.

Mr. Stirk stated that some concerns have been brought to his attention recently. One being around surveys have been given to students at the start of the school year. These surveys included specific questions around how students identify through use of pronouns. After hearing about this the district is looking at their protocols, policies and consulting with legal counsel moving forward.

Mr. Bathrick stated that these surveys were sent out in some classrooms, by some teachers. They did not get directives or approval from the Superintendent's office. These surveys have been taken down and are no longer being sent out to students.

Mr. Stirk stated that another concern that has been brought to his attention is regarding a book assignment. The book is called "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian". There have been concerns

from the community and the administration will be taking a closer look at this book as well as all the books being read in our schools. The District is in the process of restructuring the positions of our Program Coordinators and Looking into past practices with books being read.

- d. Approval of the Superintendent to Authorize Assignment of Copyright for the Nighthawks Logo

MOTION: To approve the Superintendent to Authorize Assignment of Copyright for the Nighthawks Logo

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

2. Assistant Superintendent's Report
3. Director of Student Services' Report

Information Item
Information Item

Mrs. Stewart reported:

- The first Director's Chat will be held on 9/23 at 9:00.
- At this first chat an overview of special education and counseling services will be discussed. Director chats will be held every other month during the year. Guest speakers will come to some of the chats to discuss topics such as assistive technology, transition services, and mental health services.
- Melissa Grich - OT in district - is part of the New England Assistive Technology Champions Program. Melissa was selected for this program. As a participant in this program Melissa will develop her assistive technology knowledge and skill sets to better serve her students, families, and colleagues.

- a. Approval of the Paraprofessional Handbook

MOTION: to approve the Paraprofessional Handbook

Approved

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

4. Director of Finance, Operations and Humans Resources

- a. Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Information Item

Mr. Wardlow reported:

- General Liability Insurance will remain over budget
- IT Software line is also over budget and this is because we are waiting for reimbursement and once that is received it will no longer be over budget.
- Monthly transfer update
- Cafeteria Fund update-replacing equipment at Montowese, Ridge Road and NHHS
- Vanacore Field Renovation update
- Recommending to utilize the surplus funds to provide free meals to all students thru October 28, 2022
- Security Project reimbursement grant the district received from the State will be utilized for Fiber Optic cables for cables at NHHS, and to replace cameras at NHMS
- NHMS telephone upgrade project, integrating NHMS with the rest of the district

MOTION: to add a motion to the agenda for the approval of Cafeteria funds to provide meals to all Students thru October 28, 2022

Approved

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

MOTION: To approve using the cafeteria funds in the amount of \$35,000 to provide meals to all students thru October 28, 2022 Approved

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Amanda Gabriele
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION: to add a motion to the agenda for the approval of cafeteria funds to purchase new cafeteria Equipment Approved

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION: to approve utilization of cafeteria funds in the amount of \$200,000 to purchase new cafeteria equipment Approved

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Amanda Gabriele
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION: to add a motion to the agenda for the approval the use of capital funding to replace the NHMS telephone system Approved

MOVED: Martin Rudnick
SECOND: Amanda Gabriele
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION: to approve the use of capital funding to replace the NHMS telephone system Approved

MOVED: Goldie Adele
SECOND: Martin Rudnick
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

b. Approval of the 2022-2023 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended transfers

MOTION: to approve the 2022-2023 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended transfers Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Martin Rudnick
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

X. Public Comments

- Kristy Mineri, 42 Pool Road, commented regarding the questionnaire and the book assignment
- Anna Buono, 20 Alexander Drive, commented regarding the book assignment
- Jennifer Vanacore, 56 Laydon Avenue, commented regarding the book assignment, the survey and the districts legal council

- Dr. Amy Chi, 144 Blue Hill Road commented regarding teacher training and curriculum
- Colleen from Parent Choice commented regarding curriculum and book assignments
- Kristia Rubino commented regarding her child receiving a survey in two different classes
- Marlena Imperotti, 112 Arrowdale Road, commented regarding the survey given out at some schools
- Tracy Reilly, 1037 Hartford Turnpike, commented regarding the survey given at schools
- Linda Wood, 42 Pool Road, commented regarding the reading assignment given and suggested Reviewing all books before giving them to students to read.

XI. Executive Session: to discuss strategy with respect to pending claims and litigation concerning a special education matter

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to pending claims and litigation concerning a special education matter, and inviting Mr. Stirk, Ms. Stewart, and Attorney Linda Yoder.

Approved

MOVED: Martin Rudnick
 SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
 AYE: 9
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAIN: 0

XII. Adjournment

Approved

MOTION : to adjourn at 10:02 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
 SECOND: Randi Petersen
 AYE: 9
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Bathrick,
 Chairperson