



North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting

NHHS - Library
221 Elm Street

North Haven, CT 06473

REGULAR/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, December 14, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Ronald Bathrick, Randi Petersen, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Goldie Adele, Amanda Gabriele, Joseph Solimene, Marie Devlin, Thais Moore, Martin Rudnick (virtual), Anthony Mastriano, Interim Director of Student Services, Christian Strickland, Interim Chief Operating Officer, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, and Patrick Stirk, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Stirk welcomed everyone and Mr. Freda began the Organization of the Board of Education Officers.

I. Organization of the Board of Education Officers by the First Selectman

Information Item

Nominations were opened for Board Officers

a. Chairperson

MOTION: Randi Petersen nominated Ronald Bathrick to be Chairperson

APPROVED

SECOND: Joseph Solimene

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

b. Vice-Chairperson

MOTION: Ronald Bathrick nominated Randi Peterson to be Vice-Chairperson

APPROVED

SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

c. Secretary

MOTION: Joseph Solimene nominated Eleni Diakogeorgiou to be Secretary

APPROVED

SECOND: Ronald Bathrick

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Mr. Freda thanked all of the Board Members for all of the time they dedicate to this Board

II. Approval of the November 9, 2023 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the November 9, 2023 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes APPROVED

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

Mr. Bathrick asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the Sandy Hook Tragedy which Happened 11 years ago today.

III. BOE Student Representative Reports Information Item

Joe reported:

- December 13, 2023 Boys Ice Hockey season started
- National Honor Society Fundraiser began benefiting Smilow Cancer Hospital
- Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest
- **Free SAT Prep** — NHHS is offering an after-school SAT preparation course free of charge to interested NHHS students. Students will receive direct instruction, practice opportunities, and feedback from certified math and English teachers. Students in all grades are invited to sign up, but juniors will be given priority if enrollment reaches capacity. Sessions will run Thursday, December 14, 2023 through Tuesday, January 16, 2024 (no sessions during December break).

Sarah reported:

- On Saturday morning, our varsity football team won their second consecutive Class MM State Championship with a 21 to zero victory over Wilton. Congratulations to our football athletes and coaches, led by head coach Anthony Sagnella. Congratulations to Wilton on their excellent season. And thank you to our huge student and adult fan section, who cheered on our team with class.
- Thank you to our senior class for hosting another wonderful senior to senior breakfast on Friday, December 8, 2023. We had a great turnout of senior citizen guests, filling our cafeteria with friends. Ms. Planinshek and her culinary students prepared a delicious breakfast spread. Ms. Iadarola and Ms. Oakley led our vocal and instrumental students in beautiful music and carols. And our senior class served as gracious hosts of our guests, spending the morning serving and socializing with them. Thanks to our senior class advisors, Wendy Wade and Justin Falcon, and our senior class officers, president Paul Wilson-McCarthy, vice president Sonia Temfack, secretary Shen Wan, and treasurer Nate Ruggiero.
- **Healthcare Careers Day** was a great success. Over 70 students who signed up were present to meet with and learn from community business people in healthcare fields. Thank you to Anne Benowitz of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, and Amy Raup, North Haven career department coordinator, for making this event possible. And a deep thanks to the healthcare professionals who gave up their morning to share health career possibilities with our students.
- Counselors are meeting with all juniors by the end of December to review post-secondary opportunities. More information on different opportunities can be found [here](#). Students are encouraged to review presentation materials and schedule follow-up appointments with their counselor.

IV. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

V. Consent Agenda

1. Resignation of Camille DiGioia, Human Resource/Payroll Manager

MOTION: to approve the items on the Consent Agenda APPROVED

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

VI. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Mr. Bathrick also thanked the other Board members for their service on the Board, as well as the Administrators. Mr. Bathrick congratulated the NHHS Football Team for their winning this past week.

VII. Reports of Standing Committees:

1. ACES

Information Item

Mr. Rudnick reported:

- There was annual Christmas presentation of Cards made by the students
- Budget Discussion

2. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning

Information Item

Mr. Solimene reported:

- New course proposals for the 24-25 school year
- New clubs that were approved (Stress Elimination Association Club and Gifts to Cure Club at North Haven High School)
- Science of Reading Waiver was discussed

3. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

Mr. Stirk reported:

- Reviewed Grants received
- Grant approved for Montowese School
- It was Mr. John Parese's last meeting, as he is stepping down. Mr. Parese has been on the Foundation since 2006. Mr. Stirk thanked Mr. Parese for all his time on the Foundation.

4. Policy

Information Item

FIRST READ OF THE FOLLOWING:

- a. Policy #4112.5/4212.5 - Employment and Student Teacher Checks (Personnel)
- b. Policy #5113 P/R - Student Attendance, Truancy and chronic Absenteeism (Student)
- c. Policy #5131.911 - Bullying Prevention and Intervention (Student)
- d. Policy #4218 P/R - Policy Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Personnel)
- e. Policy #5141.4 - Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees
- f. Policy #5145.8 - Policy Regarding Students and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

APPROVAL OF:

- a. Approval of Policy #4152/4252, Family and Medical Leave

MOTION: to approve Policy #1452/4252, Family Medical Leave

APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabroele

SECOND: Goldie Adele

AYE: 9

NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

- b. Approval of Policy #5146, Educational Stability Procedures for Transportation Coordination with the Department of Children and Families

MOTION: to approve Policy #5146, Educational Stability Procedures for Transportation Coordination with the Department of Children and Families

APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele

SECOND: Randi Petersen

AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

c. Approval of Policy #4118.113 P/R and #4218.113 P/R Non-Discrimination - Personnel

MOTION: to approve Policy #4118.113 P/R and #4218.113 P/R Non-Discrimination - Personnel APPROVED

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

d. Approval of Policy #1400, Non-Discrimination - Community/Board Operations

MOTION: to approve Policy #1400, Non-Discrimination - Community/Board Operations APPROVED

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

e. Approval of Policy #5113, Non-Discrimination - Series 5000 - Students

MOTION: To add a motion to add recommended language to Policy #5113, Non-Discrimination, Students APPROVED

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

MOTION: To approve Policy #5114, Non-Discrimination - Series 5000 - Students including language suggested by Shipman and Goodwin APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Thais Moore
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

f. Approval of Policy #5114, Student Discipline

After discussion, it was decided to table this item to re-write and return to it at a later date.

MOTION: To TABLE the approval of Policy #5114, Student Discipline APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Thais Moore
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

g. Approval Policy #5145.51, Policy Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 -Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harrassment

MOTION: to approve Policy #5145.51, Policy Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 9

NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

5. Ad Hoc Athletic Committee Meeting Information Item
- a. Review of the "Draft" North Haven Public School Building Facilities Usage Request Form Discussion Item

Dr. Petersen reported that the Committee worked on reading a "Draft" School Building facilities Usage Request Form reflecting expectations and guidelines for anyone requesting to use the buildings/facilities. Committee will meet again after the holidays to finalize the form.

VIII. Staff Communications

1. Superintendent's Report Information Item

Mr. Stirk reported:

- Kindergarten Start Date Update

There was discussion regarding this matter. Mr. Stirk is proposing that NHPS will accept all students turning 5 by January 1st. Students turning 5 after September 1st will have to submit written request to the school Principal to have their child properly screened. Once the Principal receives this request the student will be screened and placed accordingly. Mr. Stirk will be sending communications regarding this matter as well as a Press Release with this information.

- a. DEIB Update Information Item

Ms. Moore noted observances in December: Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, as well as Martin Luther King Day in January.

Ms. Moore stated that the December DEIB Meeting was canceled and will be rescheduled for sometime in January.

2. Assistant Superintendent's Report Information Item

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- Science of Reading Update and discussion by the Board
- NHHS Juniors and Seniors have an opportunity to access college level courses at SCSU. Families interested should contact the Guidance Office
- SAT Prep course is underway at NHHS

There was further discussion regarding the Science of Reading, including the costs of getting it started, professional development, and what is needed to keep it going in the future. Mrs. McKenna stated this is an ongoing process and will keep the Board updated.

3. Interim Chief Operating Officer's Report Information Item

Mr. Strickland reported:

- Operating Budget in good shape at this date, reviewing specific line items
- Budget preparations are underway
- Transportation Update - the Board had questions regarding transportation and Mr. Strickland answered accordingly.
- Food Service update - Mr. Solimene suggested getting healthier options for students in the cafeteria
- Grant funding update
- Health Insurance Update
- HVAC Assessment being required by Statute update

- a. Approval of the 2023-2024 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended transfers

MOTION: to approve the 2023-2024 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended transfers

APPROVED

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

- b. Approval of a \$500 donation to the Green Acres Library, "Jack's Corner" from Theresa Viele and the North Haven Rotary in honor of her son Jack Viele.

MOTION: to approve a \$500 donation to the Green Acres Library, "Jack's Corner" from Theresa Viele and the North Haven Rotary in honor of her son Jack Viele.

APPROVED

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

4. Interim Director of Student Services Report

Information Item

Mr. Mastriano reported:

- School Based Health Update
- NHMS teachers working to Co-Teach using the Ed Advance Program with Fidelity.
- ILS Program Update - working to move program from Ridge Road to Clintonville

IV. Public Comments on Discussion/Action Items

- Tim Gabriele, Renee Lane, commented regarding Chartwells, suggesting They make healthier meals for students with perhaps some vegetarian or vegan options

X. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:22p.m.

APPROVED

MOVED: Joseph Solimene
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 9
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald Bathrick
Chairperson