



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 Meeting Minutes

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

Martin Rudnick was absent.

Thursday, May 11, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

I. Approval of the April 20, 2023 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE April 20, 2023 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Randi Petersen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

II. Board of Education Student Representatives Reports

Information Item

Alex reported:

- AP Exams are underway
- This week is Teacher Appreciation Week
- New Student Orientation is Wednesday, May 17, 2023
- Senior Prom is May 19, 2023

III. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- Krista Kaplan, 14 Governors Drive commented regarding teachers during Teachers Appreciation Week, praising the teachers for all that they do for North Haven. Mrs. Kaplan encouraged voters to vote at the upcoming referendum.
- Jamie Krzmarzik, 3 Lexington Gardens, commented regarding the North Haven Pride Celebration, Saturday, 17, 2023 at 11 a.m. on the North Haven Green
- Scott Freidman, 17 Cooper Road, Thanked all teachers during this week and everyday. commented regarding books in schools, bullying at NHMS towards the LGBTQ+ students, and encouraged all to go out and vote.
- Kristie Gill, 108 Grove Road, commented praised Patrick Lawrence for his work and stated that it is beneficial to begin at the elementary level and teaching them at a young age regarding diversity. Mrs. Gill thanked the teachers and the Board for all that they do.
- Lorenzo Porto, 11 Surrey Drive, commented regarding Policy #3515, Use of Turf Fields and would like that policy to be reviewed regarding rental fees, etc.
- Emma Arenberg, 47 Victory Drive, LGBTQ+ student at NHMS commented regarding students being

- bullied at NHMS, stating students do not feel safe.
- Lindsey Matis, 7 Lexington Gardens thanked all teachers in the district for all they do and Thanked the staff at Green Acres Preschool specifically, where her youngest child is starting her journey in the special education program, stating that it is important that all students belong.
- Tim Gabriele, Renee Lane, Thanked the teachers in district for all that they do. Commented regarding the bullying at NHMS, as well as students being separated from their friends In the lunchroom at NHMS

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Retirement of Robert Palumbo, Security at NHHS
2. Retirement of Cheryl Shea, Paraprofessional at NHMS

MOTION: To approve Consent Agenda

APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
 SECOND: Goldie Adele
 AYE: 8
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0

V. Board of Education Parent Representatives Reports

Information Item

Mr. Stirk reported:

- All schools gave teachers honored their teachers throughout the week, such as breakfast, lunch and various special treats.

VI. Report of the Board of Education Chairperson or Designee

Mr. Bathrick reported:

- The Board and administration are trying to resolve the many issues the district is having.

Dr. Petersenthankedall of the teachers for their hard work and dedication, stating that all teachers should be recognized today and everyday for all the work they do in the district during the school day, as well as after school, buy attending students games, plays, art shows, etc.

1. Approval of the 2022-2023 district calendar change (May 26, 2023 Professional Development)

Dr. Petersen stated that May 26th is an early dismissal day for students and a Professional Development day for teachers. Dr. Petersen made the following motion:

MOTION: to approve the 2022-2023 district calendar change (May 26, 2023 Professional Development), canceling the Professional Development day for teachers and allowing the teachers to to have a nice long weekend

APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
 SECOND: Goldie Adele
 AYE: 8
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0

2. Approval to indemnify any and all North Haven Board of Education employees in the case of Doe et. al. v. North Haven Board of Education, et. al., Civil Action No. 3:23-cv-00342

MOTION: to approve to indemnify any and all North Haven Board of Education employees in the case of Doe et. al. v. North Haven Board of Education, et. al., Civil Action No. 3:23-cv-00342

APPROVED

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Amanda Gabriele
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

VII. Reports of Standing Committees:

1. ACES
2. Curriculum, Instruction, and Planning

Information Item
Information Item

Mr. Solimene reported:

- Met on April 26, 2023
- Devin Mannion, 9-12 English/Language Arts Coordinator joined to discuss summer Reading proposals with changes made.
- Summer Reading Program at the High School was discussed and approved
- Committee approved a Sports Club at the Middle School
- Discussed field trip practices

- a. Approval of Green Acres Field Trip to Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Road, Sturbridge, MA on May 24, 2023

MOTION: To approve Green Acres Field trip to Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Road, Sturbridge, MA on May 24, 2023

APPROVED

MOVED: Randi Petersen
SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

3. North Haven Education Foundation

Information Item

Mr. Stirk reported:

- The Foundation raised approximately \$16,000 at their Comedy Night last week
- They are planning a Trivia Night Fundraiser in the fall
- NHEF is always looking for new Board Members if anyone is interested

4. Policy

- a. Approval of Policy 5141.21 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools

MOTION: to approve Policy 5141.21 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools

APPROVED

MOVED: Marie Devlin
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

- b. Approval of Policy 5141.25 Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes

MOTION: to approve Policy 5141.25 Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Marie Devlin
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

c. Approval of Policy 5145.4 Non Discrimination (Students)

MOTION: To approve Policy 5145.4 Non Discrimination (Students) APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Marie Devlin
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

d. Approval of Policy 5145.8(a) Policy Regarding Students and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

MOTION: to approve Policy 5145.8(a) Policy Regarding Students and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 APPROVED

MOVED: Marie Devlin
SECOND: Amanda Gabriele
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

e. Approval of Series 4000 Personnel Policy - Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events

MOTION: To approve Series 4000 Personnel Policy - Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Marie Devlin
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

f. Approval of Series 4000 Personnel Policy - Exertional Heat Illness Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics

MOTION: To approve Series 4000 Personnel Policy - Exertional Heat Illness Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Thais Moore
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

XII. Staff Communications

1. Superintendent's Report Information Item

Mr. Stirk reported:

- Last three days of school (June 14, 15, and 16) will be early dismissal days
- Teacher Appreciation Week - Mr. Stirk thanked all of the teachers recognizing their hard work during these challenging times. Mr. Stirk shared a letter he and

Mrs. McKenna sent to all teachers this week.

2. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Information Item

Mrs. McKenna echoed Mr. Stirks words and again thanked the teachers for their dedication and hard work.

3. Director of Finance, Operations and Humans Resources

- a. Approval of a donation of a new wheelchair from a parent in the District.

MOTION; To approve a donation of a new wheelchair from a parent in District

APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
 SECOND: Marie Devlin
 AYE: 8
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0

- b. Approval of the Healthy Food Option as stated for 2023-2024 school Year.

MOTION: To approve the Healthy Food Option as stated: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
 SECOND: Joseph Solimene
 AYE: 8
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0

- c. Approval of the Beverage Exemptions for the 2023-2024 school year

MOTION: To approve the Beverage Exemptions 2023-2024 school year as stated:

The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.

APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
 SECOND: Randi Petersen
 AYE: 8
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0

- d. Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Information Item

Mr. Wardlow reported:

- Spending is trending in line with last year
- Uptick in the need for overtime

- Uptick in substitute costs as there is an increase in sick days, FMLA, etc.
- Cost increase in basic commodities across the board
- Transfer update
- Cafeteria Funda update
- Capital Budget update
- Giles Avenue Lease update and discussion

The Board discussed this lease and getting additional storage space. Phil Diana was present answer any questions the Board may have.

- e. Approval of additional rental space at the maintenance garage On Giles Avenue

MOTION: to approve additional rental space at the maintenance garage on Giles Avenue APPROVED

MOVED: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
 SECOND: Randi Petersen
 AYE: 7
 NAY: 1
 ABSTAINED: 0

Mrs. Gabriele voted against this motion

- Medical account update
- Worker's Compensation update
- Special Education Update

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

MOTION: To approve the 2023-2023 Monthly Financial Report, including recommended transfers APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
 SECOND: Marie Devlin
 AYE: 8
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0

IX. Public Comments on Discussion/Action Items

- Krista Kaplan, 14 Governors Drive, thanked the administrators and Board for the cancellation of the Professional Development day.

X. Executive Session

MOTION: to enter into Executive Session to discuss and potential approval of extension of Superintendent's Contract, inviting Mr. Stirk into Executive Session at 8:07 pm APPROVED

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
 SECOND: Thais Moore
 AYE: 8
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0

- a. Discussion concerning the Superintendent's annual evaluation Discussion Item
- b. Discussion and potential approval of extension of Superintendent's Contract

The Board came out of Executive Session 9:50 pm

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:52 p.m.

APPROVED

MOVED: Joseph Solimene
SECOND: Eleni Diakogeorgiou
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Bathrick
Ronald Bathrick, Chairman