



# North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

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**THE NORTH HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
5 LINSLEY STREET  
NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473  
May 21, 2020, 6 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance: Anita Anderson, Joseph Solimene, Randi Petersen, Dorothy Logan, Wesley O'Brien, Jennifer Cecarelli, Amanda Gabriele, Goldie Adele, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Patrick Stirk, Superintendent of Schools, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Pamela Mangini, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, Jen Stewart, Interim Director of Student Services, Jen Kozniewski, Director of IT, Russell Dallai, NHHS Principal, and Rebecca Carr, Director of NHHS Guidance**

1. Consent Agenda
  - a. Minutes of April 21, 2020
  - b. Retirements:
    - i. Robin Rlver, Special Education Teacher at NHHS
    - ii. Sharon Jackson, Grade 5 Teacher at Montowese Elementary School
    - iii. Holly DeMartino, Special Education Teacher at Ridge Road
  - c. Resignation:
    - iv. Brittne Shabott, Science Teacher at NHHS
  - d. Non-Renewals:
    - v. Andrew Ladutko, Social Studies Teacher at NHMS
    - vi. Olivier Nicaise, Science Teacher at NHHS
    - vii. Noel Musco, Intervention Teacher at NHHS

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabrielle  
SECOND: Joseph Solimene  
AYE: 9  
NAY: 0  
ABSTAINED: 0

2. Superintendent
  - a. Class Rank

Information

Dr. Dallai stated that there was a committee formed for the elimination of Class Rank and introduced Mrs. Carr to present a powerpoint presentation with details on the committee and the research and data they have collected. Mrs. Carr stated that the committee feels that class rank does zero service to students and may actually negatively impact students at all levels of academic achievement. She shared her data supporting their findings as well as what other Districts are doing, stating that many of them are also eliminating class rank. In doing research, Mrs. Carr also stated that many colleges are not even looking at class rank in their decision to accept students to their university. Mrs. Carr shared with the Board all of the districts that do or do not have class rank. For many, having class rank causes great

stress to the students and their mental health. Class rank can actually penalize excellent students who fell outside the top 10. With that being said North Haven will continue to recognize student achievement and maintain valedictorian status, etc.

Mrs. Carr and Dr. Dallai and the committee would like to research more, survey the students and families, and if the Board is in agreement begin this with the current junior class. They will report back to the Board at a later time.

Discussion and questions followed.

b. Graduation Update

Information

Mr. Stirk announced that the District intends to honor our graduating seniors the best it can, as this situation has not been fair to our graduates or their families. He continued that unfortunately, due to the current situation, Connecticut school districts are mandated to adhere to the Governor's Executive Orders. Mr. Stirk stated that North Haven is thinking creatively while abiding by the executive orders and hope to honor North Haven Seniors to the best of its ability.

Mr. Stirk reported that he and Dr. Dallai met with Mr. Freda, along with the police and fire chiefs to discuss the options of having a traditional graduation over the summer some time. Unfortunately, after much discussion we were told that this would likely not be able to happen, later confirming this with Aly Mullvihill at Quinnipiac Valley Health Department, who also agreed that it was not an option to hold a graduation later in the summer, but supported North Haven having a "Drive-Up" Graduation.

Mr. Stirk recommended to the Board of Education that North Haven have a "Hybrid Drive-Up" Graduation for the Class of 2020 on June 22, 2020 at the North Haven High School/North Haven Middle School Campus.

Mr. Dallai presented a recap of the State's Executive Orders and his plans for Senior events including graduation for the Class of 2020.

Dr. Dallai proposed:

- Hybrid-Drive-up Graduation at the NHHS/NHMS Campus
- every student walking across an elevated state to receive diploma
- professional photographer
- NHTV recording entire ceremony
- Stage 2 of the re-opening of the State allows for 50 people at gatherings which can ensure that we can include Mr. Freda, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Stirk, Mr. Dallai, along with some musicians and vocalists, while all maintaining social distancing.

Other functions Dr. Dallai has planned:

- Virtual Senior Awards Ceremony
- Letters and updates to families
- Recognition Awards to Seniors
- May 29th Caps/Gowns Delivery to each Senior
- June 18th Celebration (Drive Thru) under the lights at the Football field
- with some surprises along the way

There was discussion and questions with the Board of Education and Dr. Dallai answered them accordingly.

The Board of Education Members all agreed that this was a wonderful plan and thanked Dr. Dallai for his hard work and dedication in making these special events happen for the Class of 2020.

Mr. Stirk assured the Board members that he would update them as plans became firm. He also stated that the 5th and 8th grades will be having virtual ceremonies, etc as well

- c. Approval of a donation from Farmington Public Schools of 24 laptop carts valued at approximately \$20,000

Motion: to approve the donation from Farmington Public Schools of 24 laptop carts valued at approximately \$20,000

Approved

MOVED: Joseph Solimene  
SECOND: Amanda Gabriele  
AYE: 9  
NAY: 0  
ABSTAINED: 0

- d. Approval of the Distance Learning Policy

Mr. Stirk stated that this was a model policy from Shipman and Goodwin and the District's attorney advised that North Haven get a policy in place and voted on by the Board. This policy may need to be updated as time goes on with Distance Learning and the State Guidelines, etc.

Motion: to approve the Distance Learning Policy

Approved

MOVED: Dorothy Logan  
SECOND: Randi Petersen  
AYE: 9  
NAY: 0  
ABSTAINED: 0

3. Director of Finance and Operations:
  - a. Director of Finance and Operations Report (oral)
  - b. Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Information  
Information

Mrs. Mangini reported:

- Some anticipated savings due to shutdown;
  - substitutes
  - stipends
  - overtime
  - professional development
  - mileage
  - transportation
- Some additional expenses:
  - cleaning
  - legal fees
  - computer costs
  - health insurance
  - pre-K tuition
- State grant information was received and extended to September 30, 2020
- North Haven has received \$213,713.00 through the CARES Act, which can be used for:
  - technology
  - learning apps
  - opening of schools
  - emotional support for educators and students
  - Mrs. Mangini stated that the District must remain mindful in how it spends this money
- Food Services Contract is being drafted and submitted to the State

- Healthy Food Certificate is being prepared and will be brought to the Board for approval in June
- Field trip refunds will be done at Central Office in batches beginning next week, beginning with the band trip and Ellis Island. The district is still waiting on Nature's Classroom, but will be refunding that field trip as well.

4. Interim Director of Student Services:

a. Special Education Update

Information

Mrs. Stewart reported:

- PPTs and 504s are all being held remotely
- Special Education teachers are providing live instruction
- Students teams are touching base with parents
- Special Education teachers are working closely with general education teachers
- counselors are available for secondary level
- extended school year (ESY) is being done remotely this year, and letters will follow to parents
- Transition Nights will be done remotely
  - 6th grade June 2, 2020 at 6 pm
  - 9th grade June 4, 2020 at 6 pm
  - letters/ flyers will be sent to families

5. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 7:15 pm

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabrielle  
 SECOND: Joseph Solimene  
 AYE: 9  
 NAY: 0  
 ABSTAINED: 0

Respectfully submitted,

*Anita Anderson*

Anita Anderson  
 Chairperson