



North Haven Public Schools

North Haven, Connecticut 06473

North Haven Public School
Board of Education Meeting

Meeting/Minutes

Attendance: Anita Anderson, Joseph Solimene, Wesley O'Brien, Jennifer Cecarelli, Goldie Adele, Amanda Gabriele, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Jenn Kozniewski, Director of IT and COVID Health and Safety Liaison, Jen Stewart, Director of Student Services, Howard Wardlow, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Resources, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, Patrick Stirk, Superintendent of Schools

Randi Petersen and Dorothy Logan were absent

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Anderson opened the meeting wishing Dr. O'Brien well, and thanked him for his years of service on the North Haven Board of Education. Dr. O'Brien is resigning at the end of December. Dr. O'Brien thanked the Board and stated that one of the reasons is leaving now is because he knows he is leaving a strong and functional group of people on the Board and a great leader in Patrick and his team.

I. Consent Agenda

a. November 12, 2020 Regular BOE Meeting Minutes

Motion: to approve the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Jennifer Cecarelli
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

II. Staff Communications

A. Superintendent's Report -

Mr. Stirk reported:

- Staying in current instructional model until winter break
- week of January 4-8 district will be fully remote
- January 11, 2021, district will return to current model
- OPT Out program and Live Streaming will continue throughout the school year, asking that parents communicate their choices with the schools
- District will continue to report any cases present in the district while they are potentially infectious with the assistance of QVHD
- Vaccination Update: working with QVHD with information on our website
- Budget season is upon us and Budget Workshops will be as follows:
 - January 7
 - January 12
 - January 14 (Regular BOE Meeting date will be cancelled for workshop)
 - These workshops will all be virtual

1. Introduction of the NHPS Diversity and Inclusion Coach - Emadi Okwuosa

Mr. Stirk introduced Mr. Emadi Okwuosa, who is the NHPS Diversity and Inclusion Coach. Mr. Stirk stated that the committee felt that with his experience and vision Mr. Okwuosa is a great fit for the District. This role will start out as a part time position in hopes that it will grow into a full time position eventually.

Mrs. Stewart shared that Mr. Okwuosa's main role this year will be building relationships with faculty, staff, parents and students.

Mr. Okwuosa stated that he is grateful he is going to be part of the North Haven community, a community that he himself was raised in. The Board all welcomed Mr. Okwuosa and asked some questions, to which he answered accordingly.

2. Approval of the Support Staff Contract dated July 1, 2020-
June 30, 2021

Motion: to approve the Support Staff Contract dated July 2, 2020-June 30, 2021

Approved

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mrs. McKenna reported:

- Parent conferences are this month
- MS/HS December 8 and 15
- Elementary December 16, 17, 18
- Elementary using narrative reports
- Math Kits for students learning at home were sent out for families to use as resources
- Writing Journals were also sent home for students
- Monitoring practices, introducing class libraries back in
- Opt Out enrollment is 419, Live Stream is approximately 460

There was further discussion regarding the OPT Out Program and Live Streaming, as well as COVID related questions.

C. Director of Student Services Report

1. Special Education Update

Information Item

Mrs. Stewart reported:

- transition events for students entering Kindergarten, 6th grade, and 9th grade will be held in the month of February virtually. Members of the school will share information with students and parents. More information will be sent to families in January.
- Social Emotional Learning is about Kindness for this month. There will be a North Haven School Community Acts of Kindness google presentation. Anyone can send a google slide using words, pictures, drawing, or all to express how you show kindness to kindness.month@northhavenschools.org. The google slide presentation will be shared with all on December 22, 2020

D. Director of Finance and Operations Report

1. Director of Finance and Operations Report

Information Item

Mr. Wardlow reported:

- Capital Project funds should be \$405,671 (correction)
- Corona Relief Funds Update
- Medical Claim Update - Anthem is doing an audit and Mr. Wardlow will report back to the Board when audit is complete.

Questions were asked and Mr. Wardlow answered accordingly.

2. Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Information Item

III. Public Comments

The following public comments were made:

- Alyssa D'Amico, 60 Potter Road commented regarding the live stream option
- Thais Moore, 550 Clintonville Road commented welcoming Emadi Okwuosa and wanted to know his contact information
- Ben Papsun, 456 Quinpiac Avenue commented regarding the mascot and wanted to know when the Board will be discussing it.
- Zoi Burns, 5 Van Rose Drive, commented regarding Emadi Okwuosa and thanked the Board for creating that position in North Haven.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

MOVED: Amanda Gabriele
SECOND: Wesley O'Brien
AYE: 7
NAY: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Anderson

Anita Anderson, Chairperson