

**THE NORTH HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
5 LINSLEY STREET  
NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

**MINUTES**

Date: April 2, 2009

Attendance at this REGULAR Meeting:

Attendance at this REGULAR Meeting: John Lambert, Alicia Clapp, Sandra Cummings, Stephen DiCapua, Suzanne Donofrio, Gerald Feinberg, Carole Franceschet, James Hogan, Debbie Volain, Edward Gomeau, Director of Business and Operations, Patricia K. Brozek, Assistant Superintendent, and Sara-Jane R. Querfeld, Superintendent of Schools

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Lambert at 7:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2009

Moved: to approve the Minutes March 12, 2009

Approved

MOVED: Sandra Cummings  
SECOND: James Hogan  
AYE: 9  
NAY: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0

2. Budgets:

- a. 2008-2009 Budget
- b. State and Federal Funds
- c. Extra-Curricular Activities

Moved: to accept budget reports and place them on file

Approved

MOVED: Debbie Volain  
SECOND: Carole Franceschet  
AYE: Unanimous  
NAY:  
ABSTAIN:

3. Report of Standing Committees

- a. Finance and Operations

Mr. DiCapua reported that Finance and Operations met this evening and discussed the current year's budget. Mr. DiCapua stated that the current year budget is in good shape. He reported oil usage was more than expected, and special education is very close to budget. He congratulates Mrs. Querfeld and the other administrators on keeping a close eye on special education as there were issues last year that did not happen this year. The second item discussed was the 2009-2010 budget. Mr. DiCapua stated that the BOE is dealing with a \$450,000 reduction from the Finance Board and are in the process of doing the contingency planning for how to achieve the savings. He stated that at this time the Board is looking at losing 6 teaching position, as well as other areas, including retirements we have had and are expecting. He stated that we are currently watching our kindergarten enrollment, and are concerned about class sizes. He reported that we are hopeful that we will not loose any programs at the high school level. Mr. DiCapua reported that Master Custodial won the bidding contract. He stated that the custodial bid came in at \$29,000 less than last year. He stated that the food service and the bus contracts are pending and hope they will be formalized at the next meeting. Mr. DiCapua reported the last item discussed at Finance and Operations was the Building Committee and the athletic fields. He stated the students need to start using the fields. Mr. DiCapua stated that the committee is not

completely happy about the conditions of the softball field, but it is time to get the students playing on them and any issues will be addressed at a later date. Mr. DiCapua is hopeful that the finance board will reserve some of the money against those contracts, just in case we are forced to do some work on our end to get the fields up to par. Mr. DiCapua reported that we are waiting on the baseball field issue, which would be if the field still does not drain properly. He stated that we will know that in the next couple of weeks.

1. Approval of Janitorial Services

Moved: to accept the approval of Janitorial Services

Approved

MOVED: Stephen DiCapua  
SECOND: Gerald Feinberg  
AYE: Unanimous  
NAY:  
ABSTAIN:

b. Personnel

1. Approval of appointment of Laretta Dowling, Interim Principal,  
Clintonville Elementary School

Moved: to approve the appointment of Laretta Dowling, Interim Principal,  
Clintonville Elementary School

Approved

MOVED: Alicia Clapp  
SECOND: Carole Franceschet  
AYE: Unanimous  
NAY:  
ABSTAIN:

Mrs. Clapp stated that she was very happy for Mrs. Dowling and feels that if there is anyone who can fill Mrs. Grantham's shoes, she is more than capable. She stated that she and Mrs. Grantham have the same ethics and educational philosophy. Mrs. Clapp states that she is very happy for the parents/students at Clintonville School.

2. Approval of retirement of Margaret Robertson,  
Clintonville Elementary School teacher

Moved: to approve the retirement of Margaret Robertson,  
Clintonville Elementary School

Approved

MOVED: John Lambert  
SECOND: Alicia Clapp  
AYE: Unanimous  
NAY:  
ABSTAIN:

Mrs. Clapp stated that she worked with Mrs. Robertson for many years and she admires her greatly. She stated that she will be missed. Mrs. Clapp stated that she was a true gift to the children of North Haven. Mrs. Querfeld stated that she was an excellent teacher. Mrs. Franceschet also stated that two of her children had Mrs. Robertson and had a wonderful learning experience in her classroom.

3. Approval of retirement of Bette DeMayo, NHHS Math Teacher

Moved: to approve retirement of Bette DeMayo, NHHS Math Teacher

Approved

MOVED: John Lambert  
SECOND: James Hogan  
AYE: Unanimous  
NAY:  
ABSTAIN:

Ms. Brozek stated, "Bette DeMayo and I have been colleagues for 30 years. She is one of the finest math teachers ever to teach at North Haven High School. She has given countless hours to helping students learn algebra and geometry as well as numerous extra curricular activities including years as the majorette coach, Students Offering Support advisor and class advisor. Twenty-one years ago as one of the class advisors she became part of a committee with me to plan and make our graduation ceremony what it is today. She has worked every year from then to teach, train, mentor, and organize Senior Awards Night and Graduation to be the class act that you witness every year. Her time and efforts on behalf of the students and staff at our high school are enormously appreciated. I wish her a happy healthy retirement."

4. Approval of resignation of Ashley Woodward, Montowese Elementary  
Teacher

Moved: to approve the resignation of Ashley Woodward, Montowese Elementary School

Approved

MOVED: John Lambert  
SECOND: Carole Francheschet  
AYE: Unanimous  
NAY:  
ABSTAIN:

5. Approval of request for a one year leave of absence of Hayden Holt,  
NHHS Foreign Language Teacher

Moved: to approve the request for a one year leave of absence of Hayden Holt,  
NHHS Foreign Language Teacher

Approved

MOVED: John Lambert  
SECOND: Stephen DiCapua  
AYE: Unanimous  
NAY:  
ABSTAIN:

6. Non-Renewal of additional Non-Tenure Positions

Moved: to approve the non-renewal of additional Non-Tenure Positions

Approved

MOVED: Alicia Clapp  
SECOND: Carole Franceschet  
AYE: Unanimous  
NAY:  
ABSTAIN:

c. Curriculum, Instruction and Planning

1. Approval of Elementary school and Middle School Attendance Policy

Moved: to approve the Elementary School and Middle School Attendance Policy

Approved

MOVED: Suzanne Donofrio  
SECOND: Sandra Cummings  
AYE: Unanimous  
NAY:  
ABSTAIN:

4. ACES

Mr.s. Clapp reported that there was a recognition of ACES 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Mrs. Clapp reported that North Haven was one of the original founding districts of ACES. There was no official ACES Meeting this month.

5. North Haven PTA Council

Mrs. Volain reported that the FPS Team went to States and did very well. Elementary Schools had their final book fairs. She stated that the Ridge Road, Green Acres "One Read" is going well. Mrs. Volain stated that there were four students from Montowese School who won a poster contest. Mrs. Volain reported that the North Haven Road Race is this Sunday for the North Haven High School Scholarship Fund. She stated that Project Graduation is up and running and beginning tonight for the month of April Junior and Seniors at NHHS have displays up at the North Haven Gallery.

6. School Building Committee.

Please see report under Finance and Operations Committee in regards to the Building Committee issues.

7. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Querfeld reported the following:

Mrs. Querfeld reported the following:

- Kindergarten registration on-going. Watching enrollment numbers. Looking closely a at Montowese/Clintonville area specifically the area that used attend Clintonville and now go to Montowese and perhaps shifting it back. We will know more when enrollment is complete
- Attended two shows of Annie at the Middle School. Both casts were wonderful and very talented. Mrs. Querfeld commends the students, Mr. Handi, Mrs. Volain, Mrs. Listro and Mrs. Monk.
- Attended the Woosley Hall instrumental music program. HS Jazz, HS Concert Band, MS band, RR Chorus all performed.
- Attended Mr. North Haven is tomorrow night at NHHS
- Chinese visitors at RR send us a beautiful pamphlet from their visit with photos of their visit to NH.
- Claudia Grantham and Kathleen Peters-Durrigan were awarded the State grant to travel to our sister school
- NEASC committee has written to inform us that they are officially approving the recommendation to grant candidacy status of NHMS
- Press release from Marcia Brown, health teacher, and Alan Riggs, Community Outreach Program Chairman for the North Haven Professional Fire Fighters Association. They are teaching all 8<sup>th</sup> graders CPR. CPR is also taught to all High School juniors.
- Recognized all of the Future Problem Solver winners of the Connecticut Future Problem Solving State Conference held at E.O Smith High School in Storrs, CT.

- Marilyn Kramar, computer science teacher at the HS, and her American computer Science League All-Stars have qualified to compete this year once again. Congratulations!
- Attended the Potato Luncheon at NHMS hosted by Dot Logan and Nancy Tingley and their students.
- Russ Dallai and I were guests of Theresa Veile in a show filmed at NHTV dealing with part two of the prescription drug problem. We discussed what the HS has put in place that is preventative, and also what policies we have and where you can go for help.

#### 8. Public Comments

Mr. Gary Amato informed the Board that he had a discussion with the Chief of Police with regards to the issue with the Middle School driveway. He stated that a traffic study was not done as previously informed, but that they agreed to do one in the very near future. Mr. Amato also informed the Board that the speed limit on Bailey Road is 30 mph.

Mr. Amato wanted to express his disappointment with his attendance at the Building Committee Meeting. He felt that he was not treated nicely. Mr. DiCapua responded that these are very hard working, dedicated volunteers on the Building Committee who have put much time into the new building, fields, etc. The project has gone on too long, and it is time to move forward. The fields are very close to being completed.

Mr. Warren asked Mr. DiCapua about clarification with regards to the oil funds. Mr. DiCapua clarified what was previously stated and that they were hoping to save more money in oil, but with the cold weather they were not able to.

#### 9. Executive Session: (if needed)

#### 10. Adjournment

Moved: to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Alicia Clapp  
 SECOND: Carole Franceschet  
 AYE: Unanimous  
 NAY:  
 ABSTAIN:

Respectfully submitted,

John Lambert  
 Chairman