

NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2006/07

January 23, 2007

Board of Education Meetings

02/13/07 Old Village
02/27/07 Moraine Elementary
03/13/07 Old Village School
03/27/07 Thornton Creek Elementary
04/17/07 Old Village (ECC Program)
04/24/07 Ridge Wood Elementary
05/08/07 Old Village School
05/21/07 Amerman Elementary
06/12/07 Old Village (Center Program)
06/26/07 Old Village School

Board of Education

Mr. Kenneth A. Roth, President
Dr. Marilyn T. Price, Vice President
Ms. Libby Smith, Treasurer
Ms. Joan Wadsworth, Secretary
Ms. Judy Handley, Trustee
Dr. Karen M. Paciorek, Trustee
Ms. Judith Wollack, Trustee

At a regular second meeting of the Board of Education at Silver Springs Elementary, Northville, Michigan, the Board took the following action:

- The Board received two communications: Northville Parks & Recreation Department – December 2006 Report and Northville Youth Assistance – January 2007 Report. Northville Parks and Recreation has created a 5-10 year Master Plan and is hosting a public hearing on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- The Board approved the following consent agenda items: a) Minutes of the 01/09/07 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education; b) Minutes of the 1/15/07 Special Call Meeting of the Board of Education; c) Donation of \$1,000 from Mrs. Catherine Daly to the Jane Frances Abler Memorial Fund at Old Village School in memory of her late husband Thomas Daly; d) Donation of \$1,500 from Mr. Arthur Blom, President, Livonia Lions Club to the students at Old Village School; e) Tenure Recommendations: Ms. Cheryl Brooks, Ms. Kimberly Cosentino-Nicholas, Ms. Wendy Johnson, and Ms. Kathleen Starosciak; New Hire: Ms. Melissa Morse, Amerman Elementary; and g) High School Robotics Field Trip to Cleveland, Ohio on March 21-24, 2007.
- President Roth presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following Meads Mill Lego Coordinator, Coaches and Team Players: Cameron Albrant, Dominic Dicom, John Dickson, Ciaran Egan, George Gallagher, Neil Godbred, Phillip Kamm, Alex Kandah, Jack Marmaduke, Josh Roys, bobby Sable, Andrew Slatin, Nathan Tajer, Sam Vaitkevicius, Sam Willard, Jake Winter, Aaron Zalewski; Coordinator Mary Beth Boyea, Coach Bob Dickson, John Marmaduke, David Roys, and Mark Zalewski.
- Hillside Student Mark Bucrek was presented a Certificate of Recognition for administering the Heimlich maneuver on student Connor Pollifrone who was choking on a granola bar after attending a Hillside basketball game.
- Teacher Ron Meteyer, Chairman of the Northville High School Science Department, spoke about the New State High School Graduation Requirements. He stated that Northville Public Schools have gone beyond the minimum and basics to excel above other school districts, and Earth Science has been endorsed in every review process. He shared that NASA engineers started with Earth Science. He asked the Board not to

(Over)

ignore the advice of the professionals and do what is right or the students. (The Board responded that further discussions will take place once the Board reaches item #12 pertaining to the new High School Graduation Requirements.

- High School student Connor Morrell addressed his concerns about the elimination of Block Scheduling next year. He stated that the district has gone extra days beyond what is required and his education is best served through the Block Schedule. He said if we get rid of the Block Schedule, there will be a loss of teachers, increased class size and a decrease in personalization of teaching. He hopes the Board will reconsider the removal of the Block. President Roth thanked Connor for his input. He reassured Connor that there is no plan to eliminate the Block next year. He said it will be discussed in a public forum along with other items such as privatization, boundaries, budget, etc. He said there will more opportunities for input prior to a decision being made.
- Citizen Linda Dunlap asked that Administration and the Teachers work together for the best education of our students. Ms. Dunlap has 4 children at 3 different schools. She raved about the district citing that she originally was going to put her kids in a private school. When there was no room at a private institution, she signed them up at Silver Springs and has been happy ever since. With her experience working as management and now self employed, it is important for management and employees to work together for the betterment of the product. In this case, the education of students. She hopes the Board will arrive at a speedy resolution to settling the contract.
- Citizen Carol Grimmer addressed the Board about Teacher contracts and benefits. She has 9 children and is concerned that there is no contract. She said the compensation packages for administrators are ridiculous and asked that the Board trim the fat from administration. She cited that the district cannot live without teachers. She also inquired about the status of Katie Parker working at home at a \$102,000 salary; why an Eastern Michigan University Professor, who is also a Board Trustee, get to strike for fair wages/contract, but Northville teachers can't strike; and why the superintendent gets a vehicle? President Roth responded that we have a state law that governs teacher strikes, which was not created by the Board of Education. He also stated that the vehicle that Dr. Rezmierski drives is part of his compensation package and that Central Office Administrators are already short two full-time staff members.
- Citizens Denise and Ronald Strayhorn asked why the schools do not celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. They are new residents to Northville and they are disappointed that Dr. King's birth isn't observed as a holiday or acknowledged during regular or after-school hours. She cited that Novi Middle School is very instrumental in spearheading the observance and recognition of Dr. King. She suggested that since the teachers get two days off for Mid-Winter Break, perhaps one day can be utilized for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the other for President's Day. President Roth thanked Ms. Strayhorn for her comments and stated that the district does celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in all buildings. Dr. Rezmierski gave Ms. Strayhorn a copy of what transpired at each building. He also stated that the City, Township, Chamber of Commerce and the school district used to participate in a candlelight walk, but that was cancelled two years ago. He stated that the district has a Diversity Committee that is looking to reinstate this event.
- Music Teacher Kristin Kreiss, Learning Consultant Diane Vanston and Second Grade Teacher Shannon Heron, along with 5th grade students, presented several skits about being responsible. talking things through, and bucket filling assemblies. The Student Council members recognized each Board member and Dr. Rezmierski providing them with pins. The PTA presented books that will be used in the Library in their honor.
- Principal Snyder presented a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the Student Achievement Plan 2004/07 covering the following: Assessment Calendar, Curricula Implementation, Data Analysis, Meeting Individual Needs, Embedding Text Expectations and Formats, Monitoring Strategies, Professional Development, Test Administration, Benchmark Assessments, and Benchmark Results.

- The Board approved Policy 6161.1 – Handling Criticism of Instructional Materials for reaffirmation.
- The Board approved the following policies for first reading: 5140 – Student Searches; 5210 – Additional Semester Probation Students; and 6120.6 – Academically Talented Students.
- Mrs. Gallagher prepared a PowerPoint presentation, along with support from Janice Henderson and Rob Watson, reviewing the follow: Background/Process, Review Process for Graduation Requirements; Role/Purpose of Content Advisory Teams (CAT); Role/Purpose of Steering Committee; District Parameters for New High School Graduation Requirements (NHSGR); Steering Committee Recommendations; District Curriculum Council Recommendations; Board Instructional Services Subcommittee Recommendations.
 - ❖ 28.5 credits earned in grades 9-12
 - ❖ English – 4.0 credits
 - ❖ Science – 3.0 credits (must include 1 credit of Biology, and 1 credit of either Chemistry or Physics)
 - ❖ Math – 4.0 credits (must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II, including a senior year math class)
 - ❖ Physical Education – 0.5 credit
 - ❖ Health – 0.5 credit
 - ❖ Social Studies – 3.0 credits (must include 1 credit American History; .5 credit Civics, .5 credit Economics, and 1 credit World History)
 - ❖ Visual, Performing & Applied Arts – 1.0 credit
 - ❖ Online Experience – 0.5 credit
 - ❖ Seminar – 2.0 credits

Next Steps:

- ❖ Continue to align course content and written curriculum with requirements; identify gaps, and plan for new offerings.
 - ❖ Design courses that will best meet the wide range of needs of our students.
 - ❖ Consider options for 8th grade students.
 - ❖ Develop common course assessments to monitor achievement.
 - ❖ Develop/refine testing-opt options
 - ❖ Align instructional resources with District Curriculum; identify need for additional materials.
 - ❖ Further define our process for developing an Education Development Plan (EDP).
 - ❖ Develop support systems, Interventions and Credit Recovery Options.
 - ❖ Parameters – meeting diverse needs of students.
 - ❖ Develop a Parent/Student Communication Plan.
- The Board approved the New High School Graduation Requirements.
 - The Board approved the English Language Arts purchase.
 - Superintendent Rezmierski stated that Mrs. Gallagher provided an overview of key points in pursuing North Central Accreditation (NCA) as a district. He said under the old construct, it would have cost us over \$100,000. State is encouraging the district to move in this direction. Dr. Rezmierski said that building administrators and staff are involved in this and see it as a wonderful direction along with new High School Graduation Requirements from the State. He said the Michigan Department of Education entered into a State Partnership Agreement with NCA Commission and School Improvement in November, 2006. Mrs. Gallagher seized the opportunity to become involved in the NCA district-level accreditation process which is a systems approach to district improvement. Each of the schools needs to be NCA accredited. Mrs. Gallagher stated that each school is in the process of completing the Initial Application Form and the self study for 2006/07. If forms are completed by 2/1/07, NCA will do a one-day visit to each school to validate the self-study information prior to March 2007. Dr. Rezmierski said principals are supportive of moving forward with NCA accreditation.

- The Board approved switching the May 1, 2007 regularly scheduled Board meeting to May 8, 2007 to coincide with the Board of Education Trustees Election results.
- The Board approved the High School Course Name Change of Geophysical Science I & II to Earth Science I & II.
- President Roth reminded the citizens that Northville Parks and Recreation is hosting a public meeting to discuss its 5-10 year Master Plan. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 14, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., Senior Center.
- The superintendent released a Press Release inviting the public to attend community forums slated for January 30, 2007 through February 8, 2007 to give input on managing the school district's growing elementary school enrollment. First meeting is January 30, 2007 at 8:15-11:15 a.m. at Moraine Elementary School.
- Two board seats are up for election. Ms. Smith and Dr. Price said they will seek re-election. Anyone interested in running for a School Board seat must file the appropriate paperwork by February 13, 2007.
- Meeting adjourned 10:05 p.m.