

NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2006/07

October 24, 2006

Board of Education Meetings

11/14/06	Old Village School
12/12/06	Winchester Elementary
01/09/07	Old Village School
01/23/07	Silver Springs Elementary
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
05/01/07	Old Village School
05/22/07	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 Hillside Middle School, 775 North Center Street, Northville, Michigan, the Board took the following action:

- The Board received one communication: Northville Parks & Recreation Report – September 2006.
- The Board approved the following consent agenda items: Minutes of the 10/10/06 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Approval of Teacher Ronalee Henderhan's *Action Research Project*; and Approval of the NHS Spanish Field Trip to Panama/Costa Rica in the Summer 2008.
- The Superintendent discussed the pros/cons of Proposal 5. He explained how Proposal 5 would ensure four changes for school districts: Retirement Rate; Stability and predictability of future increases for education; Assistance for declining enrollment districts; and Increasing Equity and reducing the revenue gap between school districts.
- Superintendent Rezmierski informed citizens that the State Board of Education wants to approve the standards for the use of seclusion and restraint. State Superintendent Mike Flanagan has asked the State Board of Education to postpone the motion to approve this directive until next year when school districts can address the board with their concerns. Special Services Director Lynne Mossoian explained that she and her building administrators reviewed this document extensively. Cooke Building Supervisor Marilyn Bachorik said that staff use many interventions, but Dual Diagnosed students may need to be restrained and secluded due to their volatile behavior. She stated that these are students who can be a danger to themselves and/or other students/staff members and can only be handled by highly trained staff. Old Village Building Supervisor Art Fischer distributed two documents (See Attachments 1 and 2) to the Board: A letter dated October 18, 2006 to Old Village parents regarding standards for the use of seclusion and restraint, and a paper concerning nonviolent crisis intervention. Mr. Fischer spoke about the training component and how the staff has met extensive and rigorous training to meet the state's standards. He is seeking support from parents. The Board approved the resolution concerning the Use of Seclusion and Restraint.
- Superintendent announced that Central Office Administrators (Cabinet) will take a freeze on their 2006/07 salaries as well as switch to Community Blue PPO. The Board was appreciative of the freeze on Cabinet wages.

- Superintendent Rezmierski announced that the Red Cross blood supply is extremely low, and he is encouraging everyone to donate blood at Northville High School on Friday, October 27, 2006 between 9:00-2:00 p.m.
- Citizen Scott Craig said he (teacher in Birmingham) and his wife (U of M professor) came to Northville because of its schools of excellence. He is dismayed that the Board is in a gridlock with the union and that bargaining has slowed down with no settlement in the horizon. He understands there is a charge of unfair labor practices and feels this doesn't look good for the community. Mr. Craig stated that our #1 priority is the students. He said the teachers are the ones who spend significant time with our children so they should be the #2 priority in the district. Mr. Craig hopes that the teachers don't become demoralized and asks the Board to settle the contract as soon as possible.
- Citizen Diana Shanahan stated she is not familiar with issues surrounding the teachers' contract but is concerned that the contract is not finalized. She feels it speaks highly that teachers are willing to work without a contract and wants assurance that the Board is doing all it can to retain these talented and dedicated teachers as well as attracting future teachers. She spoke highly of her experiences with her children's teachers (third grader at Amerman and 1st grader at Thornton Creek) and hopes that the district can both manage their budget and settle this contract. She distributed a Memory Book for the Board to peruse showing the talent and dedication of the teachers at Thornton Creek and asked the Board if everything is being done so focus can be returned to the classroom. The Board responded yes.
- Citizen Marcie Fleming spoke of her experiences with Thornton Creek teachers/school and said she is fortunate to know such wonderful teachers. She shared that her children have such a passion for learning and that they love to go to school. Ms. Fleming stated this is due to the loving and dedicated teachers.
- Citizen Maria Simonte, Thornton Creek parent, is awed by the dedication and hard work of the teachers and said this passion spills into her home life. Because the parents feel good about what the teachers do, it makes them volunteer, attend PTAs and support Bond proposals. She asked that the Board move past this gridlock between the Board and the union. She would hate to see Northville become a district where people won't support the schools.
- Citizen Jim Heller stated he came from a private school education while his wife went to public schools. When they came to Northville, he was so impressed with the district. He said that Thornton Creek parents have seen no sign from teachers, at any level, that there is discord, which speaks highly of the professionalism of the teachers. Mr. Heller said he has a business background and never realized the key to success is communication. He said teachers do an outstanding job and are always accessible. He encouraged the Board that a great team requires communication and he hopes that the Board will remember that and hopes that there will be different ways to solve this problem.
- President Roth assured citizens that the district is bargaining in good faith, and thanked them for their input. He assured the citizens that the Board will work to make all decisions that are best for kids. Secretary Wadsworth echoed the same sentiments. She has great faith that both sides will come together and resolve this issue. She stated that it takes time and is more difficult because of our economic situation.
- The Hillside Honors' Choir sang two songs prior to the beginning of the Board meeting. The choir has auditioned for State Honors and if they are accepted, they will practice 6 songs for 4 Saturdays before they perform in front of the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids. Results should be in by Friday, October 27, 2006. Teachers Janet Gillies and Jen Lawson spoke about the Professional Learning Communities three-day conference at Northville High School this past June, 2006. They shared a 4-step intervention plan and explained how that works.
- The Board presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Teacher Dwight Sieggreen on his receiving the ING Financial "Unsung Heroes" award. Mr. Sieggreen will be recognized by ING Financial at the November 14, 2006 Board meeting as the representative had another commitment this evening. The Board also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Teacher Jennifer Lawson on receiving the "Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching." Teacher Dee Krause received honorable mention for being recognized nationally as the Social Studies Teacher of the Year in June 2006 as well as state recognition in February, 2006.
- Student Council members, along with Assistant Principal Heidi Capraro, presented a slide presentation updating the Board on current events at Hillside: Wolverine Human Services High Ropes Course; Spirit Week, Make a Difference Day (10/27/06), Holiday Season (helping communities); Book Drive (11/13-17/06); Wolverine Toy Drive (12/4-9/06), OMNI collection of vitamins for Zambian Orphans (2/07), Hillside Carnival, and senior Prom (5/07).

- Principal Cracraft and Teacher Rick Vander Veer spoke about the Fulbright Memorial Fund Master Teacher Program/International Educators to Japan. They brought back edible treats for the Board and Superintendent as well as gifts from Hillside. Mr. Vander Veer stated they might extend his partnership with the Japanese educators for another year. He showed the Board a book he purchased entitled, Kushiro, (where he stayed) which is similar to Michigan in terms of weather.
- Principal Cracraft Introduced Robin Sabourin, President Hillside PTSA. He then spoke about the 2006/07 School Improvement Goals: 1) Focus across the curriculum on students' ability to write; 2) Improve students understanding of the Core Democratic Values; and 3) Sustain a Learning Community which promotes a positive learning environment where respect and caring for others is fashionable.
- Superintendent Rezmierski informed citizens that the Board and Administration have been reviewing these goals for some time. He asked that the last sentence pertaining to Citizens/Staff Health Committee be removed. Secretary Wadsworth asked that the bullet item be removed from Goal 5. On Goal 3, she asked that "privatization plans" be removed and replaced with "recommendations." Superintendent Rezmierski read each goal into the record. Secretary Wadsworth recognized staff from Food Service, Custodians and Transportation in the audience. She wanted to assure this group that with the financial setbacks the district is facing, the Board has to look at every aspect in every operation of the district. It is the responsibility of the Board and Administration to examine this issue. She assured those present that the quality of service is outstanding and appreciates their attending tonight's Board meeting. She also invited them to participate in upcoming discussions at Board Study Sessions. The Board approved the 2006/07 District Goals.
- The Board approved the following policies for first reading: #4302 – Sexual Harassment, #5111 – Student Enrollment/Age of Entrance and #5130.5 – Alcohol & Drug Abuse/Students.
- The Board approved the following policies for reaffirmation: #5127 – High School Graduation Exercises and #5127.1 – NHS Graduation Requirements (pending recommendation from New Graduation Requirements Committee)
- Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Meeting/Events	Date	Time	Location
Hillside/Meads Mill Football Game	10/25/06	6:00 p.m.	Hillside's Football Field
City Planning Meeting (layout plans)	10/26/06	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Senior Center
High School Choir	10/25/06	7:00 p.m.	Northville High School
Thayer's Corner Planning Session	10/26/06	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Northville High School
*Board Study Session (Managing Growth)	11/02/06	7:00 p.m.	COA 302
Finance	11/07/06	7:00 p.m.	COA 302
Administrative Services	11/07/06	8:15 p.m.	COA 302
MASB Delegate Assembly	11/09/06	7:00 p.m.	Marriott Detroit Renaissance Center

*Dr. Rezmierski will offer the Board several dates/time to have another Board Study Session to complete the work that will be done at the 11/2/06 meeting. If all the work is completed, another date is necessary in order to begin discussions with parents at community events.