

# NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2006/07

November 28, 2006

## Board of Education Meetings

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
05/21/07	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 meeting of the Board of Education at Meads Mill Middle School, 16700 Franklin Road, Northville, Michigan, the Board took the following action:

- Maria Benjamin and Ellyn Bernardo, Japanese Club students, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Board approved the following consent agenda items: Minutes of the 11/14/06 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Approval of the following policies for second reading: #3326 – Use of Facsimile Signature for District Checks and #4130.5 – Alcohol & Drug Abuse/Employees; and Donation of \$2,000 to the Amerman Robotics Program from Mohsen Sohi, President, Freudenberg-NOK.
- SET SEG Award (School Employees Trust and School Employers Group) – MASB - Dr. Rezmierski announced that Amerman was selected by the above organization for the **2006 Education Excellence Award** for their submission of “October is Math Month.” (Attachment 1) Amerman’s goal was to increase opportunities for all students to learn well in partnership with parents. Principal Anderson received a plaque in recognition of their accomplishments of raising their Math MEAP scores from 88.9% in 2001/02 to 96% in 2004/05.
- Japanese Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) – Superintendents’ Dialogue – Superintendent Rezmierski announced that he was fortunate to be able to go to Japan on November 12-19, 2006, along with two other superintendents, to participate in a dialogue with three superintendents from Japan. He toured many schools and noted the displays of what the Northville teachers contributed to the Japanese students. The superintendent will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation in the very near future.
- Executive Cuts – Dr. Rezmierski attended a meeting today at Wayne RESA regarding Act 18. He announced, as of this morning, the House and Senate had a consensus meeting regarding Executive Cuts forthcoming in January 2007. It could be anywhere from \$100 - \$180 per student effective February 2007. Wayne RESA and all superintendents are interacting with the legislators to impress the impact this will have on schools. More information will be forthcoming to the staff and community within the next week or two. President Roth said the Board is pleased with the relationship we have with the JFMF because the district benefits. He also is hopeful that Lansing will hear that we do not want school funding reduced anymore.

- Citizen Ted Peters, who had children in Northville, addressed the Board regarding negotiations. Mr. Peters referred to a letter from Superintendent Rezmierski referencing the reduction of field trip and freezing Central Office Administrators' steps and salaries. He commented on teacher salaries and health care options. He asked that the Board work with Lansing and RESA regarding school finances. He suggested that the Chamber of Commerce become involved. Mr. Peters spoke about privatization and suggested that Central Office be privatized. He spoke in support of our dedicated teachers.
- Citizen Johnathan Line, has a young family in Northville, inquired about teacher contract settlement and redistricting plans. He came to Northville because of the excellent educational system. He stated he has the utmost respect for teachers who work long hours dealing with children and all their behavioral problems and finds them to be patient and enduring. He asked that the Board reach a fair contract. He inquired about the timeline to reach closure on the contract. He next inquired about redistricting and asked what that means.
- President Roth responded that the Board is looking at possible variables regarding redistricting. He explained that the Board has been engaged in Study Sessions for the past seven months pertaining to how we can manage our growth. He informed Mr. Line that they plan on presenting options to the community as a result of the February Bond failure. No dates have been set but will probably present early next year. Mr. Roth also assured Mr. Line that the district is hoping for closure on the contract. Superintendent Rezmierski said administration is meeting with the teachers' union on December 6, 11, and 18, 2006 depending on availability of both parties.
- Citizen Patty Pokrandt asked that the Board show our teachers professional respect by getting a contract settled. She has two kids in the district; an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and a freshman at the high school. She said the teachers don't hold back on educating students. She compared how Detroit Schools went on strike, yet Northville's teachers are professional and keep doing their jobs. She cited three teachers who provide food for her children to make them feel welcomed; continuing to update Parent Connect (keeping parents involved on children's projects/homework); and coming in early and staying late to assist students. We are fortunate that they aren't doing less because they don't have a contract. She asked that the Board move forward to settle this contract fairly and equitably.
- Citizen Carol Grimmer, has 9 children in the district, and spoke about teachers' contract and redistricting. She feels Ridge Wood isn't used as it should be. She personally thanked all the teachers present in educating the children, who are the future of America. She said teachers deserve our respect and support. She believes the teachers are what make our children successful and perhaps cuts should be made at the administration level. Ms. Grimmer said teachers make sacrifices every day. She said there are better health care programs out there that are cheaper and better than the ones proposed by administration. She is upset about the redistricting at Ridge Wood and how children pay the price of the adults who are at fault for these decisions.
- Citizen Susan Hawksford has four children. Three are in the district; 2 at Meads Mill and 1 at the high school. She wanted to let the teachers know that parents are behind them and hope that the Board can reach a settlement for the teachers. She shared that the community believes that since there is a calendar in place that the contract must be in place. She thanked the teachers for their dedication and asked the Board to secure a fair contract for the teachers.
- Secretary Wadsworth stated that the Board appreciate the teachers and values what they do. She said they have high hopes that a contract will be settled quickly and administration intends to work hard to accomplish that.
- Principal Sue Meyer welcomed the Board and announced that the gifts of chocolate were made by Meads Mill parent Donna MacDonald. The Board also received a potpourri candle. Dr. Meyer then introduced Teacher Crystal Gregg and students Maria Benjamin, Ellyn Bernardo and Esha Bedi who presented a PowerPoint presentation of Ms. Gregg's visit to Japan. Ms. Gregg partnered with Saikyo SHS in Kyoto, Japan, and two teachers from Japan visited Northville in March 2006 to conduct science projects. Ms. Gregg stated she participated in a calligraphy class, English class, attended a choir concert and Sports event. She thanked the Board for the continual support of the JFMF. Ms. Gregg and students presented

gifts from Japan to Central Office Administrators, Board members and Administrative Assistants Kathy McKian and Gale Jelics.

- Teacher Kristy Bilbie-Bekius spoke about transient student support. She prepared a PowerPoint presentation listing the positive things teachers do for new students, e.g. meet with 1 or 2 new students weekly helping them to fit in socially and academically and they work before/after school and during lunch to provide extra help. She informed the Board that they have begun Seminar Hour which provides students the opportunity to work cooperatively, catch up on missed assignments, etc. Ms. Bilbie-Bekius said Seminar started two years ago and these students will be able to use this experience once they get into the high school, which also offers Seminar. She then spoke how counselors introduced Welcome Mat Program, where a student is matched with another student helper who assists the new student in finding their lockers, where his/her class is, where the cafeteria is and/or bathrooms. Ms. Bilbie-Bekius commended Northville Youth Assistance for supporting Homework Help Program which provides an area for students to study and do homework. Peer Tutoring Pilot program is also being offered at Homework Help two days a week.
- Dr. Meyer updated the Board on Meads Mill's School Improvement Report showing slides on Writing Goal, 2006 Staff Writing Initiatives, and Staff Respect Initiatives. She updated the Board on Student, Parent and Staff surveys that confirmed that student writing has improved dramatically. Dr. Meyer also reported on 7<sup>th</sup> grade Challenge Day, Kids against Hunger, Team Meetings and Staff modeling. More will follow at tomorrow's District School Improvement meeting.
- President Roth thanked Dr. Meyer for the great gifts and wonderful presentation. Secretary Wadsworth stated that she had an opportunity to look at migration numbers and how wonderful that Meads Mill already has a program in place specifically for these students. Ms. Wadsworth also said that she and Dr. Price will be attending upcoming community meetings and will share how Northville welcomes new families. Dr. Price said it will be wonderful to see how the Peer Tutoring will develop.
- Assistant Superintendent Bolitho presented a 54 page report on Staffing and Enrollment for the 2006/07 school year. He asked the Board to turn to page 5 and noted that the average class size historical trend is up across the board. Table B is divided into Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle School and High School.
- Mr. Bolitho asked the Board to turn to page 10 which is an analysis of the Actual Enrollment vs Projections. He referred to ESI's projections rather than Stanfred's. He noted that ESI's projections show 14 fewer Kindergarteners materialized this year. He was surprised that grades 1-5 were short 95 students and grades 6-8 were short 7.
- Mr. Bolitho referred to page 18, which deals with K-12 Certified Staff - Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) beginning 1993-94 to 2006/07. He pointed out that under Support Staff, they added the letter "V" which is Consultant for Autistic Spectrum Disorders staff member. In summary, Mr. Bolitho said that Administrative Services tries to capture every position in the district and do comparisons with previous years.
- Secretary Wadsworth inquired about the letter "O," which is high school chairman. She said the elementary and middle school chairs are paid extra money whereas the high school is paid and given release time. She believes if we grant high school chairs release time for Seminar, then we need to add back 1.5 FTE. Mr. Bolitho agreed and will look into it. Secretary Wadsworth informed citizens that to arrive at an average class size, the district takes the total number of students and divides by grade level teachers. Average
- Class size is as follows: Kindergarten = 19.36; Grades 1-5 = 22.3; Middle School = 25.7; and high school = 23. Ms. Wadsworth said the Board works hard to keep class size numbers low and thanked Mr. Bolitho for his footnotes showing the kinds of teachers not calculated.
- Mr. Bolitho recognized Office Manager Julie Taylor for her fine work in putting this document together.
- Ms. Handley shared that the citizens who spoke about redistricting should realize that this report is what the Board uses to determine redistricting. President Roth said if any citizen is interested in receiving this report to contact Mr. Bolitho's office.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

<b>Meeting/Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Finance	12/05/06	7:00 p.m.	COA 302
Hillside Choir Concert	12/05/06	7:00 p.m.	Downtown Gazebo
Administrative Services	12/06/06	8:15 p.m.	COA 302

112806 briefs