

NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2007/08

February 12, 2008

Board of Education Meetings

02/26/08 Moraine Elementary
03/11/08 Old Village School
03/18/08 Thornton Creek Elementary
04/08/08 Old Village (ECC Program)
04/22/08 Ridge Wood Elementary
05/13/08 Old Village School
05/27/08 Amerman Elementary
06/10/08 Cooke (Center Program)
06/24/08 Old Village School

Board of Education

Joan Wadsworth, President
Libby Smith, Vice President
Ken Roth, Treasurer
Karen Paciorek, Secretary
Judy Handley, Trustee
Marilyn Price, Trustee
Judith Wollack, Trustee

At a regular meeting of the Board of Education at Old Village School, Northville, Michigan, the Board took the following action:

- The Board received three communications: Northville Youth Assistance Program Report; Letter to the Board and Superintendent from Dr. Gula Abraham concerning Seminar/Instructional time and Release of Exams; and Response from Superintendent to Dr. Gula Abraham regarding her concerns.
- The Board approved the following consent agenda items: Minutes of the 1/22/08 Regular Second Meeting of the Board of Education; Tenure recommendations: Ms. Ashley Noonan and Ms. Kim Taylor Papp; Donation of \$6,000 from the Northville Baseball-Softball Association to improve baseball and soccer venues at Ridge Wood Elementary School; and Bill Warrants & Payroll totaling \$2,230,409.05.
- The Board approved the Proclamation from Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Resolution from Kathleen Straus, President, State Board of Education and Michael Flanagan, Superintendent, State Board of Education declaring February 11-15, 2008, as Principals' Week in Michigan.
- President Wadsworth presented Certificates of Appreciation to Michael Bagian and David Marcus, Northville Troop 755, on completed their Eagle Rank award. Michael spoke about his project where he turned a wooded area outside of Hillside Middle School into a nature learning center. David Marcus collected over 30 boxes of food to the community through Northville Civic Concern.
- The Board received Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition from Congressman McCotter for their outstanding and invaluable service to the community.
- Assistant Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher shared that the district is in their 10th cycle of the District School Improvement process. She presented a short Power Point presentation citing the district's overarching goal which focuses on student learning. She cited that the schools are using greater emphasis on using data more meaningfully to determine school improvement priorities. Mrs. Gallagher next discussed traditional vs. comprehensive formats in which the majority of teams chose the modified/in-depth format. She noted that the DSIT has identified many strengths in our school improvement process, identified significant learning occurring throughout the schools, and noticed common issues the district is facing and what new learning or ideas they can take back to their respective school.
- The Board approved the 2008/09 Early Childhood Center Budget.

- Assistant Superintendent Dave Bolitho stated that the Board is familiar with the Staff/Student Enrollment Annual Report that usually is presented at a November Board meeting, so the reporting data is actually through November. Mr. Bolitho acknowledged Office Manager Julie Taylor for putting this report together dividing it into seven sections: Enrollment, Certified Staffing, Special Education Program Staffing & Enrollment, District Administration, Classified Staff, Early Childhood Program Staff and Resignations/Retirements. He asked the Board to turn to page 5, Table B, dealing with average class size. Mr. Bolitho noted that comparing 2007/08 to 2006/07, the average class size increased across the board but definitely had a higher increase at the high school. He said, as the Board is aware, when the budget is tightened, administration has to increase the class size targets. Mr. Bolitho also reported a reduction of K12 staff (decreased 4.15 positions) due to a decline in residential construction in our school community. There was a decline of 10 teaching positions at the elementary, an increase at the secondary level, and a 4.2 increase at the high school. The result is a total decrease of 4.15 teaching positions.
- Secretary Paciorek noted that class size numbers were high in the 1990's. Parents today believe numbers are high, but they are only up 5 or 6 students compared to enrollment in the 1990's. Dr. Rezmierski said that this is a valuable document that shows the trends over the past 30+ years. Vice President Smith noted that the high school has some low class size, and when we eliminate the class, it increases the class size in other subjects. President Wadsworth also noted that class size at the middle and high schools are skewed due to classes such as Band, Choir, etc. that have high numbers. She wishes we could take ranges at those levels in order to get a true picture. The Board thanked Mr. Bolitho for this comprehensive report.
- The Board approved two policies for first reading: #3546.2 – Lunch Hour – Secondary Schools and #4111 – Certified Staff Recruitment & Selection. Policy #4200 – Mobile Phone Usage is postponed until further information can be gathered by Administrative Council and insurance company.
- The Board approved new Policy #5401– Do Not Resuscitate.
- The Board approved the reaffirmation of Policy #4300 – Discriminatory Harassment of Employees.
- The Board approved the following high school course name changes: Business in Action changed to ***Beyond High School – Preparing for Your Future***; Business Internship changed to ***Internship***; and Business Fundamentals changed to ***Workplace Fundamentals***.
- The Board approved the Existing High School Curricula/Alignment with Michigan Merit Curriculum for 32 courses in the areas of Applied Technology; math; Science; Visual, Performing and Applied Arts; and Physical Education.
- Citizen Tandi Bagian informed the Board that she watches Board meetings on cable and what a wonderful job they do. She thanked them for celebrating student achievement whether it is in academics, athletics, or the arts. She also thanked the teachers who challenge the students by trying something new even if the students fail in their attempts—at least they had an opportunity to exceed down a different path (referring to the understanding of engineering concepts) She believe Northville Public School teachers do this often and wanted to commend the staff.
- Executive Session tabled until 2/20/08.
- The Board adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Meeting/Events	Date	Time	Location
Policy (Wednesday)	02/20/08	7:00 p.m.	COA 302
Instructional Services	02/20/08	8:15 p.m.	COA 302
Executive Session	02/20/08	(Immediately following subcommittee meetings)	COA 302
Board Study Session	02/21/08	6-8:00 p.m. w/dinner	COA 302