

NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2007/08

February 26, 2008

Board of Education Meetings

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 Second meeting of the Board of Education at Moraine Elementary School, 46811 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville, Michigan, the Board took the following action:

- The Board received one communication: Letter from Mr. James Austin regarding mid-winter break.
- The Board approved the following consent agenda items: a) Minutes of the 2/12/08 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education; b) Minutes of the 2/21/08 Special Call Meeting of the Board of Education; c) Approval of the following policies for second reading: #3546.2 – Lunch Hour – Secondary Schools, #4111 – Certified Staff Recruitment & Selection; and #5401 – Do Not Resuscitate; d) New Teacher Hire: Ms. Laura Motz, English Teacher, Northville High School; e) Recall of Certified Staff: Mr. Phillip Timm, Elementary Physical Education; and f) Out-of-State Field Trip request, Northville High School, to Sandusky, Ohio, on May 15, 2008.
- Dr. Rezmierski reported on two major areas of concern: Proposed School Aid Act and his invitation to attend the Governor's Summit on March 4th in Lansing. He reported that the governor is supportive of education and will distribute anywhere from \$108 to \$216 of State Foundation money to school districts. Although the district is excited to receive this money, the Board and Administration are being cautious until the actual funds are received.
- Dr. Rezmierski announced that he was invited by Senator Cassis to testify before the Senate Subcommittee on Early Intervention and Preschool Programs. Subcommittee voted unanimously in favor of Northville's Instructional Support Team Model to be used around the state. It now will go before the Senate and House Committees and then to the governor for her signature. Our district, along with a few others, would be the model districts follow to conduct early intervention and preschool programs. Superintendent said this is a credit to all the staff who was involved in this program, which was inaugurated at Silver Springs and then moved to all elementary and secondary levels-very positive program for the State of Michigan.
- Lastly, the superintendent is invited to attend the Governor's Summit next Tuesday, March 4th in Lansing. He said there are 552 school districts in Michigan; 406 of them (73.5%) have declining student enrollment. He reported that Michigan has lost over 25,000 students beginning in September 2007, which has a direct impact in our district. With the recent unemployment and loss of homes, people are leaving the state. The district is working to be a part of the solution to turn Michigan around and will keep the Board informed as updates are received in Lansing.

- Ms. Susan Krygier (Moraine PTA Treasurer and citizen) spoke about uncomfortable class sizes (second grade) at Moraine and the substitute teacher pool. She said she read the February 12th Board Briefs with great interest, especially the numbers provided by Assistant Superintendent Dave Bolitho. She reminded the Board that the data collected during the redistricting process was very clear—to keep low class sizes. Ms. Krygier stated that she attended many Board subcommittees last year and understands the funding problems in the district, but the district did have a slight increase in students and funding. She is disheartened by the Board’s promises of low class size, especially for K-2, and yet her second grader is in a class of 27 (20 boys and 7 girls). She told the Board that one teacher can’t handle that many students and would appreciate the Board’s support in looking at realistic numbers for the 2008/09 school year. Ms. Krygier also wanted the Board to know that the substitute teacher pool is a concern for her as many substitute teachers have not even stepped foot in Moraine Elementary School. She would like to see substitutes who are involved regularly at Moraine because they know the school, teachers and students and what is expected. She thanked the Board and appreciates their excellent work for the district and the children in Northville.
- Board members and Administration attended “Climate and Writing,” “Climate—Connections with the Community,” and “Writing—Collaborative Assessment Council” sessions prior to the official meeting of the Board of Education.
- Principal Denise Bryan introduced the following students who presented books to Board members to be placed in Moraine’s Media Center in their honor: Jacob Lteif, Allison Lang, Kelsey Clay, Sam McMeekin, and Sean Smith.
- Ms. Bryan presented a short slide presentation on the book, Velveteen Rabbit, by Margery Williams. This book deals with change and “becoming real, and is a metaphor for Moraine. She said Moraine is in the process of having many new students and staff. This story illustrates the many lessons for living. Ms. Bryant said the story deals with change and how we all feel awkward and anxious when dealing with change. She said class relationships make Moraine real. Ms. Bryan stated that they build relationships with every child and communicate regularly. They work on the development of relationships, relevance and rigor. They strive to improve overall climate and set high expectations where all students will improve in the area of writing. Ms. Bryan said they continue to build on the history of excellence in their journey toward becoming a new learning community.
- President Wadsworth thanked Ms. Bryan for illustrating snippets of authentic things happening at Moraine. On behalf of the Board, she said she was impressed with the faculty looking at student writing and the terrific student presentations. Dr. Rezmierski echoed Ms. Wadsworth’s comments saying that Moraine is a vibrant, caring and learning environment. Great job! President Wadsworth extended her thanks again to the students who presented the books to the Board. She said there is nothing better than a present that stays in the school’s library. She also thanked Susan Krygier, PTA Treasurer, for her support and those of her colleagues.
- The Board approved the 2007/08 Paraprofessional Contract.
- The Board approved two High School Course Name Changes: Informal Algebra I to Algebra I Concepts & Skills and Informal Geometry to Geometry Concepts & Skills.
- The Board approved the Existing Middle School Curricula for 12 courses in the areas of Applied Technology, Art, Computers, Music, Performing Arts, Social Studies, and Family & Consumer Science.
- The Board approved Policy #4200 – Mobile Phone Usage for second reading.
- The Board approved the following policies for first reading: #1100 – Philosophy of Education; #1101 – Quality Education & Program Effectiveness; #5400 – Transfer of Credit; and #6100 – Service Learning.
- Mrs. Smith asked the Board to let Jan Purtell know if they can assist with the Northville Business Showcase on Saturday, March 8, 2008.

Meeting/Events	Date	Time	Location
Finance	03/04/08	7:00 p.m.	COA 302
Administrative Services	03/04/08	8:15 p.m.	COA 302

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.