

NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2007/08

April 22, 2008

Board of Education Meetings

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, 405 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, the Board took the following action:

- The Board received a letter from Citizen Tam Notarianni regarding privatization process that the district is exploring.
- The Board approved the following consent agenda items: a) Minutes of the 4/8/08 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education; and b) High School Field Trip to Strafford, Canada, to see "Hamlet" on October 22, 2008.
- The Board and Superintendent presented Certificates of Recognition and Representative Marc Corriveau presented congratulatory letters to the following Northville High School Champs: Boys Swimming (All State) – Broderick Blickle, Kyle Adams, Jonathan Bardsley, Joe Kargula and Coach Rich Bennetts; Gymnastics (4th in State) – Julie Davison, Caileigh Deacon, Arianna Ilkhani-Pour, Allison Kemp, Amy O'Brien, Makenna Pohl, Amy Reynolds, Paige Sable, Cassidy Winter and Coach Erin McWatts; Boys Hockey (All State) – Jordan Duff, Timothy Hohl and Coach Clint Robert; and Wrestling (All State) – Jonathan D'Anna and Coach Jeff Balagna.
- The Board adopted the resolution by the Michigan State Board of Education recognizing National Teachers Appreciation Week, May 5-9, 2008.
- The Board accepted the Proclamation by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm declaring May 7, 2008, as School Nurse Day in Michigan.
- Superintendent received a letter from Antonia Gonzalez, Principal, Bennett Elementary School in Detroit, extending his gratitude to the Northville School Board, Ridge Wood Elementary and Meads Mill Middle School for the school supplies that were collected and purchased for Bennett Elementary students. As the Board is aware, their school had a fire and destroyed much of their books/supplies. In addition, Dr. Rezmierski said he received over 50 thank you cards from Bennett students for the supplies received.
- The Board met in Ridge Wood School's cafeteria for a pre-Board meeting visit with K-5 students who reported on Character Education. Principal Raynes introduced Ms. Debbie Peck, President, Ridge Wood Elementary (RWE) PTA. Ms. Peck shared that she has served on the Character Education Committee and spent time addressing Character Education and how they can better incorporate it into basic curriculum making it real to kids, e.g. making bags of activities for kids in hospitals and what that means. Ms. Peck continued the

tradition at RWE in donating books to their library in honor of the Board members and superintendent. Some of the books selected deals with community projects, animals, caring, kids helping kids in hospitals, etc. Ms. Peck wanted to honor Nancy Rayne's tenure in the district by donating two books in her honor entitled, Heroes and Giving. Principal Nancy Raynes updated the Board on Ridge Wood's School Improvement Report for 2003-2008. A booklet was prepared showing the team meeting schedule; faculty committees; Mission Statement; Vision Statement; Collective Commitments and various goals. Ms. Raynes shared Ridge Wood's goals as follows: Goal 1 – Building a positive Ridge Wood culture which includes building a Professional Learning Community, Practicing Character Education, Identify and Develop Characteristics of the Ridge Wood Community; and Create "Parents as Partners" Focus. Goal 2 – 100% of the students will demonstrate an improvement in writing proficiency by June 2008. Ms. Raynes then provide data on standardized assessments, MEAP assessments, development of classroom support, support of Professional Development, and Enhance Student Writing Attitude, Ms. Raynes concluded with the 2007/08 Professional Development that is going on at Ridge Wood.

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Superintendent informed citizens that Ms. Raynes is retiring in June 2008 and thanked her for her commitment and leadership to the Northville Public Schools. He shared that he doesn't know of many districts that do as much as she and her school. Ms. Raynes thanked the superintendent and the Board for believing in her and supporting her throughout her tenure in the district.

- The Board approved the following Instructional Services curriculum and course revisions: Middle School Physical Education course name change from Lifetime Fitness to Lifelong Fitness; curriculum documentation for Lifelong Fitness, and High School English course alignment with the Michigan Merit Curriculum content guidelines for English Nine, English Team Nine, and Enriched English Nine.
- The Board approved Policy 3547 – Security Cameras, for first reading.
- The Board approved the revisions to Policy 5131 – Code of Conduct.
- The Board approved the following policies for reaffirmation: 4112 – Highly Qualified Teachers, 5301 – Dual Enrollment and 6164.7 – Behavior Management Review Committee.
- Citizen Karen Garby informed the Board that she has submitted a letter to Editor of the Northville Record regarding privatization. She was unaware of the Board Study Session meeting last week but she is passionate about the subject. She told the Board that she has researched privatization and believes it is not right for Northville at this time. Ms. Garby doesn't believe the district is in a financial crisis and asked the Board to support employees and not ask less of them than we would want for ourselves. President Wadsworth welcomed Ms. Garby's help and invited her to attend the May 14th Board Study Session (Note the 5/14 Study Session has now been changed to 5/19/08) scheduled at Hillside Middle School, Auditorium. Mrs. Wadsworth said the Board would not look at privatization if they didn't think the district is going through difficult financial times. She said they work hard to protect the classrooms and the Board is concerned about the finances for next year. Ms. Garby reminded the Board that long-term effects of those who privatized are now being learned. She stated that interactions between students and support staff are just as important as the interaction with their teachers. Mrs. Wadsworth, again, stated that the Board is stewards of public money, and it is their obligation to look at cost savings from every angle.

- Citizen Ellie Hershberger, Ridge Wood parent, is concerned about the large class size for 4th grade. She is asking the Board to put a plan in place before school ends. Ms. Hershberger said that 30 students in a class is not proper and wants assurance that the Board will maintain goals of 23-24 children per class. Mr. Thomas said target ratios for 3rd and 4th grades are 29. President Wadsworth responded that families move in and out of district and the Board will have no way of knowing until late June. She also informed Ms. Hershberger that throughout the summer, families move in and out of the district, so it's hard to plan ahead. Ms. Wadsworth said the Board will have a tentative plan in place by the end of June and then will be monitoring enrollment over the summer.
- Superintendent Rezmierski said he is concerned about families moving out of the district by the end of school. He believes we are losing approximately 60 students next year. He will be monitoring the situation and look at making recommendations regarding class size even as late as August. Dr. Rezmierski also informed citizens about LAN (Legislative Action Network) and their work in assisting the district regarding Hold Harmless 20 (J). There are enough votes in the House/Senate to take away money from the district, and we are looking at an approximate loss of \$321 per student or \$3.2 million. Dr. Rezmierski said this is a substantial financial setback.
- On behalf of Wayne/Westland Schools, Trustee Handley attended a conference in Washington and participated in many sessions focusing on leadership, No Child Left Behind, Office of Inspector General regarding Federal audits, etc. She said it was a very worthwhile conference that was fruitful for her district as well as Northville.
- The Board moved to enter into Executive Session for purposes of negotiations.

Meeting/Events	Date	Time	Location
Finance	05/06/08	7:00 p.m.	COA 302
Administrative Services	05/06/08	8:15 p.m.	COA 302

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.