

# NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

**2007/08**

**June 24, 2008**

**Board of Education Meetings**

07/08/08	Old Village School
08/12/08	Old Village School
08/26/08	Old Village School
09/09/08	Old Village School
09/23/08	Northville High School
10/14/08	Old Village School
10/28/08	Hillside Middle School
11/11/08	Old Village School
11/18/08	Meads Mill Middle School
12/09/08	Winchester Elementary
01/13/09	Old Village School
01/27/09	Silver Springs Elementary
02/10/09	Old Village School
02/24/09	Moraine Elementary
03/10/09	Old Village School
03/24/09	Thornton Creek Elementary
04/07/09	Old Village School
04/28/09	Ridge Wood Elementary
05/12/09	Old Village School
05/26/09	Amerman Elementary
06/09/09	Old Village School
06/23/09	Old Village

**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 Old Village School, 405 W. Main, Northville, Michigan, the Board took the following action:

- The Board received the following communications: Northville Youth Assistance Program Report – June 2008; Letter to the Board, Superintendent Rezmierski and Assistant Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher from Dr. Nancy Couch Nowak regarding community response to High School Health curriculum; and many letters both for and against the Health curriculum.
- The Board approved the following consent agenda items: a) Minutes of the 6/10/08 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education; b) Michigan High School Athletic Association's Membership Resolution beginning August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009; c) Approval of the Michigan Association of School Boards' dues totaling \$6,951; and d) Approval of the 2008/09 Board of Education/Subcommittee Meeting Schedules.
- President Wadsworth was delighted to report that Teamster Local 214 ratified a three-year contract (2008/09, 2009/10, and 2010/11) on June 20, 2008, that will save the district about \$1.2 million over the life of the contract allowing the district to continue to employ these valuable support service workers. (Attachment 1) She informed representative from Local 214, who attended the Board meeting, that the Board is pleased with the terms of the contract and appreciate their understanding of the challenging budgetary times. Mrs. Wadsworth said that the Board was to explore the privatization of support services as a way to control costs but with the approval of this three-year contract, the Board will forgo implementation of privatization of services for the duration of this contract. Mrs. Wadsworth then shared the following concessions:
  - ❖ 2% reduction in the current wage schedule and a salary step freeze for the three years of the contract.
  - ❖ Two-tier wage scale that will go into effect on July 1, 2009 with wages for new employees at a 22% below the scale for current employees.
  - ❖ \$390 annual contribution toward cost of Community Blue PPO2 Health Plan.
  - ❖ Elimination of longevity
  - ❖ Reduction in overtime
  - ❖ Ability to schedule staff for field trips, snow days and school breaks in a more cost-effective manner.

- President Wadsworth and Superintendent Rezmierski presented Certificates of Recognition to the Boys' Golf Team who placed third in the State: Alexander Bernstein, Westley Gates, Trevor Grigg, Timothy Kelly, Christopher Kozerski, Daniel Kozerski, Matt Stetson/Coach and Chris Cronin/Assistant Coach.
- President Wadsworth and Superintendent Rezmierski presented Certificates of Recognition to the following Girls' Tennis Team who placed eighth in the State: Ursula Cauffiel, Breanna Connnett, Caitlin Darish, Abby Grajek, Chelsea Jenkins, Haley Johnston, Valerie Juan, Veronica Juan, Sarah Koupal, Sabrina Masciulli, Kristin Randall, Maudie Smith, Laura Taylor, Joanne Weber, Jessica Yu and Sandy Woolfall/Coach.
- President Wadsworth and Superintendent Rezmierski presented Certificates of Recognition to the following Girls' Softball Team who are the District Champions: Brittany Birdsall, Jamie Cotrone, Nara DeMuro, Samantha Doud, Jenna Dumbleton, Karly Fisher, Megan Hofmeister, Allison Holmes, Alexandra Kaszuba, Kelsey Lewis, Julia Ramey, Mary Rounsifer, Sarah Rounsifer, Kelsey Whelan, Mariel Wilson, Teryn Chrzanowski/Head Coach, Chuck Fox/Assistant Coach and Jim Long/Assistant Coach.
- President Wadsworth and Superintendent Rezmierski presented Certificates of Recognition to the following Girls' Soccer Team who are the District Champions: Jillian Alumbaugh, Sarah Aquinto, Kelsey Baskins, Julia Bawden, Lydia Blair, Caroline Castelli, Christine Colleran, Ella Dodson, Jeanette Dolmetsch, Kelsey Fiscus, Katherine Jansen, Camille Junca, Kathleen Keiffer, Lisa Kozub, Lauren Lokey, Karen Mayhall, Nicole Miller, Samantha Mustonen, Elana Ryznar, Emily Ryznar, Sarah Stern, Amy Sweetapple, Anna Tasse, Tori Wright, Theresa Yankovich, Ron Meteyer, Head Coach and Eric Brucker/Assist. Coach.
- President Wadsworth and Superintendent Rezmierski presented Certificates of Recognition to the following Boys' Track &Field All State 300m Hurdles Champions: Aliasghar Arastu and Cavan Corcoran
- President Wadsworth and Superintendent Rezmierski presented Certificates of Recognition to Brianna Jenkins who took All State High Jump award.
- President Wadsworth said the Board is disappointed that the Northville Education Association (Teachers' Union) rejected the district's one-year contract offer for the 2008/09 school year. (Attachment 1) The district offered teachers their salary step increases (which are approximately 5.48% raise) and give those teachers at the top of the scale a 1% increase. She reported that 72% of the teachers would have received a salary step. The Board also offered to move the teachers' health plan to Community Blue PPO2 (as most of the other unions/non-unions are already on). Currently, the teachers pay ¼ of 1% toward Health care, which equates to approximately \$165 per year. Mrs. Wadsworth said the full text of the Board's offer will be on tomorrow's district's website ([www.northville.k12.mi.us](http://www.northville.k12.mi.us)). Mrs. Wadsworth said that the district is continuing to negotiate with the teachers and the next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2008.
- Citizen Comments regarding Health Course Curriculum:  
Ms. Shari Guilfoile – She recognized and applauded the Board and administration for making changes to the curriculum binder. She asked that consideration be given to the concerns parents have regarding the videos/DVDs. Ms. Guilfoile appreciates that there is no longer condom shopping; no Teenwire.com; and children won't have to stand up and convince their classmates about their favorite method of birth control. She also felt that the "abstinence" message is clear and consistent. She believes that those students who are active will still get great information. Ms. Guilfoile wanted assurance that the material removed from binder will not be brought back nor the reason for the removal be discussed. President Wadsworth assured Ms. Guilfoile that the material and the reason for removal will not be discussed. Ms. Guilfoile said she did not like the 1992 "abstinence" video because it was outdated (clothing/hair styles) and will undermine the "abstinence" message. Mrs. Wadsworth explained that in the Fall, the district will develop an "Abstinence Only" course. In that development, our HAB may come back to the Board and say we would like to insert a different video into the curriculum. Mrs. Gallagher said she is open to that, however, at this point in time, the district will not replace the video this Fall. More discussion ensued.

Dr. Cheryl Jones – Stated she is Co-Chair of HAB and has attended every meeting but one relative to the Health Curriculum. (Attachment 2) She is a therapist in private practice for more than 25 years and is committed to the mental health of our children. She explained her involvement in the lives of hundreds of

sexually active teenagers and how their sexual activity in their lives is a misguided attempt to gain self-esteem and feel close to someone. Dr. Jones believes the curriculum supports the belief that abstaining from sexual activity is best for teens. She believes that each lesson and movie has a theme promoting abstinence from sexual activity, and she resents those citizens who commented that the HAB, Board members and faculty has a “secret” agenda that sex among teens is no big deal. Dr. Jones feels that those comments imply that they do not have good morals. She reiterated that the curriculum supports abstinence otherwise she would never have supported it. This program will make kids stronger and more insightful. She wants to assure parents that knowledge should not be feared.

Ms. Tami Carlone – She does not want to offend anybody and appreciates the modifications to the program. She, however, was not aware of the NPS binder review. Ms. Carlone was concerned about Video 3, Truth About Sex, where a gay male talks about unprotected sex and how he has friends that have Aids. Ms. Carlone is asking why we are even going there with the students. She also said there is a giggly blonde girl in that video who speaks about “abstinence,” but she is not convincing. She believes Video 2 is outdated. Video 1 – Sex Smart for Teens is raw and sickening (referring to anal sex and guy to guy sex). Ms. Carlone would like to be a part of a group in the future to review better choices of videos.

Ms. Diane Maier – Thanked the Board for the modifications to the curriculum. Ms. Maier had many questions for the Board: 1) How much will the Sex Ed curriculum cost? Mrs. Gallagher said it is a modest cost. The district is only purchasing one video because they have the others. 2) Where is the funding for the proposed curriculum coming from? Mrs. Gallagher said costs are minimal. 3) Is there money in the budget to guarantee the district can afford “Abstinence Only” curriculum in Fall 2009? Yes. 4) Does the district receive incentives for using a State-developed curriculum? District does not receive incentives or kickbacks. 5) How and when will you evaluate the effectiveness of this curriculum? Mrs. Gallagher said the HAB would do an evaluation and goal assessment every two years. Ms. Maier asked how district will measure this. Mrs. Gallagher responded that student knowledge of content standards would be used as they measure knowledge in other classes. Because the class is an elective, however, it might be difficult to draw that comparison. 6) Why is there only one Sex Ed curriculum viewed? Mrs. Gallagher explained that curriculum was developed through use of technical assistance provided by MDE. She believes the organizations involved developed this curriculum thoughtfully. Ms. Maier retorted that because it is recommended by MDE doesn't mean Northville needs to implement it. President Wadsworth informed Ms. Maier that the State has changed its requirements and is requiring district to offer Health course. It is not requiring that the district teach Sex Education.

Dr. Nancy Couch Nowak – She is happy that the birth control video has been eliminated. Dr. Nowak asked how many emails and other communications did the district receive? Mary Kay responded approximately 104. How many for and against the curriculum? Mrs. Gallagher just gathered all email/communications and did not total how many were for and against the proposal. Dr. Nowak said there were 27 others who commented at Board and Subcommittee meetings. She then asked how many communications would it take to get the Board to delay or make further changes? President Wadsworth responded that the Board looks at the concerns expressed by citizens and tries to address all of them. She felt the number one concern of many citizens was to develop an “Abstinence Only” course, which the Board has asked for that to be done. Mrs. Wadsworth believes that the recommendations that Mrs. Gallagher has made goes a long way to address those concerns.

Dr. Nowak asked that five things be considered:

- ❖ Abstinence video needs to be changed- Sex Smart, especially Dr. Love, which parents don't like.
- ❖ HIV risks activity on pages 159-162 needs a teacher note to clarify that other STD risks is much higher.
- ❖ The HIV behavior cards could be used for risks to maintaining or regaining virginity or ask for other STDs to prevent any misconception.

- ❖ Many parents are concerned about some of the small group activities. She is asking that small group activities be removed.
- ❖ The STD Fact Table implies that “protected” sex is safe.

Dr. Nowak said she appreciates the changes made but would encourage the Board to delay this process and revisit some questions. She asked that the district involve the PTAs and Council for PTAs as well as receive suggestions from parents. (Mrs. Gallagher is coming up with that kind of process.)

Ms. Sandy Drake – She is concerned about the process. She believes the process has not allowed for community to be able to dialogue. Ms. Drake said citizens are allowed to make comments but there is no dialogue. She believes the survey was confusing. One question asked was if the citizens wanted an “Abstinence Based” curriculum. The public wasn’t given a definition of what that meant. She said the PTA only received partial information this past month. Ms. Drake said there were no viewings of videos scheduled in the evenings when most parents can attend. She stated that the binder was only available yesterday morning. Mrs. Gallagher responded that the NPS binder was to offer clarification and make it more user friendly versus the thicker binder. Viewings of the videos were mentioned in many communications, e.g. School Connections newspaper, ListServ, district website, and Northville Record. Mrs. Gallagher said she encourages all parents to have a conversation with their child to supplement the course. President Wadsworth reported that all Board members have seen the curriculum and videos. She said although people have different views, it has been reviewed by HAB (11 parents), faculty, curriculum council and she respects that others wish for a stronger message. Mrs. Wadsworth said that when the district develops “Abstinence Only” and if they find a better video, then they will use that video. Ms. Drake doesn’t feel the Opt-In or Opt-Out is an option and that 85 people are telling the Board that this curriculum doesn’t reflect their values. Mrs. Wadsworth responded that their goal is to provide choices to citizens.

Dr. Jerry Drake – He thanked the Board for listening to them, but he feels the timing of the proposal is unfortunate with PTA and families gone. He believes that communication awareness and meaningful input has been limited and asks the Board to send the Sex Education curriculum back to the HAB. Dr. Drake said he reviewed two videos produced by a physician in the Traverse City area that stresses “abstinence.” He claims he does not know this physician but it is very well done. One of the videos was produced in 2004 and is approximately 20 minutes in length. The other was made in 2006 and has two segments—one that is 40 minutes and one that is 20 minutes. He said this physician travels and puts on programs about teen sexuality. Dr. Drake said he sees two issues that have been raised: one is weakness of “abstinence” that is currently in place and the other is the emotional trauma/devastation effect that teenage sex can have on the students. Dr. Drake said he is interested in being involved in any future process.

Ms. Beth Locricchio – She believe that Mary Kay Gallagher and HAB would not do anything to harm their kids, but she is passionate about obtaining good DVDs that would embrace the curriculum. She inquired how many students are enrolled in this curriculum this Fall. Mrs. Gallagher responded that there are 13 sections of students. She also said that the parents of these students would receive a letter saying another section will be added in Fall 2009 on “Abstinence Only.” Ms. Locricchio asked the Board to wait on approving this curriculum until then. She would rather see an excellent program that the community can embrace rather than rush ahead. She believes there are better videos on STDs out there. Ms. Locricchio believes that most parents find the “abstinence” video outdated and the feedback on abstinence will focus on clothes and hair styles that aren’t cool and, therefore, won’t take away the message about abstinence. Mrs. Gallagher disagrees in that the meta-cognitive piece is where students need to know what other kids are thinking. She cites an example where the young lady who was once active now chooses to abstain. She said the committee felt this was a strong message.

Ms. Susan Bray – She said the HAB did a great job on the Sex Education curriculum and starting over is a waste of time and energy. Ms. Bray said that parents can keep their heads in the sand and assume their kids are not sexually active but they are. She feels that if kids do not have knowledge or support from family, then they will get in trouble. Ms. Bray also believes that parents should provide the morals and the district's job is to provide knowledge.

Ms. Marie Boczar- Has two girls in Northville, is a member of the HAB and is a nurse for NPS. (Attachment 3) She believes HAB has methodically scrutinized information to provide the best curriculum for NPS students. She said that no textbook or curriculum is perfect, but she trusts the experienced teachers to take these tools and use them appropriately. Ms. Boczar said the sessions of this class that deal with sex and/or HIV are "Abstinence Based" and none of us wants to encourage our teenagers to have sex. She stated that there are no references to any Planned Parenthood websites including teenwire.com, and it is illegal to discuss abortion in schools. Ms. Boczar feels that if parents are not comfortable with the discussions of HIV or sexuality, then their student can be excused from lessons without penalty. Statistics say that over 40% of high school students report that they are sexually active. She reminded citizens that this curriculum is not intended to take the place of conversations at home but to complement them. She asked that the Board approve the curriculum to give students the tools to make good choices in the future and help teach our kids to stay safe and healthy.

Mr. Joseph Boczar – He said the Board has a difficult decision to make and are going to make some people mad. He feels that children are sexually active; and regardless of what we tell them, they won't listen to us. He is asking that curriculum be approved in order to provide proper information so students can protect themselves from pregnancy and STDs. Mr. Boczar spoke to his eldest daughter and she said they need information on sex education now. He said he is not condoning that his kids have sex, but he wants them to have all information available to them to protect themselves.

Dr. Barbara Soyster – Appreciates changes and that the Board is listening and hearing what citizens have been expressing over the past month. She would like a new video for "Abstinence Based" class and "Abstinence Only" class. Dr. Soyster is requesting the Board to direct HAB to look for a second video due to the outdated hair/clothes and that the message will be lost because of the looks. She is asking the Board to instruct HAB to look for different curriculum for "Abstinence Only" program.

Mr. Michael Cullen – He thanked the district for the wonderful education he received. He believes the students will laugh at out-dated video and feels the message will be lost assuming that the video is old and not up-to-date. Mr. Cullen said you won't take kids seriously if they aren't from his generation. He feels that young people are bombarded by TV, radio, and other media that make it look like sex is cool. Mr. Cullen believes abstinence is a good thing.

Mr. Greg Carlone – (submitted a card but did not address the Board). He is recommending that the Board delay using the curriculum. He wants Northville to be a beacon to the whole State of Michigan and not go along with a subject that is not up to community standards. A lack of morality will bring down the district to average level.

Ms. Ann Schneider – (submitted a card but did not address the Board). She feels the Board is cornered and cannot vote no because it is mandated by State law to add this curriculum. However, Ms. Schneider feels the Board should ask for a review of more curricula for future semesters.

Ms. Valerie Yamine --(submitted a card but did not address the Board). She is strongly against the previously proposed Sex Ed curriculum and supports an "abstinence only" program with a "faith-based" focus as an option. She wants an updated video to replace "Abstinence – Deciding to Wait."

Dr. Sheryl Conn – (submitted a card but did not address the Board). She is against proposed curriculum. She said in her practice, she had many opportunities to discuss the issue with teens and parents alike. She feels it is a difficult topic for parents and children to discuss let alone having a class/lecture on sex education. Dr. Conn believes it has been her experience to address this sensitive topic with her patients when their children are in middle and high school. She believes teens are shy or embarrassed to talk about sex, drugs and other concerns. Dr. Conn believes discussions should be made on an individual basis and topics discussed should be tailored to the child with the parents' permission. She believes the topics in the new curriculum are too graphic for some children and said the Board needs to be more sensitive to the needs of the entire school population.

Mr. Paul Bechler – Believes knowledge is a good thing and not to be feared. He claims that the parents don't fear Sex Education, but how it is delivered. Mr. Bechler asked the Board if all of them have seen the curriculum and videos. At this point, Treasurer Roth commented that the Board has had the opportunity to hear concerns and questions from the public. He says he does not want to turn this forum into a question and answer session nor does he appreciate the "cross examination" of the Board's view of materials and what they have/have not seen. Mr. Roth said this is not appropriate.

Ms. Vira Conley – Thanked the Board and HAB for their work and in streamlining the binder on instructional materials regarding such a sensitive subject. Ms Conley has two requests: Lesson 8 deals with condoms and she doesn't feel the school should be teaching this, although I recognize other parents might not agree with my view. She is willing to accept the student handouts that gives directions on how to properly use a condom and supports the teachers demonstrating how to properly use a condom. Ms. Conley is asking the committee to reconsider the activity that would require students to demonstrate proper condom usage. She prefers the condom demonstration be limited to teacher demonstrations and student handouts. Regarding the abstinence video, she stated that there are a significant number of emails that addressed that particular video. She doesn't believe that video inspires students to choose abstinence. Ms. Conley is asking the Board to reconsider other alternatives for replacement of that video for the Fall 2008 school year. Secretary Paciorek believes that removing this video will take away the message about abstinence only. She said there are 23 follow-up questions that are in the guide for teachers to ask after viewing this video. Teachers will have follow-up discussions about the content and not about the clothing/hair styles. Dr. Paciorek said we have to trust our teachers!

Vice President Smith shared her views about the HAB and Dr. Jones comments. She wanted the HAB, Mary Kay Gallagher and others to know that the Board appreciates the tremendous amount of time that went into establishing this curriculum and hoped they would not feel undervalued because of the harsh criticism being expressed over the past month. Ms. Smith spent a lot of time reviewing materials and attending hearings and is very respectful of those comments expressed by citizens. Ms. Smith said she has been questioned whether or not she is viewing this topic as a parent or Board member. She said in reality, she is affected by the curriculum because she has three children in the district. But as a Board member, she said parents have options that were provided families so they can make their own decisions. Ms. Smith believes the Board and administration have done a great job in providing options for citizens.

Treasurer Roth echoed Ms. Smith's comments and he appreciates all the time and effort by the HAB, Mary Kay and others and the many opportunities for input that was afforded to citizens. He said his comments do not reflect the thoughts and views of his colleagues, but he feels that the Health curriculum provides a difference of opinions on this course rather than a content neutral class. Mr. Roth said the Board has listened to the opinions and considered options that will accommodate all views. He reminded citizens that working in State-mandated framework does not allow for flexibility. He said he knows we have a significant number of parents who have differing points of view for their child and community at large; however, it is inappropriate to force my view on such a sensitive topic

onto any other family. Mr. Roth believes parents have options to choose whether they want their children to take part in some/all of curriculum, wait for “abstinence only” course that will be offered in the Fall 2009, or avoid any formal instruction by having your child “test out.” He believes these are fair options that protect parents’ rights to choose without imposing a veto on others. Mr. Roth said after he reviewed the entire curriculum, he disagrees with some of the citizens’ views. He stated that parents who find material inappropriate can object and take one of the options provided by administration. Mr. Roth commented on the discussion and criticism about the process used and how it will be delivered by teachers. He shared that NHS has been a leader in educating students. We continually have the highest scores in MEAP, in merit scholarships, in the number of High School students going on to college, etc. The reason for this, he believes, is due to the quality of curriculum developed and the quality of those delivering the curriculum.

Trustee Price commended the HAB and Mary Kay Gallagher for their work. She said she understood the work involved because she has served on an earlier Heath Advisory Committee before she became a Board member. Dr. Price said she has experienced the process of running a committee examining information that has a strong impact on community members. She said Mrs. Gallagher deserves credit and thanks for devising a process for the committee to move forward. Dr. Price also shared that this curriculum has provided choices for parents and she has heard from many parents who are satisfied with the curriculum as presented here tonight.

Superintendent Rezmierski also complimented the HAB and Mrs. Gallagher for the great work relative to the Sex Ed curriculum. He said all members have worked with integrity and commitment and in alignment with the six organizations state-wide. Dr. Rezmierski said that reality dictates that we have to provide information that is accurate for students and the HAB will continue its due diligence.

President Wadsworth stated that they have gone over the process for the past year and a half and feels that the conversations with the parents, over the past month, have been positive. She shared that the Board will move forward to develop a new course and that the Board respects the differences among families and that is why they have offered them choices. Ms. Wadsworth said she appreciates all the input from citizens and perhaps the ideas that surfaced will be discussed in the future.

- The Board approved the High School Health Course Curriculum for Strand 6 – HIV/STI Prevention and Strand 7 – Human Sexuality Education and administrative recommendations.
- The Board adopted the 2008/09 Budget and the 2007/08 Budget Amendment.
- The Board approved documentation of *existing middle school curriculum for Silk Screening & Creative Printing and Web Adventures*; and documentation of Michigan merit Curriculum alignment for 10 high school courses in the areas of *Visual, Performing and Applied Arts, Social Studies and Family and Consumer Science (Health)*.
- The Board approved the request for supplemental materials for the English Language Learner course at Northville High School, paid for by 2007/08 grant funds; and purchase of 5<sup>th</sup> grade math textbooks – Glencoe-piloted during the 2007/08 school year, funded out of the 2007/08 budget.
- The Board approved the purchase of textbooks for the following high school courses: Civics, Honors Algebra 2, AP Calculus I, AP Calculus II, AP U.S. Government and Politics, Honors’ Pre-Calculus, and Pre-Calculus, funded out of the 2008/09 budget.
- The Board approved Policy #5143 – Pandemic Influenza for first reading.
- The Board approved the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan.
- The Board approved a contract with Professional Contract Management, Inc., for the purposes of employing four principals under the Retire/Rehire Program.

<b>Meeting/Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Human Resources (lunch provided)	06/25/08	noon	COA 302
Fourth of July Parade	7/04/08	10:00 a.m.	
Board of Education Meeting	7/08/08	7:30 p.m.	OVS

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

gj  
062408 briefs