

# NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2007/08

December 18, 2007

## Board of Education Meetings

01/08/08 Old Village School  
01/22/08 Silver Springs Elementary  
02/12/08 Old Village School  
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 Special Call meeting of the Board of Education at Central Office Administration Building, 501 W. Main, Room 302, the Board took the following action:

- President Wadsworth announced that tonight's meeting is a public hearing to discuss School Board Elections. Superintendent Rezmierski provided an update from Walled Lake Consolidated School District and Novi Community School District. Walled Lake has chosen to hold their school elections in November in even years, every other year, beginning in 2008, while Novi Schools elected to hold their meetings every year, in November, beginning in 2008. Superintendent Rezmierski spoke to Don Wotruba, Michigan Association of School Boards, regarding a legislative bill coming out next year. This bill deals with what Clerks want, what is appropriate for School Districts and what is the cost savings. Dr. Rezmierski said it's possible for Boards to revisit changing election dates after 3-5 years.
- Business Director Street spoke with Pat Berardo who commented about the current law. Mr. Berardo believes if the district moves to odd year November, every other year, there is a possibility to revisit to determine whether the move is profitable. However, if the Board agrees to every November, it cannot be changed.
- President Wadsworth stated that the Board has spent a great deal of time researching surrounding districts and talking to school board trustees to get their input about elections. She asked each Board member to share their views.
- Trustee Price prefers every year in November, because it would be a cost savings to the district. She isn't concerned about the voting for School Board Trustees being buried in a long ballot. She contemplated the odd/even six-year term, but decided it was difficult to find citizens who would commit to a 6-year term and the fact that we could lose 4 Board members at one election and 3 at the next.
- Vice President Smith stated that her research revealed that citizens unanimously believed that moving to November would be a cost savings to the district. She spoke to others running for trustee and asked if they would feel differently running in May or November. They responded no.
- Trustee Wollack supports every year in November. She has a concern, however, about 6-year terms, because it is almost half of your child's attendance at school. She also said that she has a concern since absentee ballots are now mailed.

- Trustee Paciorek believes 6-year term is long as well as the turnover of 4 trustees at one time. She feels that would have a negative impact on the district. She believes it would be a stumbling block to find quality people to run for 6 years.
  - President Wadsworth sensed a commonality among the Board Members present. She shared that Treasurer Roth and Trustee Handley feels that the Board should not choose a situation that gives us 6-year terms or having the Board turnover 4 Trustees and 3 Trustees respectively. She supports an every year election with 4-year terms, but questions when the election should be held.
  - Mrs. Wadsworth spoke to Board Members in Novi, Farmington and Plymouth-Canton School Districts. Each district is motivated by costs. She noted that the average cost of elections would be about \$7,500. If the district holds an election in May, it would cost \$25,000. If Schoolcraft stays with a May election, then they would split the costs with the district. However, Schoolcraft College is leaning toward November elections.
  - Again, President Wadsworth expressed that the Board has consensus on an every-year election. The majority of the Board favors the November election. Treasurer Roth and Trustee Handley prefer to stay with a May election. Mrs. Handley believes the district wouldn't save that much money, and she believes we don't know what the future holds.
  - Mrs. Wadsworth also spoke to former Board Members asking if School Board issues would get lost in a November ballot. Several said that the Township votes for trustees in November, and good people run for office and citizens vote accordingly. They believe that the Northville community cares about what goes on in the Township, City and School District and would vote no matter when the election is held.
  - President Wadsworth said she believes the Board is comfortable to move the election to November every year. She informed those present that the Board will hold a Special Call Board meeting tomorrow, December 19, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. in Central Office Administration Building, Room 302, to cast their ballots. At this time, Trustee Price indicated that she will not be able to attend tomorrow's Board meeting due to another commitment; however, she supports moving the School Board Election to
- The Board adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Meeting/Events	Date	Time	Location
NHS Choir	12/12, 13, 15	7:00 p.m.	NHS
Special Call Board Meeting	12/18/07	7:00 p.m.	COA 302
Policy	12/18/07	7:00 p.m.	COA 302
Instructional Services	12/18/07	8:15 p.m.	COA 302