

# NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2008/09

June 9, 2009

## Board of Education Meetings

06/23/09	Old Village
07/14/09	Old Village

## Board of Education (as of 1/13/09)

Mr. Ken Roth, President  
Ms. Libby Smith, Vice President  
Ms. Joan Wadsworth, Treasurer  
Ms. Judith Handley, Secretary  
Dr. Karen Paciorek, Trustee  
Dr. Marilyn Price, Trustee  
Ms. Dottie Garrity, 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:

- Board meeting will be televised to Comcast subscribers on Channel 18 at 10 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2009.
- The Board approved the following consent agenda items: a) Minutes of the 5/26/09 Regular Second Meeting of the Board of Education; b) Michigan High School Athletic Association's Membership Resolution beginning August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010; c) Second Readings: Policy 6161 – Textbooks & Materials Selections & Adoption and 5140.1 – Confiscation of Student Property; d) Donation from Knights of Columbus for \$500 to Old Village Students for equipment needs, assemblies and leisure recreational programs; and e) Bill Warrants totaling \$1,757,889.16.
- Special Services Director Lynne Mossoian stated that the Center Program has been facing tough issues relating to funding and policy. She said that Cooke and Old Village Schools have taken on many challenges and turned them into opportunities for growth. She then welcomed Ms. Bachorik and Mr. Fisher who will be making presentations related to the School Improvement initiatives and showing snapshots of their favorite programs. On behalf of Cabinet, Ms. Mossoian wished Ms. Bachorik well as she retires at the end of this school year. She told Ms. Bachorik that it was an honor to work with her.
- Cooke Building Supervisor Marilynn Bachorik spoke about Cooke's Goals; Rationale and support Data; Assessment; Intervention; and Research Supporting Interventions. She provided the Board with the 2007/08 school year achieved objectives, Behavior Management Summary Data from 1996-2008; and the results of the 2009 Parent/Caregiver Survey. Ms. Bachorik provided highlights including the philosophical shift on increasing focus on academic achievement; embraced state curriculum guidelines and increase opportunities for community participation. She congratulated members of her staff on opening classrooms at Northville High School in 2003 and for their work in opening a college class at Schoolcraft Community College.
- Old Village building supervisor Art Fischer provided a certificate and medal to Northville student Christopher Gikas who donated his birthday money (\$500) to Old Village School. Mr. Fischer said that as a 13 year old, Chris is a model for other young people who care and have compassion for special needs children. He then congratulated Ms. Janice Nagel, Old Village Teacher, who was recognized by parent Beth Bentley through the Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee. This

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committee recognizes teachers for exemplary acts.

- Mr. Fischer presented a short slide presentation where teachers Kathy Langham spoke about SXI students providing charts relative to Sensory Activities; Susan Oleson spoke about SCI students and their goals relative to MI-Access, student participation survey and intervention describing activities the staff undertakes; and Carrie Schade spoke about goals for the Dual Diagnosed students relative to pre-writing and handwriting skills. She explained that Handwriting Without Tears (HWT) is a developmentally based/multi-sensory approach to teaching handwriting and fine motor skills to pre-Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade levels.
- President Roth presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following Eagle Scouts: Christopher Mathew Debs (father accepted award since his son was home studying for finals), Jeremy Wade Schaumann and Andrew L. Vernacchia. Two scouts and Mr. Debs (representing his son) spoke about their projects that entitled them to earn this award.
- Superintendent Rezmierski spoke of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and how many individuals are serving in the Armed Services. He wanted to take this opportunity to recognize and honor the spouses and children of the Northville Public Schools' employees serving their country.
- Treasurer Wadsworth informed citizens that the Board will adopt a budget for 2009/10 on at the 6/23/09 Board meeting. She said the purpose tonight is to review the budget and give citizens another opportunity to voice their concerns. She said that she will provide an overview of the state's finances, Mr. Street will provide revenue enhancement ideas and Dr. Rezmierski will address the Stimulus funds. Ms. Wadsworth believes the state will use stimulus money to shore up the current year's School Aid money. She explained that if the district did not have stimulus money, the School Aid for this year is in the hole by \$265 a student. Monies that go into the School Aid fund are driven by property taxes and sales tax money, which is down drastically. Ms. Wadsworth said the district would be out \$1.8 million. She further said that the state will use stimulus money to fill the hole and bring the foundation grant to where we are now. She also informed the public that legislators are telling the district to expect a \$95 cut per student. At this point, Ms. Wadsworth said the district is anticipating that we will base our budget on the same foundation grant we have now, although we are concerned about strong possibility of losing \$650,000 in Fall. Ms. Wadsworth has concerns that if the state chooses to use stimulus money for this year and next, the challenge will be for the 2010/11 school year. Then the School Aid will have a shortage of \$600 a student which is \$4.1 million that NPS will lose. Business Director Street led the community through a brief analysis explaining the revenue, revenue vs expense and budget reductions.

Treasurer Wadsworth informed citizens that it is very difficult for the Board to cut people. She said many Winchester parents asked why the district needs to cut staff, and she explained that there needs to be a balance between classroom and other things. She shared that one parent asked why the district doesn't eliminate bussing entirely saving the district approximately \$2 million. Ms. Wadsworth explained that buses will be provided only for elementary students living over a mile and middle/high schools students living over 1.5 miles due to safety issues. Ms. Wadsworth said that previously any student could walk to a bus stop and get on a bus. Another comment was why not eliminate electives before reducing core curriculum. Ms. Wadsworth responded that elective courses are important to our students and they provide teachers planning time, which is a contractual obligation given to teachers. She believes eliminating electives would not save the district money. Another citizen asked about reducing/eliminating extra curricular and sports programs. The Board believes that extra curricular and sports are important. She said families are already making contributions to support sports and extra curricular activities. Another person asked to reduce/eliminate Gifted Program (ALPS). Ms. Wadsworth said that it doesn't matter whether a teacher is teaching gifted or regular education—teachers are being paid to teach whether it is a gifted class or not. Another citizen asked that teacher salaries and benefits be cut in half. Ms. Wadsworth responded that teachers are under contract. Ms. Wadsworth did report that Human Resources Director Don Thomas has contacted all employee groups except the Teamsters regarding salaries/benefits reductions, but has not heard back from any of them yet. Ms. Wadsworth said the Teamsters were excluding because they already have made many sacrifices relative to salary/benefits.

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- Mr. Street reminded citizens that the budget has to be adopted by June 30<sup>th</sup> according to law. He said the Debt Funds will be going from 3.9 to 4.0 mills due to property values being down.
- Approximately five citizens addressed the Board regarding high class size at Winchester Elementary, especially at the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade levels. One citizen provided a petition from 100+ parents at Winchester objecting to the high class size in lower elementary at Winchester. They are asking that elementary teachers not be cut and to keep class size low because reading, writing and math are very important at the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade levels. Another parent said to take deeper cuts in Transportation services taking a special look at high school transportation. She believes an independent study should be conducted by an outside consultant instead of data being provided by Transportation employees. They also asked why other electives that aren't part of the core curriculum can't be eliminated.
- President Roth responded to some of the comments saying that the Board has always held class size as very important. However, the Board has struggled these past two years to maintain low class size. He reiterated that the district has already made cuts in textbooks, building maintenance and curriculum and that we are down to the only option being staff cutbacks. He explained that 75% of our operating budget is salaries/benefits. Extensive discussion ensued about enrollment and that the district will continue to monitor enrollment throughout the summer on a weekly basis. If numbers move in right direction, the Board will recall staff.
- Several teachers from Meads Mill spoke about not replacing the Media Specialist. There will only be one Media Specialist for three secondary buildings and this will impact co-teaching and many programs, e.g. book fairs, Knowledge Master Open, etc.
- Northville Education President Ann Cook said she wanted citizens to know that the Teachers Union was not asked to open their contract and make concessions. She said they and other employee groups were asked how to help with the district's budget. Ms. Cook said that the Teachers Union is under contract through 2011 and has no intention to open the contract. She wanted the citizens to know that teachers have already taken step freezes that saved \$1 million in their last contract. She said the teachers are contributing more to health benefits and some are being laid off. Ms. Cook said she wanted to remind the community that the Teachers Union came forward with an extensive list to save the district money including allowing children of Northville employees to attend Northville Public Schools. (The district is considering this idea.) This idea will generate over \$8,000 per student if there is capacity. Ms. Cook said the district could consider "Schools of Choice" where enrollment is open to surrounding school districts. The Teachers Union also offered an early retirement incentive, which she believes, over a course of 4 years, could generate millions of dollars. She also said the Teachers Union suggested counting professional development days as instructional time. Although this would take away the number of student instructional days, it would reduce operating costs if these days were taken in winter months where the district could shut down operation.
- The Board adopted the 2009/10 Millage Rate.
- The Board approved the layoff of the following teachers due to declining enrollment: Sandra Canedo, Judith Grove, Patricia Kolinski, Jean Lopez and Paul Shimones.
- The Board approved the State Aid Anticipation Note in the amount of \$9,000,000.

Meeting/Events	Date	Time	Location
Instructional Services	06/16/09	7:00 p.m.	COA 302
Policy	06/16/09	8:15 p.m.	COA 302
Cooke Graduation	06/18/09	11:30 a.m.	Cooke School
Superintendent's Evaluation – Closed Session	06/29/09	6:00 p.m.	COA 302

- The Board meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.