

NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2010/11

May 17, 2011 (Special Call)

Board of Education

Ms. Joan Wadsworth, President
 Ms. Dottie Garrity, Vice President
 Ms. Libby Smith, Secretary
 Mr. Joseph Hige, Treasurer
 Mr. James Mazurek, Trustee
 Dr. Marilyn Price, Trustee
 Mr. Ken Roth, Trustee

Board of Education Meetings

05/31/11	Amerman Elementary
06/14/11	Old Village School (Center Program)
06/28/11	Old Village School

- Four NHS students and one former NHS student addressed the Board about teacher layoffs. Each expressed the importance of low class size, and relationships and individualized attention that teachers and students share. All agree that they understand the economic climate of the State but feel that Northville is a *School of Excellence* and will be hard to maintain that reputation with teacher layoffs and larger class size. President Wadsworth shared the Board's angst in laying off so many teachers. The Board realizes the enormous impact it will have on families and relationships. She encouraged the students to attend the upcoming Finance subcommittee meetings which will be held in Room 302 of the Board Office, located next door to Old Village School, immediately following this Board meeting to discuss other staff layoffs.
- The Board approved the following list of K-12 certified staff layoffs with a vote of 6-1 (Trustee Hige opposed): Jeffrey Balagna, Caitlin Bierman, Marie Bravo, Elissa Brode, Kim Callison, David Clark, Morgan Cox, Matthew Creighton, Sarah Debien, Andrea Dent, Kristin Dood, Diane Drouillard, Julie Fissette, Tara Fortino, Catherine Gibson, Amanda Good, Stacey Griswold, Jennifer Hart, Julianne Howells, Elizabeth Johnson, Carey Kahle, Emily Kahn, Kim Kelley, Lorri Kingsbury, Patricia Kolinski, Melanie Korczyk, Allison LaCombe, Lise Lenahan, Larry Liu, Ann Maguire, Wendy Martin, Juliann Mooney, Shannon Moore, Laura Motz, Timothy Ortopan, Toulla Palazeti, Alyson Patalan-Thompson, Brett Pedersen, Danielle Pietrandrea, Paul Polanski, Beth Richert, Brandy Righter, Joseph Rohrhoff, Morgen Salah, Jennifer Shuart, Marc Sierra, Amy Soukup, Candace Stafiej, Kathleen Starosciak, Jennifer Stelmock, Kim Taylor-Papp, Cori Thomas, Phil Timm, Anne Turnage, Constance Wall, Dorrie Wisniske, Carie Woodall, Olivia Wren, and Lisa Zaar.
- The Board approved to switch the Board Meeting of 6/14/11 to 6/7/11 and change the Board subcommittee meetings on 6/7/11 to 6/14/11.
- One student asked the Board if they are laying off teachers due to lack of funds in budget, why can't the district shut down for a week. President Wadsworth answered that it wouldn't be an unreasonable request; however, the Board is contracted to pay employees for the school year and, therefore, would not save the district a large amount of money. She also said some district and municipalities have furlough days where an employee does not come into work and they do not get paid for that day missed. However, the Board is not anticipating furlough days at this time. Superintendent Rezmierski responded that the state requires a certain number of instructional hours per student. If we don't meet the requirements, the staff and students have to make it up at the end of the year otherwise the district will forfeit state revenue for every day missed.

NEA President Ann Cook thanked the students for addressing the Board with their concerns and suggestions. She asked the Board not to discuss contract issues in public. An apology was extended to Ms. Cook but the Board was only trying to answer the student's questions about allowing the district to close down for a period of time

- A former NHS student inquired about the cuts and asked that all employee salaries be listed on the district's website. Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Zopf said there is an icon on the district's website entitled *Budget Transparency* that informs citizens about the budget as well as those staff

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members that make over \$100,000. This student said he found the check registry but did not see any salaries.

One student shared that she would like to see a better relationship between the Board and Teachers. Others shared concerns that these cuts will not allow individualized attention from teachers academically and personally. Others suggested eliminated athletic funds, freezing teacher classroom accounts, and eliminating Block Scheduling. They also wondered why student input wasn't taken into consideration.

President Wadsworth responded to the students that the district is in contract negotiations with all unions and groups and that the Board did discuss the Athletics budget. She said students will have to pay more for sports, textbook orders have been cut, and with regards to Block Schedule, the district has saved money by reducing teacher planning time at the secondary level. President Wadsworth also welcomed students to attend Board meetings and subcommittee meetings where finances and other concerns are discussed.

- Trustee Hige addressed the audience and explained that these cuts equate to a simple math calculation. He shared that the district's budget is comprised of 89% staff salaries and 11% for other line item accounts including utilities, gas, etc. He hopes that all employee groups/unions can come to an agreement to help save some jobs. Question was raised that shutting down school would save money in utility costs which would affect the district's operating costs. President Wadsworth did confirm that closing schools would save some money in utilities and operating busses; but at this point, they still would have to pay teacher salaries due to contract agreement.

Meeting/Events	Date	Time	Location
NHS Honors Convocation	05/24/11	7:00 p.m.	NHS Auditorium
NHS Prom	05/26/11	6:00-11:00 p.m.	Diamond Center (Rock Financial)
Board Meeting	05/31/11	7:30 p.m.	Amerman
NHS Graduation	06/05/11	6:00 p.m.	Compuware
Chamber Golf Outing (looking for golfers)	06/07/11	9:30 a.m.	Northville Hills Golf Club
Board Meeting	06/07/11	7:30 p.m.	OVS
Instruct/Finance/HR	06/14/11	6:30/7:15/8:00 p.m. respectively	COA 302

Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m.