

Board of Education Minutes  
November 15, 2017

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, Mrs. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Mr. Nero called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by student Sophie Broderick.
3. Election of Officers – Mr. Nero explained the election of officers. Dr. Robert nominated Mrs. Wagner for Chairman and Mr. Mendolia seconded the nomination. Nominations were closed. The Board voted unanimously to elect Mrs. Wagner as Board Chairman. Ms. Welborn nominated Mr. Karpinski for Vice Chairman and Mr. McCord seconded the nomination. Nominations were closed. The Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. Karpinski as Board Vice Chairman. Dr. Robert nominated Mr. Mathwich for Board Secretary and Mr. McCord seconded the nomination. Nominations were closed. The Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. Mathwich as Board Secretary.
4. Board of Education Committees – Mrs. Wagner had comment on the committees. The committees were chosen and are as follows: Student Success Committee – Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Mendolia, Mrs. Potemri, and Ms. Welborn; Community Involvement Committee – Mr. Mendolia, Mrs. Potemri, Dr. Robert, and Ms. Welborn; and Facilities and Finance Committee – Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. McCord, and Dr. Robert.
5. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Mr. Bob Carlson introduced himself as a member of the Board of Selectmen and said he will be the liaison with the Board of Selectmen. He said they need help in the town and suggested maybe a club of students to help at town hall and he elaborated.
6. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the North Stonington Education Foundation’s dinner dance was a huge success. They have approximately a \$7,000 profit. He commented on the Trivia Contest to be held on February 9<sup>th</sup>. He spoke of the road race that will be held on Memorial Day weekend Saturday. The next meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Westerly Education Center and he elaborated.
7. Presentations – a. United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Summer Teacher Institute on Innovation, STEM, and Intellectual Property – Jane Servidio, elementary school teacher, spoke of opportunities that were presented to the students this year. She gave the history of the Invention Convention. She spoke of the students going to the state level and those that went to the national level. Students participated in the Pfizer Pharm Day and she elaborated. NBC’s Jimmy Fallon show contacted them and she explained. She spoke of the trip to the nationals in the spring that was supported by the North Stonington Education Foundation and that she was invited to be a judge. She judged the 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Mrs. Servidio introduced students Chase Beattie, Kaitlyn Pierce and Sophie Broderick. Miss Broderick won a category at the national competition.

Miss Broderick explained what she made. Miss Pierce explained the shirt she invented. Master Beattie showed his invention that helps reach the top of the board. Mrs. Servidio spoke of the patent office where the competition was held. She explained the workshop that they hold every year to which you have to apply to be accepted. 650 people applied and she was chosen to represent the State of Connecticut. She spoke of the workshops that she attended and her week there. Her group won the most commercially viable. Mrs. Servidio said the PTO also helps fund the Invention Convention. She had comment on STEM education. She spoke of her meeting with the kids today and how to come up with an invention. She spoke of the pluses of taking part in the convention. She spoke of the contacts that she made. Mrs. Wilkison told the Board that Mrs. Servidio volunteers her time with this and commended Mrs. Servidio.

b. Professional Development Update – Mrs. St. Germain and Mrs. Tavares spoke of the International Literacy Conference they attended during the summer. They spoke of the workshops they attended. They spoke of what they gained from the conference. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of what they have implemented in the school. Mrs. Tavares spoke of how her classes are taught and the support given in other classes. She spoke of sheltered content instruction. They spoke of the things they have implemented from the conference. Mrs. Tavares spoke of the Global Read Aloud.

8. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain spoke of the bonfire that was held this evening. She spoke of the students that just returned from Texas and the compliments they received while there. A \$1,000 grant was received from Exxon Mobil for Science and Math and she elaborated. Mrs. St. Germain said they had a tour of the Westerly Education Center. They have room for 15 students after school and Saturdays. She elaborated. She explained the issue with students not getting their SAT results. There were many people in our cohort that were not getting scores. The scores were finally received. She had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. Board members had comment. Questions were asked about the education center that Mr. Nero answered. Further questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wilkison told the Board about the professional development held recently for the next generation science. Math day was November 8<sup>th</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup> was the Veterans' Day Breakfast with 60 vets attending and she elaborated. The first marking period closes next Wednesday.

9. Administrative – a. Minutes – October 25, 2017 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted seven in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2017, meeting. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said every year the Board and Central Office buy a yearbook ad. This year's cost is \$22.92 per person. Mr. Nero had further comment.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said we are looking for a JV girls' basketball coach.

10. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said we lost two days of school due to the storm and he elaborated. He spoke of the incident during the middle school sports banquet at which a motor in the band room burned out. He elaborated. Mr. Nero spoke of the lack of water on Monday and he had further comment. He said that is the fourth time we lost water since he has been here. He had further comment. Mr. Murphy and he have been communicating about the electricity contract and he commented on going to a one-year bid to see what happens in order to get our usage history in the new building. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero said there was nothing to report on the environmental concerns but Eagle was speaking with EPA in Boston and Connecticut and he is waiting to hear. Mr. Nero commented on the space in the elementary school and needing space for students in need. He elaborated and said they are hoping for remediation in order to get space for those students. He said we may need to hire another paraprofessional. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero commented on the reimbursement rate for the building project. He spoke to Michelle Dixon at the State and he elaborated. He had further comment. He spoke of the food advisory meetings that were held with the students. He had comment on the meetings. The PTO meeting was cancelled. Mr. Nero said the Veterans’ Day ceremony was phenomenal. Questions were asked and answered.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner spoke of getting together with the teachers’ union about the days missed and setting up a meeting.

c. Committee Chairperson – Nothing to report.

d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – Mrs. Wagner asked if anyone could take over. Mrs. Potemri will be taking over.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Nothing to report.

f. School Modernization Building Committee – There is a meeting on Monday. Mr. Mathwich said the last thing left was the bonding commission. Mr. Carlson said they are still vetting out the bids. Questions were asked and answered.

11. Finance - a. October 2017 Financial Statements – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the financial statements for October 2017. Questions were asked and answered about tuition. Mr. Mathwich explained the finance committee usually meets before the regular meeting to review. Mr. Nero had comment. Further questions were asked and answered.

12. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Covered above.

13. New Business – a. Schedule of Meetings for 2018 – Mrs. Wagner had comment. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2018.

14. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – December 13<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting.  
b. Committee Action List – Policy review will go back on the agenda.
15. Public Comment – None.
16. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Contract Negotiations – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:54 p.m.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to add Ratification of the Bargaining Agreement between the North Stonington Board of Education and the North Stonington Federation of School Administrators to the agenda.

17. Ratification of Bargaining Agreement between the North Stonington Board of Education and the North Stonington Federation of School Administrators – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the contract agreement between the North Stonington Board of Education and the North Stonington Federation of School Administrators for the years 2018-2021.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education