

Board of Education Minutes
February 8, 2017

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, and Dr. Robert via phone. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the NSEF Trivia Contest will be February 24th. The Relay for Life is June 23rd.

On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to move Item 10a to Item 5.

5. Old Business – Advanced Placement Fees – Mrs. St. Germain explained the proposal and said it would be a flat fee schedule. Board members had comment. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Advanced Placement fee proposal beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

6. Presentations – After-School Program – The presentation was cancelled. The person that was to give the presentation left the company and she spoke to another representative. Mrs. Wagner explained. She said she discovered that the information she had received was incorrect and they would have to have 250 participants, not 50.

7. Administrators' Reports –None.

8. Administrative – a. Minutes – January 11, 2017 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2017, meeting. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

January 11, 2017 Tri-Board Meeting – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2017, Tri-Board meeting up to item 6. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed with four voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

January 25, 2017 Workshop – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2017, workshop.

- b. Correspondence – None.
 - c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said our new bookkeeper, Liz Mackela, started last week and he elaborated. On March 6th, Sara Desirey will begin as special services administrative assistant. The custodian position was filled by Sheldon Smith. Sue Starr submitted her letter of retirement and Mr. Nero read the letter. Sharon Thompson submitted her letter of retirement this afternoon.
9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said a lot is happening with the building project. The architects are coming in next week after having to postpone it twice due to weather. Mr. Nero said they will be meeting with staff. On February 22nd, the Building Committee will be coming to the Board meeting to get the Board’s approval on the final plans. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. Nero said the middle/high school group has been working on a block schedule. They have come up with a schedule and he elaborated. Questions were asked and answered.
- b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson has been in contact with the Board of Finance in regards to going in front of their Board. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.
 - c. Committee Chairperson – None.
 - d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – None.
 - e. PSPBC Liaison – None.
 - f. Building Committee – Mr. Mathwich said the Building Committee is meeting every week. They are working on the septic portion and they discovered they had to do a new system and he elaborated. Other reports have come in.
10. Finance - None.
11. Old Business – a. Advanced Placement Fees – Covered above.
12. New Business – a. Review of Workshop of 1/25/17 – There was discussion of postponing these items to the next meeting since not many members are here.
- b. Board Committee Makeup – Postponed to next meeting.
 - c. World Language in the Schools – Postponed to next meeting
 - d. Proposed 2017-2018 Education Budget – Mr. Nero said the budget is at 4.68% increase right now which is at the same rate we had last year but it included a curriculum person. He had further explanation. He spoke of health insurance costs. He said we were over 6% at one time but reductions were made. A net increase of our budgets has been a .3% increase over the last three years. He had further comment. The administrative team has

met and made reductions to their budgets. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. Board members had comment and questions.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – February 22nd is next regular meeting and March 8th and 22nd are the next meetings.

b. Committee Action List

14. Public Comment – Mr. Shawn Murphy asked about the gym floor refinishing and if it was in this year's budget. Mr. Nero explained. Mr. Murphy said one of his recommendations is going to be to have a committee for capital improvement that would also include the school. He explained.

15. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Contract Negotiations and b. Review of Superintendent's Goals – No action.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education