

Board of Education Minutes  
March 22, 2017

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero and Mrs. Allen. 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 – None.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators' Reports –None.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – March 8, 2017 – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2017, meeting. Mr. Carlson abstained.
- b. Correspondence – None.
- c. Personnel - Mr. Nero read a letter from Sarah Desrocher resigning her position as a speech language therapist. Mr. Nero had comment. A question was asked about the soccer coach that resigned. Mr. Nero commented.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent - Mr. Nero commented on the State of the Stoningtons that he recently attended. He commented on his well wishes for Superintendent Riley's speedy recovery. Mr. Nero commented on the state of things in Hartford. He commented on the newer positions that have been added in recent years and the effect they have had on our students. Mr. Nero said the chamber is a good organization and he had further comment. Mr. Nero said the architects went back to Hartford to do further work. Mr. Boucher and Mr. Pont will be meeting with the architects to review the security systems. Mr. Nero had comment on the food services portion of the project and they will be meeting on the March 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Carlson had comment. Mr. Nero had further comment. This past week the contract with Jostens yearbook was up and he met with the advisors before signing a new contract. He had further

comment. Mr. Nero saw the play on Sunday and said it was phenomenal. The elementary play will be this coming weekend. Mr. Nero commented on the Invention Convention.

b. BOE Chairperson - Mr. Carlson was at the building committee meeting. Mr. Murphy is going to have an open meeting with the Boards, Representative Diana Urban, and Senator Heather Somers. He had further comment. Board members had comment. Mr. Carlson had further explanation. Mr. Nero said we should be presenting a budget that fits the needs of the kids. He elaborated. Mr. Carlson said Mr. Murphy was doing different budget scenarios. Mr. Carlson said he was not going to do four different budgets. There was comment.

c. Committee Chairperson - Mr. Mathwich said action will be taken later in the agenda. Mrs. Wagner said the Student Success Committee met and will be meeting again in the near future.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – None.

f. Building Committee - Mr. Mathwich explained about the financial aspect of not being able to transfer funds from one project to another. Phasing was brought up and Mr. Mathwich explained the philosophy behind that. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Mathwich continued with the phasing explanation. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

9. Finance - a. February 2017 Financial Statements – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Robert to approve the financial statements for the period ending February 28, 2017, as written. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. 2017-2018 Proposed Education Budget - Mr. Nero said they have to vote on a budget tonight because we have to present a budget to the Board of Finance on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to approve the budget with a 3.48% increase. There was comment. Dr. Robert commented on the raises for those in central office although it is not a lot of money. Mr. Nero had comment. Board members had comment. Mr. Mathwich said a lot of times we would have to take out a certain percentage when reducing the budget and he elaborated. There was discussion about not going under a certain budgeted amount and there was discussion. Dr. Robert had comment about a different percentage to pass. He elaborated. Dr. Robert suggested taking out \$53,000 from equipment. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had comment and explanation of the budget process and reductions. He had further comment. Board members had further comment. Mr. Nero had

suggestions on reductions. He had further comment. Mr. Mathwich withdrew his motion and Mrs. Wagner withdrew her second of the motion. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to reduce \$53,000 from the 730 and 1230 account combined to get under a 3% increase.

11. New Business – a. District-wide Tuition for 2017-2018 - Mr. Nero suggested that the tuition rate be Pre-K through 12 with special education being an additional amount. There was discussion about allowing tuition students in the district. Questions were asked and answered. This item will be tabled until the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. There was discussion.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next meeting is April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. which will be a special meeting due to the change in time.

b. Committee Action List – The Student Success Committee will meet on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to review policies.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session –a. Contract Negotiations – Did not go into Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education