

Board of Education Minutes
March 8, 2017

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Vice Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.

The Connecticut Green Bank representative hadn't joined the meeting yet so the Board continued with the agenda and will return to "Presentations" when they are ready.

4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the NSEF has their meeting next Wednesday, March 15th. The road race is Memorial Day Weekend. He gave a review of the trivia night and said it was very successful. Mr. St. Clair will be retiring as head of the trivia night and Mr. Nero will be taking over.
5. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain said the boys from Zambia are doing well. She explained their schedules. On Monday, 13 students were inducted into the National Honor Society. She elaborated. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of "leveling" at Wheeler. She gave background information on this topic and elaborated. She said Wheeler still has three levels. She spoke of the reasoning for staying with three levels. She spoke of the NEASC representative's comments. Mr. Nero had comment. Board members had questions that Mrs. St. Germain answered. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of the accountability index. She said we were named as a school of distinction and were one of five high schools in the state. Questions were asked and answered. Questions were asked about the partnership with North Stonington, Stonington, and Westerly. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Chaney spoke of the Career Fair on March 30th. It is in the afternoon from 12:30 to 2:15. There are 40-45 guest speakers covering 17 different occupations. Every student in grades 9-12 was able to attend the topics they wanted. SAT day is Wednesday, April 5th, for all students in the state. He had further comment. CMT's and CAPT are coming up. This is the last year for CMT's and he explained. He had further comment. Mrs. Wilkison said last Thursday night was Family Science Night and it was very successful because of Jen Raggon who has done this for six years. She also does enrichment programs, teaches hands-on science, and manages the school garden. The second trimester ended March 1st and conferences are on the 16th and 17th, the DAR invited area students to write an essay on parks. Friday is professional development day. When K-3 teachers haven't taken the reading Praxis, they have to take a reading assessment every other year and Mrs. Wilkison explained. A number of teachers attended a workshop on the next generation science. March 24th and 25th the elementary drama club will be presenting "Beauty and the Beast Junior." She elaborated. On April 4th, fifth graders will be doing CMT and then SBAC is later in the month.

Sixty-five elementary schools were recognized as a school of distinction the elementary school was named in the highest performing school and highest growth category. A parent recently called trying to make a decision about Stonington or North Stonington for schools and she elaborated. She passed out a handout ranking the elementary school. There was comment. Mrs. Wilkison had further comment. Board members had further comment.

6. Administrative – a. Minutes – February 22, 2017 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2017, meeting.

The Board returned to presentations.

7. Presentations – Connecticut Green Bank – Mr. Urgo spoke of the building committee’s ideas of being environmentally friendly and explained. They will be talking about taking on solar. There was further comment. Mr. Urgo had comment. Mr. Malik commented that he spoke to Ben Healy, president of the CT Green Bank about how to incorporate solar since it wasn’t in the budget. He had further comment. Mr. Healy introduced himself and gave information on the Connecticut Green Bank. He spoke of a solar financing program and explained how they finance the solar in to the building. It is a 20-year power purchase program. He had further explanation. The reason so many municipalities go this route is that so much of the economic value is tied up in tax credits. They bring in private investors and he explained. Voluntown, Hampton, Coventry, Orange, Milford, and many of the regional school districts take advantage of this program. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. The question was asked if we were to go into something like this, would we have to go to a competitive bid. Mr. Healy said different districts have done different things. He said he would defer to the Board’s rules. Mr. Nero had comment referring to the State’s bid list and said since Connecticut Green Bank is a state-endorsed entity it would probably not be an issue. Mr. Healy had comment. Questions were asked if they had a listing of other school districts that they have done. Mr. Healy said he could give some school references to the Board. He referred the Board to their website, ctgreenbank.com, to get an idea of what they do. Mr. Nero had comment. Further questions were asked and answered about what happens after the 20 years. Mr. Healy explained the steps that would be taken from the beginning. At the end of the term, it is all on them and he explained. There is also an option of a buyout. There was further comment. Mr. Healy said he could provide a sample template. He had further comment. Mr. Urgo had comment on quoting a price because our new buildings will be more efficient. Mr. Healy had comment on that. Board members had further comment and questions on a pricing structure.

The Board returned to the regular agenda.

8. b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said they spent 6 hours at the Department of Administrative Services to review items on the building project. The architects will be there again tomorrow for another two hours. He had further comment. March 21st will be the next “State of the Stoningtons.”
 - b. BOE Chairperson – None.
 - c. Committee Chairperson – Committee meetings will be set up later in the agenda.
 - d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison –Mrs. Wagner is going to try to make the meeting tomorrow.
 - e. PSPBC Liaison – None.
 - f. Building Committee – None.
10. Finance - None.
11. Old Business – a. 2017-2018 Proposed Education Budget – Mrs. Allen said they will have the most current budget Monday or Tuesday. Board members had questions. There was comment. There were questions on whether there was word on the state’s actions. Mrs. Allen had comment. Mr. Nero had comment.
12. New Business – a. Connecticut Green Bank – On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to move forward to investigate the Connecticut Green Bank opportunity.
 - b. Annual Healthy Foods Certification – Mr. Mathwich read a statement regarding the Healthy Foods Certification. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting ore extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school play and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after

the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held. There was discussion and questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next regular meeting is March 22nd.

b. Committee Action List – Committee Meeting Dates – The Student Success Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. and the Facilities and Finance Committee will meet at 6:45 p.m.

14. Public Comment – None.

15. Proposed for Executive Session –a. Contract Negotiations – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education