

Board of Education Minutes
May 10, 2017

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Buzzee and Mr. Mendolia (7:12 p.m.). Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Miss Jessica Johnson.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero spoke of the NSEF Road Race and meeting.
5. Presentations – a. CAFE Student Leadership Awards – Mrs. St. Germain introduced T.J. Thompson and Jessica Johnson as the CAFE Student Leadership awardees. Mrs. St. Germain read the nomination information for Mr. Thompson. Mr. Chaney read the nomination information for Miss Johnson. Mr. Nero read a letter from Robert Rader, the Executive Director of CAFE, regarding the awards. Mr. Carlson presented the awards.

b. Introduction of Zambian Students – Mrs. St. Germain spoke about Aaron Nyambe and Teddy Nosiku and what a difference their attendance at Wheeler has made in our students. She introduced Sabrina Buehler, of the Chikumbuso Project. Mrs. Buehler spoke. She spoke of the two students' backgrounds. Mr. Nyambe and Mr. Nosiku thanked the Board for allowing them to come to Wheeler.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison told the Board they are done with SBAC testing, the art show is tomorrow, and 32 third, fourth, and fifth graders participated in the Invention Convention with 9 students being chosen to go to the State competition at UCONN. Four of our students were recognized and were invited to the national competition. Those students are Samantha Abate, Chase Beattie, Sophie Broderick, and Katelyn Pierce. Mrs. Jane Servidio will be attending with the students and their families and was asked to serve as a judge. The Spelling Bee is May 26th and the final is on June 2nd. Grades 3 to 5 concert is on May 18th and the band concert is on May 23rd. Mrs. St. Germain said the forum is coming together nicely with 60 people that have responded to attend so far. She said some press releases were sent out and she elaborated. She said they want to start talking now for the transition of the school across the street. They have discussed pathways for graduation and they are going to have to start to look at the graduation requirements. She elaborated. Mrs. St. Germain said they have been reaching out to community members and they have commented they want to see our kids and what they are doing. The fire department is talking about coming in for a club. She had further comment on this. Mr. Chaney said they have been talking about science. He handed out information and explained. The pilot science assessment will be taken next week. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. Mr. Chaney gave an update on the SAT's. He said they have the results already. He explained. He spoke of the PSAT results of the fall and how much improvement there has

been in those months. He explained the SAT is the benchmark assessment. He had further comment. Mrs. St. Germain said Caleb Melinosky and Julia McGowan were recognized as Scholar Athletes at the annual CAS-CIAC banquet. Questions were asked and answered about pathways. Mr. Nero had comment. There was comment and discussion. Mrs. St. Germain introduced Rebecca Schilke. Mrs. Schilke explained the Giveback Club of the Class of 2018. She spoke of the club and what they have done and what they were asking permission to do. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Class of 2018 Giveback Club's request to honor Mrs. Starr with a wall in her name in the new school dedicated to art. Mrs. St. Germain said Mrs. Schilke had the idea about recognizing the students graduating that are going into the military with a red, white, and blue cord to wear on their gown. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to present the graduating students entering the military with a red, white, and blue cord to wear at graduation. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Board members had comment. There was further comment.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – April 26, 2017 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the April 26, 2017, meeting.

b. April 27, 2017 Tri-Board Meeting – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2017, Tri-Board meeting. There was comment on the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said he had a conversation with Senator Somers last week. He explained his conversation and had comment on the state budget. He elaborated. She sponsored a bill that will keep those districts that have gone through the process for a building project to keep them whole. Mr. Nero had comment.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said there is a teacher going on maternity leave next school year. We have hired an art teacher at the elementary school and we have also hired a speech pathologist.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said the audit is in for the CABA policy review. CABA also has the ability to host the policies on their site. He explained. He is going to contract with them to do that. He had further comment. Mr. Nero spoke of a meeting with Mrs. Ostrout and the administrators regarding block scheduling. He elaborated. Questions were asked and answered.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to move item 14, Proposed for Executive Session –a. Contract Negotiations, to item 8b.

b. Proposed for Executive Session –a. Contract Negotiations – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations and to invite Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:19 p.m.

- c. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson had no further report.
- d. Committee Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said the Student Success Committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.
- e. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – Nothing to report.
- f. PSPBC Liaison – Nothing to report.
- g. Building Committee – Mr. Carlson said the committee has advertised for a construction manager that meets the criteria of the FDA loan.
- 9. Finance – None.
- 10. Old Business – a. 2017-2018 Proposed Education Budget – Nothing new to report.
- 11. New Business – a. Rescinding of a Non-Renewal - No action taken.

Mr. Nero said he had rescinding of non-renewals to add to the agenda. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to add Rescinding of Non-Renewals to the agenda.

b. Rescinding of Non-Renewals - Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia that the Board rescind its earlier vote of April 26, 2017, to non-renew the contract of Claire Benedict, Brittney Hattoy, Kim McKay, Kellie Edwards, and Rebecca Stegeman for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action. Mr. Nero had explanation of putting two positions in Title I. He had further comment and explanation. The motion passed with five voting in favor and one opposed. Mrs. Buzzee opposed the motion. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted five in favor and one opposed that the Board rescind its earlier vote of April 26, 2017, to eliminate one elementary school math support position, two elementary school reading specialist positions, one high school/middle school math support position, and one high school/middle school reading support position at the end of the current school year. Mrs. Buzzee opposed the motion.

c. Policy Review - Mrs. Wagner said the Student Success Committee met and they reviewed policies. Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to move forward the policies as amended: Policy 6142.101, Regulation 6142.101, Policy 3230.1, Policy 4118.14, and Policy 5145.4. Questions were asked and answered on the policies. The committee was not changing Policy 3230.1 but would like to have follow-up on any conferences. Further questions were asked and answered. The motion passed with five voting in favor and one opposed. Mrs. Buzzee opposed the motion.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – May 24th is the next regular meeting. No further meeting yet for another Tri-Board meeting and nothing yet from the Board of Finance.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Mrs. Ostrout thanked the Board for reinstating the programs. She had further comment. She thanked them also for putting those teachers back in the classroom where they belong. Board members had comment.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education