

Board of Education Minutes
Special Meeting
May 31, 2017

DRAFT

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, 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 7:00 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 spoke of the North Stonington Education Foundation Road Race and that it was the largest one yet and he elaborated. There was comment.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators' Reports –None.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – May 10, 2017 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2017, meeting. Dr. Robert abstained.
 - b. Correspondence – None.
 - c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said he sent an email to everyone regarding Mrs. Allen. She is leaving North Stonington for a new position. He had further comment. Mr. Nero and the Board thanked her. There was further comment. The new art teacher and speech pathologist have been hired. He explained. Mr. Nero explained we had interviewed for a reading specialist at the elementary school. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to hire the reading specialist on Step 7.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero explained we should be pretty well set to have an acting business manager in place. He explained. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero went to the Westerly Education Center for a meeting last week. He said it is a phenomenal facility. He elaborated. He would like to invite the Board and first selectman for a tour. He had further comment. The presentation of Wheeler Speaks Out was a great presentation. Flag Day ceremonies are coming up. There were many activities that happened over the last couple of weeks. He spoke of block scheduling and the contract language. They have come up with job descriptions for the program supervisors. He elaborated.

- b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson said on a future agenda, he wanted to discuss Board actions during meetings such as phone use and attendance, out-of-district students, and splitting the athletic director position.
 - c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later.
 - d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – None.
 - e. PSPBC Liaison – None.
 - f. Building Committee – Mr. Carlson explained they had to go out for bid again for the construction manager due to the FDA loan language. He said five have put in bids including the current one. He elaborated. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero said he spoke to the EPA again today. There was discussion of a press release. Mr. Carlson said the committee has been working hard.
9. Finance - a. April 2017 Financial Statements – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to approve the financial statement for the period ending April 30, 2017. Mr. Mathwich explained the internet access fee and explained it was an unfunded expense. Mr. Pont answered questions. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Transfer Requests – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to approve the requested budget transfers in a memo dated May 17, 2017, and to change the wording in items 2, 3, and 4 from “savings” to “cost avoidance.” Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had explanation and comment. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Old Business – a. Zambian Students – Mrs. Sabrina Buehler came to ask the Board to allow the Aaron Nyambe and Teddy Nosiku to continue their education at Wheeler. Mr. Nero had comment on the issues that occurred trying to get them here in August. They came in February. There was comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Robert to allow Aaron Nyambe and Teddy Nosiku to attend Wheeler High School tuition-free for the 2017-2018 school year. There was comment. The motion passed with four voting in favor and one opposed. Dr. Robert opposed the motion. Dr. Robert had comment. There was further comment.
- b. 2017-2018 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero explained the budget. Mrs. Allen answered questions from the Board. They went through line items in the budget. There was comment and questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was further comment. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to approve the draft budget of May 31, 2017, in the amount of \$12,875,068.

11. New Business – a. Request for Leave – Mr. Nero explained a teacher has requested a child-rearing leave. He read Tara Holland’s letter. He explained he met with the teacher and explained. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to grant the requested leave.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – June 7th is the next regular meeting. June 12th is the re-opener on negotiations for block scheduling.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Contract Negotiations – None needed.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education