

Board of Education Minutes
August 23, 2017

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 23, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:08 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 – Emergency Response/Crisis Management App (Safety Center) – Mr. Nero said one of the things we were looking at this year was a safety app. He explained. The presentation is on an application that can better serve and notice people we serve and in the community. He said this works in conjunction with our emergency plan. Jessica Norwood from School Dude Solutions explained the app and what it is capable of doing. She reviewed some of the benefits. It is usable on multiple platforms and they do not limit the number of users. There are restrictions that can be put into place depending on the type of user. She further explained the app. Josh Green presented the technical side. He showed the actual app. He went through the different options available to different users. The process can be automated within an active directory. Questions were asked and answered. He reviewed the app by sharing screen shots of his phone. He gave examples of how the app can be customized. The app has the ability to send out push notifications and he demonstrated that. Mr. Nero had questions and comments. Jessica had comment and further explanation. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison said they are ready to start school. She thanked Mrs. Gonzalez, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Pont, Mr. Hopkins and all the staff. The new family orientation was held yesterday and kindergarten orientation was today, 397 students are registered so far, and Open House is September 7th. Mrs. Wilkison reviewed the SBAC and CMT scores. Questions were asked about enrollment. There was comment. She reviewed the testing growth and progress. Mrs. St. Germain also thanked the staff for their hard work to get the school ready. She spoke of the conversations she has had with ECC principals regarding tuition policies and discipline. Mr. Nero had comment and suggestion of wording. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had further comment. Freshmen orientation is Tuesday with an ice cream social. They have had a lot of new enrollees this week and she elaborated. Mr. Chaney said they are still waiting for the full SBAC results on the individual students. He reviewed the SAT scores and said they were exceptionally high for the graduating seniors. He said we are still at the top with the next classes. Mr. Nero had comment. Questions were asked and answered about the

State paying for the testing. Mr. Chaney said they do pay for it. There was discussion. Mrs. St. Germain said she and Mr. Chaney have been talking to other schools about pathways and she elaborated. It will be a big process and we will have to talk about our graduation requirements. She elaborated. Mr. Chaney had comment. They said the staff is excited and on board. Mrs. St. Germain had further comment. Questions were asked and answered on graduation requirements.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – August 2, 2017, Special Meeting – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the August 2, 2017, special meeting. Mrs. Wagner abstained.

August 16, 2017, Special Meeting – Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2017, special meeting. There was comment. The motion passed with four voting in favor and one abstention. Dr. Robert abstained.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero read part of a letter from CABA regarding putting our policies online.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero read a letter from Kyle Legnos resigning his position as a business teacher. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Nero said we have filled the position already with Chris Zyrlis. He recommended hiring him at Step 7. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Chaney had comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to hire Chris Zyrlis at Step 7. Further questions were asked and answered. The motion passed with four voting in favor and one opposed. Dr. Robert opposed the motion. Mr. Nero said a nurse replacement was hired, Jessica Kessler. Keri Lyn Gerrapy is the long term art teacher, April Christiansen is replacing Karen Gallo, and Emily Butterworth is replacing Sarah Desrosier. Mr. Nero said Jim Cervini is the girls' soccer coach and Karla McAdams is the new paraprofessional.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said we have submitted our plan to EPA and have to do significantly more testing. He had a phone conference with them today. Mr. Nero spoke of the cost of the testing already done that the town has paid for. He spoke of upcoming testing and the cost for this. He gave an update as to what is happening with the testing and where we stand.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson said we are starting administrator negotiations.

c. Committee Chairperson - Mrs. Wagner said her committee needs to meet more to do all the policies.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – None.

f. Building Committee – Mr. Carlson said we have the approval to go out for bid. Mr. Urgo had comment. There was discussion on bids and going out for bid.

9. Finance - a. July Financial Statements – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by MR. Karpinski to approve the financial statements for the period ending July 31, 2017. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns Update – Mr. Nero covered it in his report above.

b. Board Policy Update – Mrs. Wagner talked to Mr. Mustaro from CABE regarding the policies. She reviewed items that she discussed with Mr. Mustaro. There was discussion. A committee meeting will be scheduled at the next meeting.

11. New Business – None.

Dr. Robert asked if we heard anything further on the state budget and Mr. Nero said he had gotten word of a proposed budget and elaborated. There was comment.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – September 13th and 27th are the next regular meetings.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to add Administrators' Contract as Item 14 c, Proposed for Executive Session.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent's Goals, Superintendent's Evaluation, and Administrators' Contract.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

15. Contract and Benefits of Superintendent – No action taken.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education