

Board of Education Minutes
August 2, 2017

DRAFT

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert (7:10 p.m.), Mr. McCord, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, and Mrs. St. Germain. 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 – None.
5. Presentations – a. Eagle Environmental Inc. – Mr. Nero introduced John Tirrell and Jeff Duigou from Eagle Environmental. Mr. Nero said we have been with this company for quite a long time. Mr. Nero said this will be nothing the people haven't heard already. He gave background information on the presentations that were done of the building project, the referenda, and the new committee formed when the project passed. He referred to the Tri-Board meetings in 2015 and the last one of the year that was held. Ashis Roychowdhury from Eagle Environmental was present at that meeting to speak to the Town and the Tri-Board. He said we know for a fact that somewhere along the line the middle school windows were to be replaced. It was brought up that there could be PCB's in the caulking and he elaborated. He said in 2015 we were in complete compliance but at any time DEEP and the EPA could come back and want action taken. He said we would then be in a position to have to do the remediation. About two years ago he had conversations with the EPA in Boston. The EPA has been asking where we are with the issue. He had further comment. Kim Tisa of the EPA was concerned that this was going at a slow pace. He gave history of the conversations back and forth. Ms. Tisa had contacted Eagle Environmental. Mr. Nero said all the testing we did concerned the middle school. The building committee decided to do further testing in 2016 so they would know how much to budget for remediation. He said we have an issue because the EPA is not going to wait for us to do the project. Mr. Nero said we have a situation on our hands that we have to take action on. He said we are not the landowner but just the caretakers of the elementary school. Mr. Duigou introduced himself and gave his background. He said they did testing at the elementary school and he reviewed the testing results. He explained where the samples were taken. He said the samples were taken a foot down. He said this is termed a significant environment condition and forms needed to be filed. He explained they are required to do some remediation efforts. One of the measures they allow you to do is to fence in the area. He explained. He said it seemed like a good fit for the notification. He reviewed the report that has to be submitted. Mr. Nero said they met on July 5th. Mr. Roychowdhury was there and their environmental plans were approved by the state. Mr. Duigou had further comment. He explained what the construction fencing consisted of. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Tirrell answered the question about air quality and leeching into the air. Further questions were

asked and answered. There was discussion on encapsulation. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. Nero had further comment on his statement. He was accused of hyperbole by a former selectman about this situation and he elaborated. Mr. Nero said all the testing relevant to this is all on our website. A member of the public, Mrs. Jennifer Raggon, said the public should be made aware but they have to be careful about how they present it and she elaborated. There were further questions asked and answered. Mr. Tirrell said part of the report is that they have to do community awareness. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. Nero will have a discussion with the fence company and the fire marshal to get this going. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Tirrell explained what triggers the significant environmental hazard report. He said the soil in that area triggered that report. He had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment on the middle school readings and how low they were. There was further comment. Mr. Nero said it is a credit to this Board and the First Selectman that they have been on top of this situation. He had further comment.

6. Administrators' Reports –None.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – June 21, 2017 – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the June 21, 2017, meeting. Dr. Robert abstained.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said we have had two resignations. Stephanie Patrick, high/middle school nurse and Sue Ryan, paraprofessional, are leaving and Mr. Nero explained. He said we have hired a new business manager, Deborah Martin. She has a lot of experience at all levels and is starting on Friday.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – None.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson said there is not much to report. The town committees have endorsed some candidates for Board of Education. They are Jennifer Raggon and Pam Potemri.

c. Committee Chairperson – Mr. Carlson said Mrs. Wagner has been working with Mr. Nero on the policies. She has also been to a couple of meetings at CAGE regarding this.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – None.

f. School Modernization Committee – Mr. Mathwich said we are just waiting on the state. There was further comment.

9. Finance - None.

10. Old Business – a. Tuition Students – There was comment. A rate needs to be set and a discipline policy also needs to be put in place. There was discussion. Mr. Nero said he could talk to the attorney tomorrow about a document stating that they have the right to remove a student. There was further discussion.

11. New Business – a. Approval of Authorized Signers for School Lunch Forms – Mr. Nero explained. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Peter Nero as an authorized signer for the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs and for claims for reimbursement. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Deborah Martin as secondary signer for the ED-099 Child Nutrition Programs and for claims for reimbursement.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – August 23rd is the next regular meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Mr. Urgo, citizen, had comment on class sizes and tracking them and also on the fact that they are stalled until the state takes action.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent's Goals and Superintendent's Evaluation.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:44 p.m.

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

On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education