

Board of Education Minutes
August 31, 2017
Special Meeting

DRAFT

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 31, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the North Stonington Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, 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 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Mr. Nero asked that comments be made after the presentation.
4. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Mr. Nero said our experts from Eagle Environmental are here to help answer any technical questions. Mr. Nero gave some general information on PCB's. He said one of the reasons we are having a building project is to remediate these items. Mr. Nero gave some statistics and said 66% of schools in Connecticut have PCB's in the buildings. He gave the history of the building project and the committee. They wanted to get ahead and have some testing done. Mr. Nero said the environmental concerns have been brought up many times during the hearings prior to the project being passed. He elaborated. He said this issue has been going on for a long time. He said at the elementary school, it is in the window caulking, the expansion joints, and the paint. The project involves a complete renovate as new. Mr. Nero commented that our project has been approved by the Department of Administrative Services but we have to wait for the state budget to pass. He had further comment. He spoke of the cost of the testing. Mr. Nero said for the total remediation to occur, the building has to be closed. He explained. Mr. Nero said when the project is done all the environmental issues in the building will be gone. Mr. Nero said on July 5th they went to Hartford with the final plans. They went through everything including the remediation plans. The remediation will be done according to the most current regulations. He spoke of the conversation with Eagle Environmental on July 13th regarding the testing results. He had further comment. Mr. Nero said over the last 5-7 years, the regulations have been getting tighter on this. Mr. Nero said as of right now, the EPA is satisfied with what we have done. They are not requesting that the building be closed. Mr. Nero said three classrooms have been closed—the music room, room 209 upstairs and the library. He had further comment. He said we will continue to test every three months. He elaborated. Mr. Nero said the staff has been working diligently to make this work. He said one important thing is that we all need to be flexible. He gave examples. He said we are on the cusp of getting this done. Mr. Ashis Roychowdhury from Eagle Environmental gave his background. He said there is no regulation to test for PCB's and he elaborated. He explained what was tested. He said the whole process takes time. The EPA has suggested levels but they are not regulations. He said everything was cleaned and sampled again. He said a couple of the samples came back with a reading. He said we

are not leaving anything to chance. Mr. Roychowdhury said they are keeping the EPA and DEEP in the loop. He said as Mr. Nero did, that the EPA does not want us to close the school; just keep a few classrooms off limits. He said we are in this situation because we are trying to do things right. He elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Roychowdhury had further comment and explanation. Further questions were asked and answered. The testing timeline was clarified. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Roychowdhury answered questions. He explained what they are doing with the library. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Carlson had comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was comment and discussion with the audience. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment from the audience. Mrs. Wilkison and Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment from the audience. Mr. Nero commended Mr. Murphy. Mr. Nero spoke of the items needing to be stored. He may have to rent storage units. Mr. Nero thanked everyone.

5. Public Comment – Incorporated above.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education