

Board of Education Minutes  
September 13, 2017

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert (7:58 p.m.), 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 7:02 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 said tomorrow is the North Stonington Education Foundation’s first meeting of the year as well as the first PTO meeting.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators’ Reports –Mr. Chaney and Mrs. St. Germain attended a conference on testing, assessment, and accountability as a whole. Mr. Chaney reviewed highlights of the conference and the portions that he and Mrs. St. Germain found most valuable. He explained the accountability index. He went over the SBAC workshop that he attended. The accountability report was the highlight of the conference. He had further comment. He commended the attendance committee at their building because they have done tremendous work. Mrs. St. Germain had comment on the NEASC special report. She said there were four areas that were addressed in the report. She attended a workshop today and said NEASC is changing their way of doing the visit. She elaborated and had further comment. She spoke of the program supervisors and had further comment. Mrs. Wilkison said they had a challenging start to school and she commended the staff. The room changes are as follows: music moved to room 206, Mrs. Costanza moved to the stage, room 209 is in room 208 but they also teach in other rooms, the math interventionist has a space off room 210 and they borrowed spacers from the middle school to block off room 210. The psychologist is now in the office conference room. The special services office is now in the school psychologist’s office. The library is now moving into room 219 which was the special services office. She thanked Mrs. Gonzalez, the maintenance staff, and the IT staff. Mrs. Wilkison said they are making it work. The kids have been great. They have 393 students registered with more registration packets being picked up. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wilkison said the open house was last Thursday and was very well attended. This Friday is the Summer Math Celebration and next Friday is the Summer Reading Celebration.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – August 23, 2017 – On a motion by Mrs. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2017, meeting.

August 31, 2017 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the August 31, 2017, special meeting.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said they received notice last week from the state that the renovate-as-new was approved. He spoke of the pre-bid conference held last week with about 30 contractors present. Mr. Nero said we are so close; the state just needs to pass a budget. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero said we received a request for the yearbook ad.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said he spent some time with George Brennan, fire marshal, as he toured the buildings. He had comment. He commended Mr. Pont for the new page on the web site for the environmental information. The storage bin is in the area where the bus lot is. He explained everything that went in the bin was cleaned. He has spent a lot of time on the phone with Boston and Hartford. He elaborated. He commended both schools for the rather smooth openings for the beginning of school.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson thanked the Board for attending the meeting on Thursday. He elaborated. He had further comment. Mr. Nero had a question for Mr. Urgo about Brownsfield grant funding. Mr. Urgo suggested he call the attorney in Senator Courtney's office.

c. Committee Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said there are some policies to be voted on tonight and they need to set up meetings to review more policies.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Inactive.

f. School Modernization Building Committee – Mr. Carlson said the contract manager was pleased to see the number of people that turned out to bid. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered.

9. Finance - None.

10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns Update – Mr. Nero said a letter went out yesterday regarding the testing results. It was explained in the letter that all our reporting is complete and online. Eagle Environmental sent a cleaning plan to the EPA and we should hear from them soon. He explained almost all the wipe tests came back as undetectable. He elaborated and had further comment. There was discussion about setting up a small committee. Mr. Nero said the Tri-Board was going to be resurrected and this may be a good time to do that. He had further comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment about concerns brought up at the meeting. Mr. Mathwich had comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment about the room locations. Mr. McCord had comment. Board members had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment on the cost of the testing and remediation. He spoke of his conversations with the EPA in Boston. He had further comment. Mr. Carlson asked if the public had comment. A parent had a

question about testing all the rooms. Mrs. Wagner commented on testing all the rooms and did not feel we should do that at this point. Further questions about testing were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mathwich had comment. Board members had further comment. There was further comment.

11. New Business – a. Clothing Donation Bin Placement Program – Mr. Nero explained the email received regarding the bins. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

b. Board Policies – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy 3542.22, option 2. Policy 3542.22 is Food Service Personnel-Code of Conduct.

Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to approve policy 5144.4. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Policy 5144.4 is Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students.

On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to approve policy 5145.511 and the administrative regulation without the alternate language in the policy on pages a and c. The motion passed unanimously. Policy 5145.511 is Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program.

A suggestion was made to put three or four policies on each meeting agenda until a Saturday meeting can be held.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next meeting is on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent’s Goals, Superintendent’s Evaluation, and Contract Negotiations.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

15. Contract and Benefits of Superintendent – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to extend the Superintendent’s contract by one year in order to remain a three-year contract.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to the Board of Education