

Board of Education Minutes
March 14, 2018

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Dr. Robert, and Dr. Potemri. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, Mr. Chaney, Mr. Pont, and Mr. Boucher. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 – None.
6. Administrators’ Reports – Mrs. St. Germain explained what happened with the walkout today. She explained what took part at each location and said this was totally student generated. Board members had comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wilkison handed out a letter to parents about the traffic pattern. Mrs. Wilkison had comment. Board members had comment.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – February 28, 2018 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 28, 2018, meeting.
 - b. Correspondence – None.
 - c. Personnel – Another paraprofessional had to be hired at the elementary school and Mr. Nero elaborated.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero had comment on the weather situation.
 - b. BOE Chairperson – The workshop for the Board is Saturday morning and it is being held at Wheeler Library. Mrs. Wagner had further comment. The budget will be presented next Wednesday for the Boards of Finance and Selectmen. There was comment.
 - c. Committee Chairperson – The Student Success Committee will meet again on April 11th.
 - d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – Nothing to report.
 - e. PSPBC Liaison – Nothing to report.

f. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said she had a meeting with Downes regarding communication. Weekly meetings will start on March 27th and will happen every week. Mrs. Wilkison had comment. Mr. Nero had comment as well. Dr. Potemri had further comment about communication.

9. Finance - None.

10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Mr. Nero said everything is all up-to-date. The middle school testing will be in the next couple of weeks.

b. 2018-2019 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero had comment on the administrative council meeting that was held today on the budget. Mrs. Wilkison said instead of taking the reduction out of instructional supplies, they reduced the equipment lines. She made a reduction in the PBIS salary line. She had further comment on the elementary school budget. Mrs. Costa explained the difference in her staffing numbers and made the correction. She cut one paraprofessional position which makes her staffing level at 35.8. She had comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was comment. Mrs. St. Germain explained their budget process. She explained where some of their cuts were made. Mrs. Turner had explanation on the sports that will have to be played away. Mrs. Turner spoke of the transportation costs. She explained how she arrived at the figures. She explained about basketball transportation practice costs. Questions were asked and answered. Questions on officials were asked and answered. Mrs. Turner had further comment. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered on athletics. Mrs. Turner had further comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Board members had further comment. Mrs. St. Germain commended Mrs. Turner for her efforts and her rapport with other districts. Mr. Boucher met with our HVAC contractor and was able to reduce the budget by \$7,000 and he elaborated. Mrs. Martin had comment on status changes for insurance. Questions were asked and answered. There was comment on technology and items in the building project. Mr. Nero had comment on the transportation contract. Mrs. Martin had comment on the transportation. Questions were asked on the maintenance budget that Mr. Boucher answered. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Potemri to send forward to the Board of Finance the budget with a 6.61% increase which is a total budget of \$13,725,840. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously. There was further comment.

c. Board Members' Concerns/Topics of Discussion – None.

11. New Business - None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – March 21st is the budget presentation.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Mrs. Wagner thanked Mrs. Turner for her work on the athletics.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to add Contract Negotiations to Executive Session.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations and Superintendent’s Goals and to invite Mrs. Martin in such session for contract negotiations.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:46 p.m.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education