

Board of Education Minutes
March 17, 2018
Special Meeting

DRAFT

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Saturday, March 17, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. at Wheeler Library. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present was Mr. Nero and Mr. Nick Caruso from C.A.B.E. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Board of Education Goals – Mr. Caruso moderated the meeting. Mr. Caruso gave background information and the expectations for the workshop. Introductions were made. The Board reviewed and discussed the district's strategic plan. What was written, although years ago, is still pertinent today. The Board discussed the type of student that they want to graduate relative to the mission statement or statement of purpose; that most district mission statements are written relatively with the same language. It was discussed that they were not looking for solutions today, rather contributions to what will be the goals.

Mr. Caruso discussed the 10/80/10 rule when it comes to having everyone support the schools. He explained at one end, 10% are true supporters and will always support the schools. At the other end, that 10% will not support the schools under any circumstance. It's the 80% in the middle that you need to win over to support the budget. The Board agreed that you sometimes have to move away from trying to convince that 10% and promote to the 80%, otherwise that bottom 10% will convince the 80% to not support the budget.

The Board discussed the quality of the district's students' education. They have maintained the quality while being fiscally responsible.

The Board discussed the sense of community and getting the message out. They discussed community outreach. The Board talked about inviting residents into the district as the building project progresses. They also talked about inviting realtors to tour the schools.

The Board discussed that once the BOE/District goals are set they should align the budget with the goals. In the long-term, goals include being sustainable, fiscally responsible, and should be a long-term investment.

The Board discussed that it's just not about the standardized tests. School should also offer music, art, a successful athletic program, etc.

The Board discussed they should be concerned with every student and not have any student fall in the cracks, so to speak and that sometimes they don't meet every child's needs.

The Board decided on a statement that would describe their mantra and agreed on the following:

“Making school engaging to every student.”

The Board talked about having a vision and communicating it. They spoke of the next steps to take. Mrs. Wagner and Mr. Nero will meet. Mr. Caruso told the Board about learning about the CAFE Communications Module.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter L. Nero, Secretary Pro-Tem