

Board of Education Minutes
June 6, 2018

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Mrs. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia (7:30 p.m.). Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairperson Wagner 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 – Mr. Nero said the North Stonington Education Foundation road race was held on May 26th and was very successful. Teddy Nosiku, our student from Chikumbuso, won the race. He congratulated Marc Tardiff on a successful race. The grant celebration meeting is June 14th. The Westerly Sun did an article on the students at the Westerly Education Center. He elaborated. There was discussion.
5. Presentations – a. Architect’s Discussion on Solar Energy – Will be held at another date and Mrs. Wagner explained.
6. Administrators’ Reports – Mrs. Wilkison said on May 22nd, the grade 4 and 5 band concert was held. She elaborated and spoke of Zach Thomas, band teacher. May 31st was the grade 5 chorus concert and she elaborated. This Friday is the PBIS June Jubilee and she explained. Senator Heather Somers is speaking at their Flag Day ceremony. Field day is the 19th with a rain date on the 20th. Grade five promotion is June 22nd. She praised her teaching staff, Mr. Palmer, and Mrs. Gonzalez for their hard work this year to make it work. Mr. Nero had comment on the PCB issue and elaborated. Mr. Chaney gave a brief update on summer school. It originally was to be held in the high school but is actually going to be held in the elementary school due to decisions made this week. It will run from July 9th to August 2nd. The middle school pride event is Monday at the rec field. He explained how the students qualify. The chorus concert combined with the art show was held last night and he elaborated. The boys’ lacrosse team won a game in the quarter finals; they had an outstanding season and he elaborated. Mr. Chaney said the survey results are excessively positive overall and he explained. He said the plan is to meet with the program supervisors. They asked students, teachers, and parents about the pathways. The three top are engineering, business, and multi-media. He elaborated. She passed out the results of an exit survey for students not attending Wheeler next year. She explained the results. She spoke of the program supervisors and their roles. She had further comment on the end-of-year activities. Mr. Nero introduced Allison Reyes. He said she is one of the program supervisors and he elaborated.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – May 23, 2018 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2018, meeting.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said we received notification that our students will be taking the NAEP test. Mrs. Wilkison said the fourth grade took it last year. She said there is a lot of work that goes into that. Mrs. Wagner received a letter from the Cable TV Advisory Committee and she elaborated.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said there is nothing at this point. There may be some for the next meeting

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said the steel is going up. The weekly construction meeting was held. A beam has been painted white for all staff and students to sign. He elaborated. A meeting was held yesterday and a decision was made about summer school. He elaborated. Downes is going to work around this. Mr. Nero said he, Brett Neddeau from Aramark, Mrs. Martin, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Berardinelli met to discuss the lunch transition and maintaining the meals after the move. He had further comment. He said all the environmental testing is done at the elementary school and it is being done this weekend at the middle school. He elaborated. The monthly letter went out to DEEP last week. Secretary negotiations are underway. There is a fundraiser tomorrow from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Paddy's on Atlantic Avenue in Westerly. A portion of the sales will go to the Clark Fund. Mr. Nero gave the background of the fair booklet. Two students, Valerie Knowles and Jake Neddeau have taken over those duties since Andrew Carlson graduated. He had further comment. He updated the Board on the year-end budget. He had comment. There was discussion about the ERISSA account.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said Mrs. Martin, Mr. Nero, she and Mrs. Henderson from the town met and she elaborated. She and Mr. Nero are meeting with the Preston superintendent and the board chair. She will get the Board information on tuition costs so a rate can be set at the next meeting. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion. Tuition policies will be reviewed.

c. Committee Chairperson – Ms. Welborn said policies will be reviewed in July.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – Dr. Potemri attended the last meeting which was held at the Marine Science Magnet School and she elaborated.

e. PSPBC Liaison – None.

f. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said we are on schedule. All the steel should be up by June 30th. She said Mr. Nero already updated them on summer school. Dr. Potemri spoke of the t-shirts that were passed out. They will be available online for \$20.00. Ten dollars will go to the cost of the shirts and ten dollars will go to whatever else the administrators need in the project.

9. Finance - None.

10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Covered above.
 - b. 2018-2019 Proposed Education Budget – The budget passed the first time and there was discussion.
 - c. Board of Education Goals – Mrs. Wagner said she spoke to Nick Caruso at CABE again. She said they need to set their goals first and then come up with a strategic plan. She had further comment. The first meeting of July will be cancelled and a workshop will be held on July 23rd at 6:00 p.m. The superintendent’s evaluation will be started on June 20th.
 - d. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – None for this meeting. The Connecticut Lighthouse Project was discussed.
11. New Business – a. March Vacation Camp Opportunities for Students – Ms. Welborn said she spoke to the director at the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center and the Director of the Ocean Community YMCA in Westerly. She gave highlights of some of the programs. She said each of these was very interested in helping us out during this period of time. She spoke of bussing. Ms. Welborn said they need to know as soon as possible. Ms. Welborn had further comment. Information will go out to the families.
12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – June 20th is a regular meeting, July 23rd is a workshop, and policies will be done at the next meeting as well.
 - b. Committee Action List – Mrs. Wagner said a transportation committee will be set up at the workshop.
13. Public Comment – Mr. Carlson, Selectman, had a question. There was discussion.
14. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education