

Board of Education Minutes
January 24, 2018

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, and Dr. Robert. Also present were Mr. Nero and Mrs. Martin. Chairman Wagner 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 the North Stonington Education Foundation had a meeting a couple of weeks ago. The Trivia Contest is on February 2nd with the snow date of February 10th. He had further comment.
5. Presentations – a. Therapy Dogs in School – Mr. Nero said staff members Rebekah West and Jenna Rogers approached him about having therapy dogs in the schools and he elaborated. He said he thought it would be a worthwhile opportunity. Rebekah West introduced herself. She said there have been some issues at the schools this year and elaborated. Ann Olean introduced herself and her dog, Banning. She gave her background. She has been doing pet-assisted therapy since 2008. She has done thousands of therapy visits. She said this type of therapy is immediate and unconditional and she elaborated. Mrs. Olean gave more information on the program such as the activities and games and how they are implemented. She said they are a credentialed team and explained. She works with the group, “Growing with Grace.” She explained the training that she and the dogs go through. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Nero had questions that Mrs. Olean answered. She explained her insurance coverage. Board members had questions that were answered. Mrs. West had comment. Mr. Nero had further comment.
6. Administrators’ Reports – None.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – January 10, 2018 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2018, meeting.
 - b. Correspondence – The budget schedule was placed in the Board’s packet.
 - c. Personnel – None.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero commented on the annual report. He spoke of the meetings he has attended. He spoke of the move to the high school and elaborated. He explained some of the logistics. Questions were asked about the elementary school and it being an emergency shelter. He said we are status quo on the environmental issues. He spoke of TEAM and the Professional development Committee.

- b. BOE Chairperson – She spoke of the meeting on February 1st. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment. Mr. Nero had comment. Board members had further comment.
 - c. Committee Chairperson – Action will be later in the agenda. Ms. Welborn said the Student Success Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on February 14th.
 - d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison-None.
 - e. PSPBC Liaison – None,
 - f. Building Committee – Mr. Nero said everything should be all set with the USDA. Mr. Mathwich had comment.
9. Finance - a. December 2017 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2017.
10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Nothing new to report.
- b. Policy Review – Regulation 5141.3 - There was discussion on wording. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the regulation with the changes.
- Policy 3516.33 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the new policy.
- Policy 5113.2 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the policy revisions.
- c. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – None.
11. New Business – a. Bus Scheduling Discussion – Move to February 14th meeting.
12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – January 29th is the Tri-Board meeting at Wheeler Library, February 1st is the Town Meeting, February 14th is a Student Success Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m., and the next Board meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on February 14th.
- b. Committee Action List – None.
13. Public Comment – Mrs. Ostrout, citizen, asked about the policies.

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

15. Salaries/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposed raised for the 2017-2018 as provided on the spreadsheet.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education