

Board of Education Minutes  
February 14, 2018

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord (7:05 p.m.), Dr. Robert, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia (7:17 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 – Mrs. Pat Ostrout, citizen, commented on the passing of the referendum again.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the NSEF Trivia Night was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Peyong Chang Gang won the contest. A date for next year is being discussed. A meeting was held last Thursday. The next upcoming event is the road race on Memorial Day Weekend.
5. Presentations – Mrs. Ostrout handed out calendars featuring the radon contest winners' artwork. Mrs. Costello could not be here this evening. Mrs. Ostrout explained Mrs. Costello's students take part in this contest every year. Our students' work is featured on June, August, September, October, January, and the cover. Six of our students have art work in the calendar. She said Friday was a great day for the middle school. The Groundbreaking, the radon contest winners, the cheerleaders won their competition as did the basketball team. Mr. Nero said we were supposed to have the phasing presentation but that will not be happening this meeting. Dr. Potemri explained they met with Downes for the first time since the referendum. They spoke about keeping the gym closed until March of 2019. She said the activities would be impacted and they will be looking at some of that. There would be a \$200,000 to \$300,000 savings by doing that so they would be able to add things back in. She elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. No presentations will be made until they get everything together. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. He said he met with zoning and the permits are set. He explained where the contractors' trailers will be placed. Further questions were asked that Dr. Potemri answered. Mr. Nero had comment. Dr. Potemri had further comment. Mr. Nero had further comment. Another storage box has been rented.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison said our students always participate in the fire prevention poster contest and Anna Barber was the winner. She spoke of the therapy dog that came in. Family Science Night is on March 1<sup>st</sup> and she thanked Jen Welborn for all the work she does at the school. She elaborated. They are finishing up the second Star math testing and tomorrow is the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Mrs. St. Germain passed out a copy of the online application for the Westerly Education Center scholarship application form. The NSEF approved a \$7,500

grant for students to attend. She explained the process and the committee's part in the process. She had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. St. Germain said they are in the process of building next year's schedule. She spoke of the program supervisors and explained what they are working on. She said she was really grateful that this was added to the budget. The five people have made really significant contributions. The middle school girls' basketball team is 11-1 and the championship games will be here at Wheeler. A middle school dance will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Mr. Chaney passed out the academic expectations. He explained the handout. He said this is year one of gathering this data and had further explanation.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – January 24, 2018 – On motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted six in favor and two abstained to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2018, meeting. Mr. Karpinski and Dr. Potemri abstained.

January 29, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept the minutes of the January 29, 2018, Tri-Board meeting. Amendments were discussed. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as amended.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said a long-term media specialist substitute was hired for the elementary school.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said part of his report was covered above. The monthly letter went out to DEEP. He heard verbally that all the swipe and air tests came out fine but he is waiting for written confirmation. He had further comment. He said one more testing will be done now, later in the summer, and then around Christmas before the building will be closed in March 2019. He had further comment. He had a meeting with Gary Baran and Mike Urgo regarding the emergency care facility. Mr. Nero summed up their meeting. He reviewed the summary sheet from the meeting. Questions were asked and answered.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said she talked to Mr. Carlson about how to move forward with marketing the school and she elaborated.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Student Success Committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – Dr. Potemri attended the last meeting and she reviewed what was discussed.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Nothing to report.

f. Building Committee – Covered above.

9. Finance - None.

10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Covered above.

b. Policy Review – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to accept revised Policy 5121.

Policy 6153 – Ms. Welborn had comment. This policy will be revisited again at a later meeting.

Policy and Regulation 5144.1 On motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept Policy and Regulation 5144.1 and to use the forms provided by the State.

c. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – Mrs. Wagner said that Mr. Nero will continue to keep in contact with her on issues and she elaborated. Mr. Karpinski had comment on the project. Board members had comment.

11. New Business – a. Revised School Calendars for 2017-2018 – There was discussion. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to accept the revised school calendars with 180 days of attendance versus 182.

b. 2018-2019 School Calendar - Calendar dates were discussed. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Welborn to accept the calendar reflecting 180 days. There was discussion. The motion failed with three voting in favor, three voting against, and two abstentions. Those voting against the motion were Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mendolia. Mr. Karpinski and Dr. Potemri abstained.

c. 2018-2019 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero said this was completed at 1:45 p.m. today. He asked the Board to take it and review it. He said after many years of 0% increases, this budget is at 7.97% Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion.

d. Bus Scheduling Discussion – Questions were asked and answered on the transportation RFP. Mrs. Wagner and Ms. Welborn are attending a workshop tomorrow on school start times.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – February 20<sup>th</sup> is the FOI workshop and the next Board of Education meeting is on February 28<sup>th</sup> in the high school media center.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent’s Goals.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education