

Board of Education Minutes  
January 27, 2016

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, and Mrs. Buzzee. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Mr. Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 February 5<sup>th</sup> is the North Stonington Education Foundation’s Trivia Night. He elaborated. February 4<sup>th</sup> will be the groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility for the CCRI/Electric Boat collaboration. Mr. Nero elaborated. He spoke further of the program. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was discussion.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators’ Reports – Mrs. St. Germain did a quick review of the changes in the mathematics program. They are looking at making another change to the program and she explained. They will implement this change in the next school year. The classes are being realigned to keep the Algebra courses together instead of having a year between. She explained further. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Chaney told the Board he has been attending test coordinator workshops and he elaborated. He reviewed the testing window. The SAT is the new junior class test. They participated in #DSTRONG last week and he elaborated. Department meetings were held today and he went over the discussions. A Unified Sports program has begun. They have started with bowling and he explained the program. Mr. Nero said Wheeler has broken into the top 100 schools in the state at number 54. Mrs. Wilkison elaborated on their test scores. She reviewed happenings at the elementary school including the fifth graders attending a student leader conference at Three Rivers, Technology Week was held with 111 families attending, Family Science Night is March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the drama club will be presenting Lion King Kids on March 15<sup>th</sup>. She spoke of the STAR assessment and reviewed her handout. Mr. Carlson commented on the positive press we have been receiving. Mr. Nero spoke of the special education assessment and he elaborated.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – December 16, 2015 – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting. Questions were asked and answered and Mr. Nero elaborated. The motion passed unanimously.

December 17, 2015 Tri-Board Meeting – Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2015 Tri-Board meeting. There was comment. The motion was amended to add Dr. Robert as being in attendance. The motion passed unanimously as amended.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero read the letter from CIRMA announcing our receipt of a Risk Management Award for having no property losses in the last 10 years. Mr. Nero read a memo from Mrs. St. Germain requesting a half-day for Senior Projects. Action will be taken later in the agenda.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said he recently attended a technology conference. He highlighted the assessment tool that could possibly be implemented. He told the Board that he and Mr. Pont have had a number of meetings with First Selectman Murphy regarding the IT position. Mr. Pont will be on the interview committee and has been collaborating with the Town. Mr. Nero said Mr. Pont will be giving a presentation to the Board on the status of our technology at a later date. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairperson – Mr. Mathwich said the Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – Mrs. Wagner said the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation to the Board with one of the items being starting school after Labor Day. There was discussion on budgets and magnet schools. She said there was a lot of discussion on budgeting for the magnet schools. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero commented on the “State of the Stoningtons” meeting coming up and said that it was also brought up last year about school starting after Labor Day to help with the work force. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was further discussion.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Carlson said Mr. Lord has been coming to the Tri-Board meetings. The PSPBC installed new lighting in the gym parking lots.

f. Ad Hoc Committee – Mr. Mathwich said the Ad Hoc Committee met on Monday and a presentation was given on bringing the costs down by using pre-fabrication. Mr. Mathwich elaborated on the building system. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.

9. Finance - a. December 2015 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to accept the December 2015 Financial Statements.

b. Transfer Request – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transfer of \$168.63 from special education purchased services (0218) to special education testing supplies (0250) for additional funds for OLSAT scoring as stated in the memo dated January 14, 2016.

10. Old Business – a. Tri-Board Meeting Update – Mr. Carlson said the Tri-Board meeting was held last week. A number of presentations were given, one of them by Tyler DiBrino, the student representative on the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Anderson gave an economic presentation. Mr. Carlson said a number of concerns were brought up, one of them being people on a fixed income which comes up at every meeting. Mr. Carlson said there are ways to handle that and he elaborated. There was discussion. The second item that came up was the Wheeler Library deed restriction. One of the trustees happened to be at the meeting and he said the library is willing to work with the district. As long as the building is used for education, they were fine with it. It should not be a hindrance. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment. Mr. Carlson said the last thing that was brought up was Jason Mancini, the director of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, told those present that they have 12 classrooms, a gymnasium and science labs that the district could use. Mr. Carlson said there were a number of issues, some of those being that it is on sovereign land, there were questions about state reimbursement, and the gym is far from the facility. Mr. Carlson said he would meet with them. Those members present will meet with them. There was further comment. Mr. Karpinski would like to get our State representatives involved in this. Mr. Carlson thought the Selectmen should be the ones to ask them. Mrs. Wagner asked about a timeline and Mr. Carlson answered. Questions were asked about middle school sports and what would happen if the sixth grade moves back. A question was asked about having a rubber floor in the elementary school and it was explained it was based on cost. Mr. Carlson said the architect could be approached on that. The fields were addressed and it was explained some of the parking areas would be moved so they wouldn't infringe on the fields. Questions were asked about a community entrance. There was further comment and discussion.

b. RFP for Food Services – Mr. Nero said the state finally released the RFP and he elaborated. Mr. Nero said one of the concerns was green packaging. He said what we can recycle, we do. Mrs. Allen said our trays are recyclable but they don't recycle as of now. That will be part of the RFP. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Nero said we are trying to do farm-to-table. We do that now but there isn't anything right in North Stonington although the items come from farms in Connecticut. The lunch advisory meetings are being held. The parent on the group will be part of the process. Mrs. Allen said we have to have it to the State by February 19<sup>th</sup> for their approval. She said it is the same RFP that will be used by each district in the State. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Allen wants to get it out early and she elaborated. She said it is a quick turnaround this time. There was further comment. Mrs. Allen had further comment.

11. New Business – a. Request for Half-Day – Mr. Nero said if we have snow days that impact this, it would be moved. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Robert to approve the request for a half-day on June 3, 2016, for Senior Projects. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. 2016-2017 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero said the budget was being presented tonight. He said if there were any basic questions they would be answered but he would like to dedicate a meeting totally to the budget. He reviewed dates. The budget will be reviewed in depth at the next meeting at February 10<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Allen thanked the Board for getting their questions in ahead of time. There was further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Dr. Robert would like to have the Town pay for GASB 45 and he elaborated.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – February 8<sup>th</sup> is the building project hearing at the elementary school, February 10<sup>th</sup> is a budget workshop at 6:00 p.m. with a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., NSEF meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>, a school project hearing on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, and February 25<sup>th</sup> is the next Tri-Board meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment - None

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 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education