

Board of Education Minutes  
October 12, 2016

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, Mrs. Buzzee, and Mr. Mendolia (7:14 p.m.) Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Student Emma Stock led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – First Selectman Shawn Murphy addressed the Board regarding busses going down Cedars Road, a private road. He said it is just not a matter of the town not plowing private roads but Cedars Road is not up to town standards. He pointed out in Board of Education Policy that busses will not travel down private roads. He said also of concern is the state statute that you must obtain permission from all the property owners to go down the road and receive approval from the town that the road is up to standards and it will be maintained by the town. He asked the decision be reconsidered. Mr. Nero said the communication on this was between Mrs. Roohr and Mrs. Allen and he elaborated. He said the bus drivers have continued to go down the road without our knowledge. Dr. Robert called a point of order saying this was not on the agenda. There was comment. Mr. Nero said he asked Mr. Murphy to come to the meeting. Chairman Carlson allowed the discussion to continue. Mr. Nero said it came to our attention because a driver was absent and the spare driver did not go down the road. Dr. Robert left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the NSEF dinner is on the 21<sup>st</sup> and he elaborated. The trivia contest is on February 10 with the snow date on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
5. Presentations – a. Trip to France Summary – Janet Devaux, French teacher, and student Emma Stock traveled with Ledyard High School to France this summer. She explained aspects of the makeup of the attendees. Student Jess Geising put together pictures of the trip but she was not able to attend. Miss Stock said she enjoyed the trip and was made to feel part of the group with Ledyard. She spoke of the schedule they had. Mrs. Devaux went through the picture slide show and explained where they were taken.
  - b. Proposed Trip to Quebec – Mrs. Devaux said Ledyard invited them back to visit Quebec during winter break. She said this year is the highest number of students enrolled in French I. She doesn't know if it is because of the trip. She said it is not very different from the trip in 2014. She explained the itinerary. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the trip to Quebec. There was comment.

6. Administrators' Reports – a. Presentation by High School/Middle School Administration – Mr. Nero introduced Kim McKay, our new mathematics teacher. Ms. McKay told the Board what classes she teaches. Mr. Carlson said he didn't see any need to have the administrators stay through to the end of the meeting. Mrs. St. Germain said they talked a little about student data at last month's meeting and she elaborated. She said a lot of other items go in to a student achieving. She reviewed the data used to determine progress/growth. Mr. Chaney reviewed the SBAC Reading results and had comment. He reviewed the SBAC Math results. He reviewed the CMT/CAPT Science results. He said this one is very difficult to compare and explained. Mrs. St. Germain reviewed the SAT results from last year's juniors and she explained. She spoke of the ACT test and said not many students take this one. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of the AP classes and exams. Mr. Chaney reviewed how they are using the data. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. Mr. Chaney reviewed the focus areas. Questions were asked and answered.

Mrs. Wilkison said this week is Math Week and she elaborated. Last week was National Walk to School Day and this Friday is the first PBIS celebration. With the way the PBIS program has come along, out of 370 kids, only 6 had office referrals. Drama club has begun and Beauty of the Beast will be performed.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – August 24, 2016 – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2016, meeting.

August 25, 2016 Tri-Board Meeting – Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to accept the minutes of the August 25, 2016, Tri-Board meeting. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

September 14, 2016 – Non-Meeting – Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2016, Non-Meeting. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed with five voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said our application was considered complete and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has accepted our application and they are forwarding it to the legislature. There was further comment and questions were answered. Mr. Nero had comment on the application process. He commended Mr. Murphy for his help. He reviewed the meeting he attended in Hartford with Michelle Dixon.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said the NEASC report was submitted a couple of weeks ago. He had further comment on the steps that happen now. He is going to be in Hartford again in the coming weeks. The bussing issue came to his attention a couple of weeks ago. He asked Mr. Murphy to come to this meeting and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting. We are working on the 2017-2018 Hazard Plan. He reviewed it with Gary Baron, the town's emergency management director, for signatures and he is hoping to get it back by March.

On October 29<sup>th</sup> he will be at town hall doing a mock disaster drill. They are not sure what the scenario is. He spent a couple of hours at Firefly Farms today and he elaborated. We have been talking about having a full-fledged Farm and Garden Club and agri-courses. Mr. Nero elaborated.

- b. BOE Chairperson – None.
- c. Committee Chairperson – None.
- d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – A meeting is being held tomorrow.

Mrs. Buzzee left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

- e. PSPBC Liaison – Nothing to report.
  - f. Building Committee – A construction manager, Downes Construction Company, has been appointed.
9. Finance - a. July 2016 Financial Statements – Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept the financial statements for the period ending July 31, 2016. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. August 2016 Financial Statements – Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to accept the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2016. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Transfer Request – Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the requested transfer. Mr. Nero explained the transfer. He had further comment. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Old Business - None.
11. New Business – a. Senior Travel Club Request – Mr. Carlson said this request was made at the non-meeting. He explained. A consensus was given for them to leave on a Thursday. There was further explanation. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to allow the Senior Travel Club to leave for Florida on Thursday.
- b. 2017-2018 School Calendar – Mr. Nero said we are constrained by having to follow our RESC's calendar per State Statute. He had further comment. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2017-2018 school calendar.
  - c. Board of Education Goals – Mr. Carlson explained that Mrs. Wagner brought this up at the last meeting. The Board will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for policy review.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next regular meeting is October 26<sup>th</sup> and the next Tri-Board meeting is October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Board will meet on November 19<sup>th</sup> for policy review at 8:00 a.m.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Mrs. Ostrout, citizen, commented that it was nice to have a quorum.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. for the Purpose of Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel and Collective Bargaining and to invite Mrs. Allen and Mr. Greg Pont into such session for Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel. Mr. Pont left Executive Session following the non-bargaining unit personnel item and Mrs. Allen remained in session for collective bargaining.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education