

Board of Education Minutes
March 23, 2016

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, and Mr. Mendolia (7:15 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 7:14 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Mr. Urgo told the Board he was supposed to come and present the project to the Board for a vote but the first selectmen said the Board of Education needed the resolution and that was not ready yet. There was comment. Mr. Urgo had further comment. There was discussion. The Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday to vote on the building project.
4. Community Relations – None.
5. Presentations – a. Chikumbuso Project – Mrs. Linda Wilkinson spoke of the Chikumbuso Project and said they are in their 11th year. She gave background of the project and the school. They thought the time was right for a couple of their students to visit America. Mrs. Wilkinson said they have different connections with Connecticut College and other organizations that are interested in supporting this. She had further explanation. Sabrina Buehler of Chikumbuso commented that some of the students at Wheeler have Skyped with the students they were hoping to bring over. Mrs. Wilkinson had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment. He said the students would be housed with host families. He would need to send a letter saying they were coming here on a scholarship basis with no cost to us. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to allow students from Chikumbuso to attend Wheeler High School at no cost to them. Board members had comment. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Class of 2017 Travel Club – Andrew Carlson and Emma Steele, students, spoke to the Board about a trip to Disney World in Florida during April vacation of 2017. They had further explanation of the proposed trip. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to allow the planning of the proposed trip.
 - c. Ad Hoc Committee School Modernization Project - Mr. Urgo gave a brief presentation on the school modernization project. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Urgo had further explanation on the project. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to reaffirm the motions and the votes taken on March 14, 2012, November 28, 2012, and May 28, 2014, that the Board of Education is committed and unified to use existing resources available to us to

maintain the current system Pre-K to 12 meaning that grades 9 through 12 will continue to be educated in North Stonington. There was comment. There was further comment on the building project. The Board thanked Mr. Urgo.

6. Administrators' Reports – None.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – March 9, 2016 – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2016, meeting. Mr. Karpinski had comment. The motion was change to reflect amended minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

March 14, 2016 Special Meeting – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2016, special meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent - Mr. Nero said he and Mr. Bruce, our groundskeeper, participated in a webinar. He said there is no other state that has passed a law regarding the use of organics for grounds. He said the webinar was about the safe use of pesticides. Mr. Nero spoke of Gary Baron, the town's new director of emergency management. He had further comment. He thanked Mr. Baron. Mr. Nero said we have received the FOI information from Stonington. He went over the highlights of the report. He commented on the letter that was sent to him and each Board member. Mr. Nero had comment. He spoke of items in the information received. Board members had comment. The Board wanted it on record that the entire Board was upset about how they were blind-sided with this matter of Stonington wanting to take our students without having any discussion on the matter first. There was further discussion. Mr. Nero read items from the packet. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. There was further comment.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later. Mr. Karpinski asked a question about the other committees. It was explained that the committees were selected at the first meeting after the elections. The chairpersons are selected at the first meeting of each committee. The only committee that met is Facilities and Finance. There was comment that we haven't had to have other committees meet because we work so well as a whole board.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – None.

- f. Ad Hoc Committee – None.
9. Finance - a. February 2016 Financial Statements – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to accept the February 2016 financial statements. There was comment. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Transfer Request – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transfer requests dated March 23, 2016, for \$56.00 from nursing supplies (0400) to dues and memberships (0250) to cover the costs of the nurse’s annual membership to National Association of School Nurses and \$51,306 from magnet and Vo-Ag tuition (1400) to custodian salaries (0610) to cover the additional costs of custodian and maintenance salaries and benefits for work performed after normal working hours.
10. Old Business – a. Board of Education Approval of School Modernization Project – No action taken. There will be a special meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. to act on this item.
- b. Tri-Board Meeting Update – The meeting is tomorrow in the high school media center.
11. New Business – None.
12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – Mr. Nero said at the April 13th meeting the graduation date will be set. There was discussion. Monday is the National Honor Society induction. Wednesday, March 30th, is the presentation to the board of finance. The second regular meeting in April is the 27th.
- b. Committee Action List – None.
13. Public Comment – Mrs. Pat Ostrout, citizen and co-president of the NSEA, hopes the Board will be united on the building project. She had further comment. She said the Stonington issue has set the faculty and staff on edge. She elaborated. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero will send something out to the staff about the resolution that was passed this evening. He had further comment. Board members had comment. Mrs. Jane Robert, citizen, had comment. She said a united front is very important. She had further comment. There was further discussion.
14. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education