

Board of Education Minutes
March 9, 2016

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert (7:09 p.m.), and Mr. Mendolia (7:04 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 7:03 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 – The North Stonington Education Foundation Trivia Contest was held and it was a huge success. The Chikumbuso Road Race is being held on April 23rd and he elaborated. The North Stonington Education Foundation Road Race will be held on May 28th.
5. Presentations – The administrators did a presentation on professional development. Mrs. Wilkison explained why they wanted to give a presentation on professional development. She reviewed the items that are expected of the teachers. She reviewed professional development that has been done at the elementary school over the past 9 years as well as workshops and conferences the staff attended out-of-district. Mrs. Costa spoke of special education staff professional development. She said some of it is required by the state. She explained by building some practices we have been able to keep students in-district. She said a lot of staff has attended workshops on transition. She reviewed more training that staff has attended out-of-district. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. St. Germain said there is a certain amount of training that staff has to attend to teach AP and ECE courses. New standards mean more training. Mr. Chaney said there are similarities with what Mrs. Wilkison and Mrs. Costa spoke of. The teachers depend on the out-of-district workshops for professional growth plans and curriculum just to name a couple. He spoke of the in-house staff development days. He reviewed some of the upcoming standards. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of curriculum development. Mr. Chaney spoke of a link between professional development and curriculum. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. She spoke of NEASC recommendations. She had closing comments.
6. Administrators' Reports – None.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – February 24, 2016 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2016, meeting.

February 25, 2016 Tri-Board – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2016, Tri-Board meeting. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero read a letter from Rebecca Costello requesting child-rearing leave for the 2016-2017 school year. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to grant Mrs. Costello's request. Mrs. Wilkison had comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said they met with the Wheeler Library Board of Directors regarding the deed restrictions. He had comment and said they are very amenable. He had further comment. He spoke of his recent communication with Eileen Howley of LEARN who said they were interested in the high school building. He had further comment. The resident state trooper who is certified to teach DARE will do it at no charge but we would have to pick up the cost of the supplies. He spoke with Mr. Murphy who told him the town would pick up the tab for the supplies. He elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson read a communication from the Board of Finance regarding tracking transfers. Mr. Mathwich had further explanation. There was discussion about the Board of Education transfer process. There was further comment. Mr. Carlson read a letter from NEASC regarding our accreditation. Wheeler has been granted continued accreditation but the school remains on warning for the Standards for Accreditation on Curriculum and Community Resources for Learning. Mr. Carlson spoke of the letter to the editor regarding school facilities. There was discussion.

c. Committee Chairperson – None.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Nero said he met with Mr. Lord and Mr. Coats of the Permanent School Planning and Building Committee. They reviewed other items that the committee may be able to fund. They were looking at the drain in the tunnel. He had further explanation. Mr. Nero reviewed the list with Mr. Murphy.

f. Ad Hoc Committee – There is a meeting on Monday, the 14th at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Mathwich said the committee met on Monday. He reviewed items of discussion. He said the committee is trying to be conservative but they have done all they can do. There was discussion. Mr. Mathwich had further comment. There was discussion and comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment.

9. Finance - None.

10. Old Business – a. Tri-Board Meeting Update – Mr. Carlson said the Tri-Board has moved along to pass this to each Board with the Board of Education being the first to vote on the project.

b. 2016-2017 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero had comment. He reviewed what had developed with the budget since the last meeting. The budget was down to a 2.89% increase. Questions were asked and answered regarding budget items. Questions were asked of Mrs. Turner regarding the athletic budgets. Mr. Nero spoke of the grubs and the money budgeted for that. Further questions were asked about athletics. Questions were asked and answered on some of the changes from the previous budget draft. There was discussion. Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to reduce the central office and non-contractual staff increases to below 3%. There was discussion. Mr. Karpinski amended the motion and Mr. McCord seconded it to hold the increase to 2.9%. The amended motion passed with six voting in favor and one opposed. Mr. Mathwich opposed the motion. Further questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to remove the curriculum director. Mrs. Wagner commented she thought it was an important position but felt we need to hold off one more year. There was further discussion. The motion passed with six voting in favor and one opposed. Mr. Mathwich opposed the motion. There was further discussion.

11. New Business – None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – Monday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m. is a special meeting. March 23rd is next regular meeting and the Tri-Board meeting is on March 24th.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

15. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education