

Board of Education Minutes
April 13, 2016

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. McCord, Mrs. Buzzee, and Mr. Mendolia (7:17 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 – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the North Stonington Education Foundation meeting was tomorrow night. The road race is Memorial Day weekend on Saturday and the Chikumbuso road race is April 23rd. Mr. Carlson said we had talked about a night at the winery. He said there was a snag with our date of July 7th and he explained. Mr. Karpinski thought he had a solution.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain spoke of the recent information reported about small schools and she wanted to explain further about certain items. She reviewed Connecticut's "Next Generation" Accountability System. She highlighted areas of the handout. She said it is a holistic approach to how schools are doing. Wheeler High School is above all the schools around us. She said it says a lot about small schools. It looks at everything and not just test scores. She had further comment. She said we are small but we find the successes that our students need. She said this is on the State Department of Education web site. Mrs. Wilkison said on the March 30th the third graders worked with Carol Glynn about Connecticut History. On April 6th the Invention Convention was held. Mrs. Servidio worked with 28 students in the 3rd through 5th grade. Five students are going to the state competition. Kindergarten registration was held. Mrs. Wilkison said the Lions Club came in for the vision screening in Pre-K and Kindergarten and she thanked them. The Rotary Club invited the children to the library for a program. Students are preparing for SBAC and will start on May 3rd. Mrs. St. Germain had further explanation about the report and the lack of state testing.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – March 23, 2016 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 23, 2016.

March 24, 2016 Tri-Board Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 24, 2016, Tri-Board meeting.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said several months ago Mrs. Autran asked permission for three Spanish teachers from Spain to come to Wheeler to collaborate. He had further explanation. He read a letter from the principal of their school thanking us for the opportunity.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero had comment about the recent article regarding the cost to educate students at the high school. He said they had a conversation with Nate Lynch, reporter from *The Day*. He appreciated the article correcting the numbers. He had further comment on the numbers. He spoke of the effect of the change in the ECS formula that the governor is implementing. He said we have gone 5 out of 8 years with a zero increase to our budget. Other towns have had an increase in their budgets. Mr. Nero said the town has to take that into consideration. He said our student population is not taking the hit other districts are. Mr. McCord had a question on enrollment numbers and Mr. Lynch clarified what it actually was speaking to. Mr. Nero had further comment. The food service bid will be on the agenda for the 27th because the Board has to vote on it. Mr. Nero elaborated and had further comment. He spoke of the food advisory committees at the schools. Mr. Nero commented on the Invention Convention. We are in the beginning stages of looking at a public safety academy at the high school. He elaborated. The administration had its monthly meeting today and they met with Gary Baron, the town's new emergency management director. He elaborated. He spoke of the new IT director at the town and said Jim Russell had been hired. He thanked Greg Pont for his help with the search for the town's IT director. The new recreation director is Tom Fabian and he elaborated. Mr. Nero said he meets once or twice a week with Mr. Murphy, our first selectman. Mr. Nero read a portion of an article from the CAFE journal saying that school board members and other employees are held harmless if overspending of the budget occurs. Mr. Carlson asked for a report at the next meeting on the switch to Kelly Services.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson spoke very highly of the National Honor Society Induction ceremony. He elaborated on it and said it was very impressive. At some point he would like to discuss a marketing plan and he elaborated. He said we have a lot to offer. He had further comment. He said we should not be a secret anymore. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. The Kelly Services report will be done in May. Board members had further comment.

c. Committee Chairperson – None.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Nero said right now everything is in limbo. He has not spoken to Mr. Lord recently.

f. Ad Hoc Committee – A presentation will be given later in the agenda.

9. Finance - None.

10. Old Business – a. Board of Education Approval of School Modernization Project – Mr. Urgo gave a very brief presentation on some of the changes to the project regarding enrollment and reimbursement. Mr. Urgo said they are adjusting the project budget to include funding for short-term financing costs. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Urgo had further comment. He spoke of enrollment. He spoke of the State Standard Waiver. He had further comment. Mr. Urgo showed a comparison to the 2014 project in today's dollars. He elaborated. Board members had further comment. Questions were asked and answered.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as follows: RESOLVED, that the Board of Education recommends that the Town of North Stonington appropriate \$38,550,000 for costs with respect to the design, construction, equipping, and furnishing of a New Wheeler Middle/High School addition and renovations to the Gymnasium and for an addition and renovations to the North Stonington Elementary School, and for the demolition of portions of the existing Wheeler Middle/ High School, and other improvements to be used for the North Stonington Board of Education Central Office.

The projects are contemplated to be completed substantially as follows:

WHEELER MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS TO THE GYMNASIUM: (1) an approximately 44,250 square feet two level addition at the Gymnasium on the west side of Route 2, to house the new Wheeler Middle/High School that will accommodate: classrooms, science labs, art studios, graphic and CADD labs, Special Education classrooms and support spaces, a multipurpose space to support the chorus program, business labs and classrooms, a cafeteria and server, media center, student and faculty toilets and infrastructure spaces for circulation, storage and mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems; (2) Improvements within the existing gymnasium building will include: the renovation of the gymnasium including storage, locker rooms, public toilets, stage and a lobby/circulation space, administrative offices, nurse/health clinic, offices and the band room and related storage and practice rooms; (3) various building systems improvements including: replacement of all mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection systems and infrastructure; security and communication systems upgrades; energy conservation improvements including exterior wall, door, window, and roof replacement or updates; central air conditioning system installation throughout the building; and installation of an emergency generator and alternative energy systems; (4) various code and ADA compliance improvements and renovations; (5) various site improvements including: septic system, separation of the bus/parent/student vehicular traffic circulation, and additional parking; (6) related improvements and work.

ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS TO THE NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: (1) an approximately 2,600 square feet addition at the elementary school to accommodate the reconfiguration of central kitchen, server, cafeteria, multipurpose room/stage, and instructional programs; (2) improvements within the existing building will include: reconfiguring the gymnasium including storage, offices, student/public toilets, a lobby/circulation space, fully renovated classrooms and handicapped accessible toilets in the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms; relocation of the art, music and technology program in a fully renovated space; relocation renovations and improvements of the media center and special education programs; renovations associated with the nurse/health clinic, administrative and guidance offices;

and expansion and renovation of the cafeteria and kitchen; (3) various building systems improvements including replacement of all mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protections systems and infrastructure; security and communication systems upgrades; energy conservation improvements including exterior wall, door, window, and roof replacement or updates; central air conditioning system installation throughout the building; and installation of an emergency generator and alternative energy systems; (4) various code and ADA compliance improvements and renovations; (5) various site improvements including separation of the bus/parent/student/parking and vehicular traffic circulation; accessibility to all site facilities; pavement resurfacing; physical education; and building access improvements; updating the site utility and drainage infrastructure; (6) all HAZMAT remediation; and (7) related improvements and work.

DEMOLITION OF PORTIONS OF THE EXISTING WHEELER MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO BE USED FOR THE NORTH STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION CENTRAL OFFICE: (1) all demolition and HAZMAT remediation of portions of the existing Wheeler Middle/High school located on the east side of Route 2 comprising the 1950s and 1960s building along with the boiler room, kitchen and cafeteria spaces; and (2) removal and replacement of the roof in the area comprising the current main entry, the main office, media center, art room, classrooms up to the corridor leading to the elevator in the two story wing of the high school portion of the old Wheeler Middle /High School, to be used for the North Stonington Board of Education Central Office; (3) all HAZMAT remediation related to the roof replacement; and (4) related improvements and work.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education recommends that the Ad Hoc School Building Committee for the School Facilities Modernization Project established by the Town's Board of Selectmen and the Town Meeting for the projects be authorized to determine the final scope and particulars of the projects.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that such recommendations be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for its consideration.

- b. Tri-Board Meeting – Mr. Carlson had comment. The next meeting is April 28th.
 - c. 2016-2017 Proposed Education Budget – This will be on the agenda until the budget passes. Mr. Nero had comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment.
11. New Business – a. Graduation Date – Mr. Nero had comment. He recommended June 10th as graduation day and the last day of school which is the 181st day of school. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to have graduation and the last day of school on June 10th which is the 181st day of school. Mr. Nero noted that the teachers would work on Monday and Tuesday the following week.
- b. Healthy Foods Certification – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously that for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, the North Stonington Board of Education approves participation in the Healthy Foods Initiative under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes; that the Board of Education excludes from certification items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the

weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store; and, that the Superintendent is authorized to sign all forms necessary to comply with this approval.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – April 27th is the next regular meeting, the Tri-Board meets on April 28th, and May 11th is the next regular meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education