

Board of Education Minutes
May 25, 2016

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert (7:10 p.m.), Mr. McCord, Mrs. Buzzee, and Mr. Mendolia (7:06 p.m.). Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, and Mrs. Wilkison. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 road race is Saturday and the parade is on Monday. The prom is on Saturday. The Chamber breakfast is tomorrow to honor Tyler DiBrino and Andrew Carlson as two of our top students. The middle and high school Flag Day ceremonies are tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
5. Presentations – a. District Technology – Mr. Greg Pont, IT Director, reviewed technology in our district. He touched on security items that were purchased through a grant. He explained how the new camera system works and gave a demonstration. He went over the fiber upgrade that is upcoming that was funded through a grant. He explained. He spoke about the Surface Tablets purchased through a grant through the North Stonington Education Foundation. He reviewed the upgrade to Power School. Mr. Pont said email accounts were set up for each student and that was a huge undertaking. He explained the different tiers that were set up. Parent and guardian emails were added to the address books and broken down by grade level. Questions were asked and answered.
6. Administrators' Reports – None.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – May 11, 2016 – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2016, meeting.
- b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero read a letter from Mr. Joe Gross. It was a copy of a letter written to the Board of Finance regarding the Freedom of Information Act. There was comment. Questions were asked and answered.
- c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said we are filling some temporary positions for people on leave.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero spoke of the last Board of Finance meeting. He referred to an email Mr. Carlson received on Sunday evening from a Board of Finance member about cutting our budget increase in half. He spoke of the referendum recount and it came out the same. He spoke of the application process for the

project. There was further discussion. Mr. Nero said Mr. Malik and he reviewed some of the education specs. Board members had comment. He said he and Mrs. Allen have been looking at end-of-the year finances.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson spoke of marketing Wheeler now that we know we are doing a project. He wants to keep an eye on the CCRI program in Westerly and use that as a conduit. He had further comment. Board members had comment.

c. Committee Chairperson – None.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – There is a meeting next Thursday that Mrs. Wagner will be attending.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Nero said there is nothing new to report. This line item had been reduced to \$15,000. There was comment. Mr. Carlson will make an inquiry as to where the line item stands for this current year.

f. Ad Hoc Committee – Nothing new to report.

9. Finance - a. April 2016 Financial Statements – Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to accept the April 2016 Financial Statements. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Transfer Requests – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the transfer requests in a memo dated March 23, 2016.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to move item 14 to item 10.

10. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Student Matter – Request for Early Admittance to Kindergarten – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. for the Purpose of Request for Early Admittance to Kindergarten and to invite Mrs. Wilkison and Mrs. Hayes into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:24 p.m.

11. Possible Action on Request for Early Admittance to Kindergarten – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted six against and one abstention to allow the child to enter kindergarten even though the child's birthday is four days after the January First deadline. The motion did not pass. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

12. Old Business – a. 2016-2017 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero said he just received word from Mr. Murphy that we do not have to reduce our increase by 50%. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to approve the purchase of items listed on the purchase plans as presented. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed with six voting in favor and one opposed. Mrs. Buzzee opposed the motion.

b. School Modernization Plan – Covered above in Superintendent’s Report.

c. Kelly Services Update – Mr. Nero said there have been a few bumps along the way but things have evened out. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Allen had comment. Mrs. Wilkison had comment.

13. New Business – None.

14. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – June 8th and June 22nd are the next regular meetings. The Town Meeting for the budget is June 6th, June 9th is grade 8 promotion and graduation is on June 10th.

b. Committee Action List – None.

15. Public Comment – None.

16. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Pending Litigation – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. for the Purpose of Pending Litigation.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:29 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education