

Board of Education Minutes
June 22, 2016

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 22, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, and Mr. McCord. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Wilkison, and Mrs. St. Germain. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 – None.
5. Presentations – a. Athletics Year-End Wrap-Up – Mrs. Ellen Turner, high school athletic director, gave a presentation on athletics. She said there are 116 participants out of 187 students which is a 62% participation rate. She reviewed the number of sports offered including the co-op sports and teams-of-one. She said that 5 teams made it to the ECC state tournaments. She pointed out the ECC All Stars for the 2015-2016 school year. She said our athletic teams have been playing on our own fields again. She thanked Jamie Bruce, groundskeeper, for his hard work in getting the fields playable again. Mrs. Turner spoke of the fall season and said a girls' soccer coach has been hired. She said Jennamarie Aull has moved out-of-state and Will Johnson will be taking her place as varsity volleyball coach. All coaching evaluations have taken place. Mr. Nero had comment about coaching longevity and Mrs. Turner also had comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion on co-op teams. Questions were asked about the athletic trainer. Mrs. Turner explained the situation with the trainer. She said she met with another company and elaborated. Questions were asked and answered about intramurals. Mrs. Turner spoke of Unified Sports. Mrs. Turner handed out a draft of the coach's handbook that she re-did as part of her coursework for her athletic director certification.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison reviewed happenings at the elementary school including the June Jubilee. She handed out data on discipline and explained. The spring concert, promotion party, Flag Day Ceremony, DARE graduation, and Fifth Grade promotion was held. Kellie Moore was hired for the vacant third grade position. She handed out information on assessments and elaborated. Mrs. St. Germain said all the end-of-year activities went well. The Farm and Garden Club is doing well. The business department staff and students will be doing a business plan for the greenhouse and the chickens. She spoke of the Perkins Grant meeting and the possibility of adding a .5 teacher and a career center through the grant. She was hoping to add a school-to-career piece as well. One of our students will be going to Maple Lane to work with the hydroponics there. She said summer work is going to be creating rubrics to evaluate students in certain areas. She elaborated. Curriculum work is being done. Our curriculum is uniform; they have been put in the same template. They are working on

accelerated math placements and two incoming sixth graders will be taking pre-algebra and she had further explanation. The schedule is done. Questions were asked and answered about the senior projects. There was a question on the CCRI program. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion. Mrs. St. Germain will get copies of the rubrics to Board members. Mr. Nero said that research has shown the two most important pieces of a child's educational success is the teachers and the principals. He thanked Mrs. Wilkison and Mrs. St. Germain.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – June 8, 2016 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2016, special meeting. Dr. Robert abstained.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said we received a letter from the State stating that the elementary school has been chosen to take part in NAEP testing. He elaborated. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to request from the Commissioner of Education that North Stonington be excluded in the NAEP testing. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Nero read a letter regarding the Perkins Grant review.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said Laurie Hendrickson resigned her position as math teacher. He explained the math department reorganization. He said Kellie Moore will be the new third grade teacher. Tara Holland will be taking a child-rearing leave of absence for the 2016-2017 year. He elaborated. Jessica Biekert has been hires as the long-term substitute for grade seven science.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said the past couple of weeks have been hectic. They have been working with Mr. Malik, architect, and the town on the building project application. Mr. Murphy submitted the USDA application and the interest rate had dropped. He elaborated. He complemented Mr. Murphy and Mr. Malik. Mr. Nero commented on the workshop the state held for schools that would be applying for school construction grants. Mr. Murphy, Mr. Urgo and Mr. Malik went to the workshop. He is meeting with Mr. Malik tomorrow to go over the application a final time before it is submitted. Mr. Malik will hand-deliver a copy to the state. He had further comment.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson said he has been working with Charlie Steinhart of the Board of Finance with a 20 year long-term capital plan. He elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Carlson asked if Board members are not going to be able to attend a meeting to please let him know.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Nothing new to report.

f. School Modernization Ad Hoc Committee – Mr. Mathwich said the RFQ was approved for the architect. The project manager RFQ was reviewed as well. There was discussion.

9. Finance - a. May 2016 Financial Statements – Mr. Nero said the budget was frozen early and he elaborated. He spoke of the Tri-Board budget meeting and he had further comment. Mr. Nero said there was a flurry of activity when authorization was given that the funds were available. Items were purchased from next year's budget and on the capital equipment plan. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to approve the May 2016 Financial Statement that also included a list of itemized end-of-year spending. Dr. Robert had comment. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. 2016-2017 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Carlson suggested waiting on any action pending direction from the Board of Finance. There was comment. Mr. Nero had comment. Board members had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment about the Board of Finance making a decision. He elaborated. Board members had further comment and Mr. Nero had further comment. There was comment from Board members about waiting for direction from the Board of Finance. There will be a special meeting on Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the budget.

b. School Modernization Plan – Covered above.

11. New Business – a. Summer Meeting Schedule – There will be a special meeting on June 29th and the Board will meet in July if needed.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – Covered above.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Superintendent's Evaluation – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:43 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent's Evaluation.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:04 p.m.

15. Contract and Benefits of Superintendent – No action taken.

On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to the Board of Education