

Board of Education Minutes
August 24, 2016

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 24, 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, and Mr. Mendolia (7:14 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 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Pending Negotiations – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. for the Purpose of Pending Negotiations and to invite Attorney Grello and Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.

5. Community Relations – None.
6. Presentations – None.
7. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Costa passed out a copy of a letter from Dr. Rodriguez, the Interim Chief Academic Officer/Bureau Chief. She reviewed items in the annual performance report for special education. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wilkison spoke of the garden at the elementary school. She said school is ready to begin and thanked all the staff working over the summer to get school ready. New family orientation was held on Monday and Kindergarten Orientation was held on Tuesday. The annual Open House is on September 8th. She handed out a copy of the SBAC scores. She reviewed items on the handout. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wilkison explained what they were doing in the classroom and elaborated. She said she is really proud of the test scores. Mrs. St. Germain said they have had a busy summer getting the report ready for NEASC and she explained. The NEASC committee will be meeting weekly in September. She passed out an article from *The Day* that spoke of prescription drug use among youths. Our students took part in the SERAC survey. She said a report will be given in October but said we are below the average. The Farm and Garden Club is ready to go to the next level and she explained. We have all three components to have an agri-science program. She elaborated. She spoke of the possibility of getting Perkins Grant money. Questions were asked and answered. She had further comment. The SAT scores came out and our students did great. She said our PSAT scores were really high as well. She had further comment. Mr. Chaney said the SBAC results came out on Friday and he has spent a lot of time reviewing the scores. He is going to make a presentation next month on the test data. He said the elementary

staff should be commended for their work on summer school. He elaborated. He spoke of a Career Fair. He said they wanted to start a program at Wheeler that will give the students a chance to meet with people in different fields. They are hoping to have the fair in late spring. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Chaney said this would be for grades 9-12. Further questions were asked. Board members had comment. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. Board members had comment.

8. Administrative – a. Minutes – June 22, 2016 – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2016, meeting.

June 29, 2016 – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the June 29, 2016, meeting. Dr. Robert abstained.

July 13, 2016 – Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2016, meeting. Board members had comment. The motion passed with six in favor and one opposed. Dr. Robert opposed the motion.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero reviewed the teaching staff that has been hired. Kellie Edwards, Jessica Biekert (one-year position), Kimberly Privitera (as long-term substitute) and Kimberly McKay have been hired. He reviewed the coaching positions that have been filled by new staff members. He told the Board that Mr. Herb Young retired. He elaborated.

9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said Mr. Carlson forwarded him the email from the Board of Finance regarding spending since there is no approved budget. He read the letter. He had comment. Questions were asked and answered. The town meeting for the budget is Tuesday, September 6th, and two weeks later will be the referendum on September 20th. He spoke of the town budget hearing. He elaborated. Tomorrow is the Tri-Board meeting which will be held in the gym band room. Last week was the walk-through of the prospective construction managers. Mr. Mathwich said they ended up with 8 that bid. Mr. Nero said architects and engineers have been going through the buildings. Mr. Urgo and Mr. Malik will be speaking at the opening of school. Questions were asked and answered. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero said we got the USDA loan at 2.75% and he elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson - Mr. Carlson said that there was a committee that worked with the Superintendent to work on goals and that was done. He said the Board should have goals and he elaborated. Mr. Carlson said the Tri-Board was set up mainly to get a building plan. He said he met with Mark Donahue and Carolyn Howell and they thought the Tri-Board Committee could be the main line of information. They spoke of having different speakers at the meetings and he gave examples. He elaborated. He spoke of other districts sending their students here. He spoke of the Tri-Board moving the town forward. He elaborated. Board members had comment.

- c. Committee Chairperson – Mr. Mathwich said the Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later in the meeting.
 - d. LEARN Board of Directors Liaison – Nothing to report.
 - e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Nero said they did get the blacktop work done. There was further comment. Mr. Nero said he will be at town hall on Saturday, October 29th for an emergency drill.
 - f. Building Committee – Covered above in discussion. Mr. Mathwich said at the next meeting they will go over the proposals and review questions that will be asked of the potential construction managers. Questions were asked and answered.
10. Finance – a. June 2016 Financial Statements – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2016. Questions were asked and answered. Comment was made by Board members. Dr. Robert voiced his opposition to having to pay GASB 45 and asked what we would have to pay if we did not pay that. Further questions were asked and answered. There was discussion on AP testing fees. Further questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. 2015-2016 Year-End Closeout – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to approve the end-of-year transfers as presented. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.
11. Old Business – None.
12. New Business – a. Records Destruction Approval – There was discussion. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the records destruction document as presented.
13. Calendar – a. Future Meetings – The Tri-Board meeting is tomorrow, September 14th is the next Board meeting, and September 12th is the first negotiations session at 5:30 p.m.
- b. Committee Action List – None.
14. Public Comment – None.
15. Proposed for Executive Session – No need for an additional session.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

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