

Board of Education Minutes  
April 13, 2011

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Testa, Mrs. Dame and Mr. McCord (7:06 p.m.). Absent were Dr. Robert, Mr. Scarchilli, and Mr. Hundt. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Since there was not a quorum, Mrs. Ricker called the non-meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Community Relations – Nothing other than what was in the packets. The billboard was discussed. The students' commercials were discussed.

There was a consensus of the Board to move New Business, Item c, Senior Travel Club Proposed Trip, to Presentations, Item a. With the arrival of Mr. McCord, there was a quorum and Mrs. Ricker officially called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to move Item 9c, New Business, Senior Travel Club Proposed Trip, to Item 3a, Presentations.

3. Presentations - a. Senior Travel Club Proposed Trip – Tessa Roy read a letter to the Board describing the trip they would like to take during April of 2012. Questions were asked. Mr. Sandford had comment. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the planning of the trip keeping in mind the policies regarding insurance, etc.

b. Elementary SAT Program – Mrs. Wilkison explained the background of the SAT program. Sharon Thompson and Heidi Mehringer-Macina reviewed the SAT process and how it has evolved since becoming RTI. Mrs. Thompson explained and said it has changed the way they do things. She explained what the team does. She reviewed the three-tier model. Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Mehringer-Macina went over Universal Screening, classroom intervention, and specialist support. They had further explanation. They went over the SAT Referral process. The SAT meetings were discussed. Progress monitoring tools were reviewed. Questions were asked and answered during the presentation. Mr. McCord thanked Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Mehringer-Macina for their enthusiasm and hard work.

c. NEASC Update – Mr. Sandford reviewed the time line for preparing for the NEASC visit. He told the Board who was on the steering committee. He reviewed the accreditation standards and had explanation. Mrs. Bradanini reviewed Standard One, Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations and had explanation. Ms. Fogarty reviewed Standard Two, Curriculum. Mrs. Bradanini reviewed Standard Three, Instruction. She had explanation. Ms. Fogarty reviewed Standard Four, Assessment of and for Student Learning. She had comment and explanation. Mr. Sandford had comment. Mrs. Bradanini reviewed Standard Five, School Culture and Leadership. There was explanation. Mr. Sandford had comment and explanation. Ms. Fogarty reviewed Standard Six, School

Resources for Learning and had explanation. Ms. Fogarty reviewed Standard Seven, Community Resources for Learning and explained. An action plan was passed out and explained. Questions were asked and answered. There was comment. Mr. Sandford had closing remarks. There was further comment. The offer was made to make this presentation to other groups in town. The group was thanked for their time.

d. Board Articles' Discussion – Dr. Robert had submitted, “What Educators are Learning from Money Managers.” Mrs. Ricker had submitted “What does a School Mean to a Community? Assessing the Social and Economic Benefits of Schools to Rural Villages in New York,” “School Size, School Climate, and Student Performance,” “Why Rural Matters 2007: The Realities of Rural Education Growth,” and “Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations.” There was some discussion on these articles. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to rent “Waiting for Superman” and to invite administrators and staff to view and discuss the movie. The showing date will be Wednesday, May 4, 2011.

4. Administrators Reports – Mr. Apicelli passed around a calendar featuring grade 7 students' art work on each page of the calendar; the topic was radon. There was also a bubble-wrap contest; one of our students was one of the winners. Mrs. Costa told the Board the first parenting class took place and she explained the class. Mrs. Wilkison told of happenings at the elementary school including the play, Chinese acrobats, parent/teacher conferences, kindergarten registration, and the kindergarten inventory results. She reviewed the results of the survey. She also told the Board that many students are involved in writing contests, all fifth graders entered the Joe Courtney writing contest and one of our students was a finalist and five other students received honorable mention, and the concert for the elementary school is April 28<sup>th</sup>.

5. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- March 9, 2011 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2011 Special Meeting. Mrs. Dame abstained.

March 9, 2011 Regular Meeting – On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted two in favor and 3 abstentions to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2011 regular meeting. Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, and Mrs. Dame abstained. These will be revisited at the next meeting.

March 16, 2011 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2011 Special Meeting as amended. Mr. McCord abstained.

b. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas explained the information that was in the packet.

c. Personnel – Dr. Pukas read a letter from Ellen Abutin retiring from her position at the North Stonington Elementary School at the end of the school year. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to accept Mrs. Abutin's retirement with regret and thanks for her years of service. Dr. Pukas

read a letter from Kevin Montanaro resigning as business teacher at the end of the school year. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to accept Mr. Montanaro's resignation with thanks for his service.

6. Reports - a. Superintendent –Nothing other than what was in the packet. She told the Board the second volume of the district newsletter is going to print. She had comment. She commended everyone for their articles. She thanked Kelly Gonzalez for her hard work on the newsletter.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairs – The Facilities and Finance Committee met and those items will be covered later. The Student Success Committee also met and voted to bring forward the changes in curriculum.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mrs. Ricker said she attended the last meeting. She listed some of the projects they will be working on. Mr. McCarthy explained the items he has been working on with the PSPBC. He elaborated. Mrs. Ricker had further comment. Questions were asked and answered.

7. Financial – a. February 2011 Financial Statements – Mr. Testa said the committee met earlier. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial statement ending February 28, 2011, with accounts payable expenditures of \$298,169.65, payroll of \$576,292.24, for a subtotal of \$874,461.89, grant expenditures of \$38,186.58, for a total of \$912,648.47 for the month of February 2011.

b. March 2011 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial statement ending March 31, 2011, with accounts payable expenditures of \$390,214.19, payroll of \$564,214.55 for a subtotal of \$954,428.74, grant expenditures of \$31,816.16, for a total of \$986,244.90 for the month of March 2011.

c. Transfer Requests – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transfer request dated April 5, 2011 from the business manager to transfer \$2,025 from extra duty stipends to athletic supplies.

8. Old Business – a. 2011-2012 Proposed Education Budget – Negotiations Line Item – Dr. Pukas explained why this was on the agenda. She gave background of this line item. There was discussion. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to table this to next budget season.

9. New Business – a. Graduation Date for Class of 2011 – Dr. Pukas explained State Statute. She requested graduation date be set for June 17, 2011 which is the 181<sup>st</sup> day of school. She asked this to be the last day of school for other students as well and the teachers will return on June 20<sup>th</sup> for their last day of school. She had further

explanation. Mr. Testa made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Dame to set graduation and the last day of school for June 17, 2011 and to have the teachers return on June 20<sup>th</sup> for their last day. There was discussion on what the last teachers' day would entail. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Date for Last Day of School – Covered above.

c. Senior Travel Club Proposed Trip – Covered above.

d. Changes to Wheeler's Graduation Requirements – Mrs. Ricker said the Student Success Committee met and they recommended the policy be brought forward to change the requirements as written. She explained the necessary steps. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to delete policy 6146. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to accept new policy 6146 to begin with the class of 2015.

e. 2009-2010 Strategic School Profiles – Dr. Pukas explained these were delayed by the State and explained. She had explanation and said if they had any questions to please contact her. There was discussion. This will be tabled until questions are answered.

10. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – May 4<sup>th</sup> will be the movie showing, the next Board meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup>, Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> is the Town Hearing at 7:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room, and bids are due for the feasibility study on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

b. Committee Action List – Facilities and Finance Committee will meet before the next meeting to review financial statements.

11. Public Comment – None.

12. Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education