

Board of Education Minutes
April 23, 2014

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, and Mrs. Buzzee. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Macrino, and Mrs. St. Germain. Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to move Item 4, Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First to Item 2a.

2a. Andrew Carlson, student, a member of the Food Service Advisory Committee spoke. He commented on what has transpired since the beginning of the year and the positive changes that have been made. He elaborated. Trish Albamonti, advisor of the committee, elaborated on what Mr. Carlson had spoken about. She commended the site manager. She had further comment. Board members had questions that were answered.

3. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Negotiations and Collective Bargaining Strategy - On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. for the Purpose of Negotiations and Collective Bargaining Strategy.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – The Board continued with this agenda item. Mr. Mike Urgo of ICONS, had comment about a mailing that may go out. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment. Mrs. Kerri Perez, parent, handed out information about reinstating magnet school transportation. There was comment from the Board.

5. Community Relations – None.

6. Presentations – a. Eagle Scout Project – Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Evan Vrabel spoke to the Board about his Eagle Scout project, a WWII monument for those that served from North Stonington. Mr. Carlson had comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment. On a motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to allow the Eagle Scout project to go forward.

7. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison said the fifth graders were the first to take the SBAC test and she elaborated. She handed out information on the after-school enrichment programs. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Macrino said there were many Earth Day projects yesterday and gave examples. Sunflowers were given to the Board members as part of the projects. He had further comment. Mrs. St. Germain said they started

testing today with only a few glitches. She thanked the PTO for providing bagels and juice. Seventy students will be taking AP exams in May. Dr. Fillipelli will be here to make a presentation on Internet safety. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment on the opt-out issue. There was further comment.

8. Administrative – a. Minutes – April 8, 2014 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2014 Special Meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said he went to the Board of Selectmen meeting last week and they voted 2-1 to move the project forward. He also attended the Board of Finance meeting and he elaborated on those two meetings. He had further comment.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. McCord commented and thanked the Board of Education for all their work and attendance at these meetings.

c. Committee Chairperson – Mr. Carlson said the Facilities and Finance Committee met. Action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Mathwich said that because we had not provided the PSPBC with a list as of yet, the Board of Selectmen gave a portion of the \$75,000 to the PTO for the playground. There was comment. Board members had comment and questions.

10. Finance – a. March 2014 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial statements dated March 31, 2014.

b. Transfer Requests – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transfers.

11. Old Business – a. School Building Project Update – Covered above.

b. 2014-2015 Proposed Education Budget Update – Mr. Nero said we are trending better with our benefits than we had anticipated. He was recommending that we bring our budget to zero. We could also reinstate the magnet school transportation. He had further comment. On a motion Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted four in favor and one opposed to reinstate the magnet school transportation as long as there is no additional cost to the district. Mrs. Buzzee voted against the motion. On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to bring the budget to a zero increase.

c. Salaries/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to allow the Superintendent to take the money for the raises that is in the budget and distribute it as he saw fit and to put these employees in the high deductible health plan.

12. New Business – None.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – April 28 is the Town Meeting and May 5th is the referendum. A Community Involvement Committee meeting will be set up. May 14th is a regular meeting.

14. Committee Action List – The Community Involvement Committee will meet with Mrs. Turner.

15. Public Comment – Mr. Murphy, magnet school parent, thanked the Board. Mrs. Perez thanked the Board and Mrs. Allen for all their time. Board members had comment.

The Board took a recess to Conduct an Interview of a Wheeler High School/Middle School Principal Candidate at 8:22 p.m.

The Board returned to the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

16. Possible Appointment of Principal of Wheeler High School/Wheeler Middle School – On a motion by Mrs. Buzzee, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Kristin St. Germain as the next principal of Wheeler High School/Wheeler Middle School.

17. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Discussion of Food Service RFP's - On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:02 p.m. for the Purpose of Discussion of Food Service RFP's and to invite Aramark into such session and SLA later via phone.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:53 p.m.

18. Possible Award of Food Service Contract – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to award the food service contract to Aramark for the term of one year and request that they explore “green” packaging.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education