

Board of Education Minutes  
April 28, 2010

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa, Mrs. Dame, and Mr. McCord. Mr. Secchiaroli was absent. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi and Mr. Sandford. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Dr. Robert said the meeting was being recorded. He asked for item 4 to be moved up.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to move item 4 to Item 1.

1. Presentations – a. Introduction of new Director of Information Technology/Network Administrator – Dr. Pukas said she wanted to publicly acknowledge Mr. McCarthy for his hard work during the interim period. She elaborated. Mr. McCarthy introduced Greg Pont to the Board. Mr. Pont spoke briefly. The Board welcomed him.

b. Serendipity Book Club – Maureen Rust told the Board the Middle School Book Club had just finished for the year. She introduced Zena Secchiaroli, Brianna Gaskins, and Sarah Hansen. The students did a Power Point presentation and told the Board what they liked best about the club and proceeded to give a presentation on the club. Rebecca Schilke explained the book that the students read and elaborated on the club. Ms. Rust had comment on the club. The presentation was interactive with the students handing out a sample of a puzzle for the Board to complete. The Board asked questions and had comments.

2. Public Comment – None.

3. Community Relations – An additional article was put at the Board's places. Dr. Pukas reviewed the items in the packet.

4. Presentations – a. Introduction of new Director of Information Technology/Network Administrator – Covered above.

b. Serendipity Book Club – Covered above.

5. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Wilkison told the Board that Senator Joe Courtney visited the school and explained. She told the Board that Brendan Chianase, Brittany Testa, and Cameron Wally had winning essays and Ella Secchiaroli was a finalist. The essays were on Black History Month. Mrs. Wilkison told the Board about happenings at the elementary school including kindergarten registration, Trish Albamonti organizing a volleyball game with fifth graders against the staff, the Earth Day presentation on bats, the spring concerts, two fifth graders won an essay contest, four fourth graders presented their work at the CECA conference in Hartford, Mrs. Quinn wrote a grant which is enabling them to do training on data-driven decision making, the PBS team continues to go

to professional development, and the annual Talent Show was tomorrow. Dr. Robert commented on one of the concerts. Mrs. Costa told the Board that the pre-school lottery was held today with 7 new students for the morning session and five new students for the afternoon session. She told the Board we no longer have to submit reports to the State regarding the suspension of special education students. She elaborated and said the State will continue to monitor our data. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Susi told the Board of Education about happenings at the middle/high school including the Renaissance events, upcoming AP testing, end-of-year letters going out for awards ceremonies, etc., hiring of the French and English teachers, Distinguished Alumni candidates being selected, students presenting with the youth internet safety group, course selections are done, the post-high school planning session was held, and the Senior Project meeting for junior parents was held. Mr. Susi said a number of our students have received special recognition. Brittany Johnston and Meredith Milligan were recognized by CAS and Rebecca D'Angelo was selected for All-State Chorus. He also spoke of the "Music in our Schools" concert, the Money Madness conference, the Apprentice Challenge, the formation of a Robotics Club, the Senior Travel Club trip to Florida, and the NHS Induction Ceremony. Business cards for the Board were handed out that were printed in-house.

6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – March 3, 2010 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2010 Special Meeting. Mrs. Ricker abstained.

March 10, 2010 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2010 Special Meeting. Mrs. Ricker abstained.

March 10, 2010 Regular Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2010 meeting. Mrs. Ricker abstained.

April 19, 2010 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2010 Special Meeting. Mr. Hundt abstained.

b. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas told the Board that Representative Urban will be here on May 12<sup>th</sup>. There were questions asked and answered about the kindergarten survey. There was discussion.

c. Personnel – None.

7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas told the Board about the various events she had attended. Other items were passed out to the Board.

b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert said he received correspondence about the past Community Relations Committee survey regarding volunteers in the schools. There was discussion. Mr. Sandford will follow-up. Dr. Robert spoke of his emails about the Ad Hoc Committee presentation. He elaborated and said they gave a

marvelous presentation. They will be coming to a Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Board of Selectmen meeting to make another presentation. He gave highlights of their presentation. The Board had comment and questions. The Board commended the Ad Hoc Committee.

c. Committee Chairs – Mrs. Banker had comment.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Testa gave an update on the Gymnasium flashing and he answered questions from the Board. There was discussion of replacing the boilers and Mr. McCarthy gave an update on his process of getting a quote. There was further discussion. Mr. Wayne Coats gave an update on the kindergarten bathroom and explained why it was not done over April break. It will be done over the summer. A review of the boiler information will be put on next meeting's agenda.

e. Committee Action List – The Community Relations Committee will investigate the survey section regarding volunteers.

8. Financial – a. March 2010 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the March 2010 subtotal general fund of \$911,400.93, grant expenditures of \$25,061.71, for a total of \$936,462.64.

b. Transfer Request – Mr. Hundt made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept total approval of the April 19<sup>th</sup> memo for transfers of \$4,500, \$2,301, \$4,000, and \$2,745. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board revisited item 7d. Mr. McCarthy handed out the sheet with his figures on boiler replacement and there was discussion. Mr. McCarthy will look into the cost of temporary boilers. Dr. Robert asked for a motion to ask the Selectmen to move forward on this. There was further discussion. On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding the boiler replacement and to incorporate the figures and verbiage provided by Mr. McCarthy.

9. Old Business – a. Principal Search Update – Dr. Pukas said the committee is very representative and they are working hard. They are still in the process of working to get names of those to bring in again.

10. New Business – a. Draft Three-Year District Support Plan for Beginning Teachers/Mentors – Dr. Pukas said this will be up for discussion at the meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>. She said the committee has been working hard on this and she elaborated. She handed out the draft plan for North Stonington and would be seeking approval on May 12<sup>th</sup>. She said it is due to the State on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

b. Draft 2010-2011 School Calendar – In preparation of the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dr. Pukas distributed the proposed calendar for next year. She had comment. There were questions asked and answered including questions about a state-wide calendar. There was discussion.

c. *Race to the Top* Memorandum of Understanding – Dr. Pukas told the Board that although the Commissioner said information would be coming out, she had not received anything. She said she would be recommending that we participate this time. There was discussion.

d. Setting of 2010 Graduation Date – Dr. Pukas explained the situation with the built-in days. She recommended that graduation be on June 18, 2010 on the 181<sup>st</sup> day of school. She asked that the calendar be amended to have the last day of school on June 18, 2010 as well. Teachers would come back on June 21<sup>st</sup>. There were questions asked and answered. On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the memo from Dr. Pukas regarding the graduation date and the amendment to the 2009-2010 school calendar.

e. Appointment of Coaches and Extra-duty Positions – Mrs. Banker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to allow Dr. Pukas to hire extra duty positions according to the memo. There were questions asked and answered. Dr. Robert had explanation. There was further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Calendar – The Town Budget Hearing is May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary school multi-purpose room and the next Board meeting is May 12<sup>th</sup>.

12. Public Comment – A member of the public said she had attended the Board of Selectmen meetings and they did talk a lot about the boiler situation. She also asked about the dropout rate. Mr. Susi commented on the dropout rate. She had further comment about that and some course selection items. Mr. Sandford commented. Board members had comment. There was further discussion.

13. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Student Discipline and b. Negotiations Strategies – At 9:06 p.m., Mr. Hundt made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to go into Executive Session for Student Discipline and Negotiations Strategies and to invite Mr. Susi, Mr. Sandford, and others into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:45 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to The Board of Education