

Board of Education Minutes
Special Meeting
April 29, 2009

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord (7:41 p.m.), Mr. Testa, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, and Mr. Secchiaroli. Absent were Mr. Briscoe and Mrs. Dame. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi, and Mr. Sandford. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

Dr. Robert told those present that the meeting was being audio-taped and read a statement regarding the equipment.

2. Public Comment – None.

3. Financial – Transfer Request – On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mrs. Ricker the Board voted five in favor and one opposed to accept the transfer request from the Business Manager in a memo dated April 29, 2009 to transfer \$230 from heating oil (0630) to high school social studies textbooks and \$11,000 from heating oil (0630) to legal 0130). Mr. Testa was opposed to the motion.

4. Proposed 2009-2010 Education Budget – Dr. Pukas passed out a sheet with recommended budget reductions. She had explanation. She explained the decrease in the special education tuition and explained we were able to use stimulus funding; we have it in writing. She continued to review the reductions. Dr. Pukas recommended reductions of \$118,043 for a budget increase of 1.5%. Dr. Robert had comment on the heating oil dollar amount. Mr. Secchiaroli explained what had transpired at the Board of Finance meeting regarding this item. There was comment from Board members on the heating oil amount. Mr. McCarthy had explanation and comment. There were questions asked and answered. There were questions asked and answered about the special education tuition amount. There was discussion about the stimulus money. There were questions asked and answered on tuition. Dr. Robert asked to increase the legal fees. Mr. Secchiaroli wanted to decrease the diesel fuel to \$3.71 per gallon for a \$9,200 savings to put more in programs. Mr. McCarthy said it was \$9,403 in savings. There was discussion of the fuel and heating oil prices. There were questions asked and answered. There was talk of buying items from next year's budget that we could get on campus this year. The issues involved with that were discussed. There was further discussion. Mr. Testa spoke of not filling the positions filled by long-term substitutes. Mr. Susi spoke supporting those positions. Dr. Robert spoke of the guidance counselor position. Mr. Susi had further comment. Mr. Testa had comment. There was further comment and discussion. Mrs. Costa spoke supporting the elementary school psychologist position. Mr. Secchiaroli had comment and questions on teaching staff at the elementary school. There was further comment and questions answered. Mr. Susi asked the Board to reconsider their mandate of not hiring until the budget is passed. He had further explanation. There was comment. Mr. Secchiaroli made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to accept the changes in the budget as noted in a

memo from the Superintendent dated April 29, 2009 to reduce heating oil to \$2.00 per gallon for a reduction of \$77,031, remove the increase in special education tuition for a reduction of \$28,700, reduce employee insurance for changes which occurred since the budget submission to the Board of Finance for a reduction of \$3,701, remove the science chemical hood installation for a reduction of \$4,000, and reduce bus fuel to \$3.97 per gallon for a reduction of \$4,611. Mr. Secchiaroli had comment. The Board voted five in favor and one opposed to accept the motion. Mr. Testa was opposed. Dr. Pukas thanked everyone again and had comment. On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted five in favor and one opposed to transfer an addition \$9,403 from diesel fuel to legal. Mr. Testa was opposed. Mr. Secchiaroli spoke about the Board of Finance being disappointed that the Board of Education did not talk to the unions about any concessions. He elaborated and had comment. Dr. Pukas said she was fully prepared to do so if the Board directed her.

5. Public Comment – Mrs. Coats, citizen, had comment on the fuel oil issue. Dr. Robert responded to her. Mr. McCarthy commented and had explanation.

6. Proposed for Executive Session - a. Personnel Matter – Dr. Pukas explained there was no Executive Session.

7. Possible Action Concerning Personnel Matter – No action because there was no Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education