

Board of Education Minutes
April 8, 2009

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa, Mr. Briscoe, Mrs. Ricker, and Mrs. Banker. Mr. Secchiaroli was absent. Also present was Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi, and Mr. Sandford. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

2. Public Comment/Request to Comment on Agenda Item – None.
3. Community Relations – Nothing other than what was in the packet. Dr. Pukas noted there are a lot of wonderful activities happening in the schools.
4. Presentations – a. *Moonlight Mythology* – Grade 5 Students – Sarah Hines, grade five teacher, explained the Moonlight Mythology program and explained the aspects of the diversity grant. She read the summary of the grant. Kylie Garcia and Marissa Caraballo, students, explained the program from their point of view and told the Board about their favorite part of the program. Miss Garcia explained about their trip to LEARN today and told of the trouble they have had emailing the other class and the lack of technology at the other school. Miss Garcia and Miss Caraballo talked about the differences in the schools. Mrs. Hines summed up the program and explained what they do after the field trips. There was further presentation. Mrs. Cheryl Biekert, grade five teacher, commented on the program. Mrs. Garcia, parent, commented. There was further comment by Mrs. Hines and Mrs. Biekert. Mrs. Biekert said she would do it again next year. There were questions asked by the Board. There was further comment.
 - b. Pre-School Presentation – Mrs. Costa gave the background of the preschool program. She introduced Roberta Curry, Rebekah West, and Diana Anderson. She said there was a parent present also. Mrs. Curry, teacher, gave a presentation on the program. Mrs. Anderson, speech/language therapist, gave an overview of the preschool day. Mrs. West explained things she works on with the children as the occupational therapist. Mrs. Curry explained the data used to evaluate the students. She explained the growth-over-time charts. There was further explanation. Mrs. Montgomery, parent, spoke to the Board about what it is like to be a parent of a student in preschool. She elaborated and spoke highly of the program. There were questions asked and answered.
5. Administrators Reports – Mr. Sandford said report cards come out tomorrow. Mrs. Wilkison said over 95% of parents attended the conferences. Mr. Susi said he came from the junior parent meeting regarding the Senior Project. Mr. Susi said some parents were concerned about required classes being put back in and the students having a lack of time. He said they asked about waivers and gave health as an example.

On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to move all of item 10, New Business, to item 5a.

a. Graduation Date for class of 2009 – Dr. Pukas recommended that the class of 2009 graduate on June 19, 2009, the 180th day of school. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to allow the Class of 2009 to graduate on June 19, 2009, the 180th day of school.

b. Last Day of School for 2008-2009 School Year – Mr. Testa made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to allow the students to have the last day of school be June 19, 2009, the 180th day of school and to have the teachers return on June 22nd and 23rd to make their 187 days. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Adoption of 2009-2010 School Calendar – Dr. Pukas spoke. She read the vote taken by the NSEA. Dr. Pukas told the Board she was recommending version 2. She explained the different versions and said version 2 does not have a full week of February vacation. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to accept version 2. There were questions asked and answered. Dr. Pukas had further explanation on her recommendation. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to move the question. The motion to accept version 2 passed with five voting in favor and one abstention. Mrs. Banker abstained.

d. Appointment of New Board of Education Member – Mr. Briscoe gave the background of Crystal Dame, the person brought forward by the Democratic Town Committee. Mr. Briscoe had further explanation. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to appoint Crystal Dame to the Board of Education. Board members had comment. The motion passed with five voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Testa abstained.

6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2009 – On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2009, meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas passed around programs from events she had attended. Dr. Pukas told the Board that 10% of the junior class was inducted into the National Honor Society. She elaborated

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairs – None.

d. PSPBC Liaison – None.

e. Committee Action List – None.

8. Financial – None.
9. Old Business – a. 2009-2010 Proposed Education Budget – There was nothing other to report. Dr. Robert elaborated on the Board of Finance meeting.
10. New Business – a. Graduation Date for Class of 2009 – Covered Above.
 - b. Last Day of School for 2008-2009 School Year – Covered Above.
 - c. Adoption of 2009-2010 School Calendar – Covered Above.
11. Calendar – None.
12. Public Comment – None.
13. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Collective Bargaining and b. Personnel Matter – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. and to invite Attorney Anne Littlefield and Lockton Agent Tim Hasselman into such session.

The Board took a recess at 9:02 p.m. The Board returned to open session at 9:55 p.m.

14. Possible Action Concerning Collective Bargaining – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NSEA concerning the implementation of a non-standard \$15 Anthem plan as soon as practicable during the 2008-2009 school year.
15. Possible Action Concerning Personnel Matter – Tabled.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education