

Board of Education Minutes  
Special Meeting  
April 8, 2014

**DRAFT**

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner (7:11 p.m.), Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison (7:18 p.m.), and Mrs. St. Germain. Vice Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
  
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Mrs. Kerri Perez, parent, spoke. Her daughter is attending the Marine Science Magnet School. She gave her background information. She spoke of the school system. She spoke of the Magnet School Transportation funding being reduced from the budget. She spoke of the steps she has taken since reading about the cut. She had further comment. She gave financial information. She had further comment on the finances of the magnet school transportation. She had further comment. She spoke of some of the consequences that may not have been considered. She spoke in favor of adding the magnet school transportation back into the budget. Mr. Patrick Murphy, resident, asked why it was cut. Dr. Robert responded as to why he made the motion to cut the transportation. He showed some slides showing what is in the budget for certain items, what has been reduced, and what could be added in comparing them to the cost savings of the magnet school transportation. He had further comment. Mrs. Perez had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment and explanation. Wendy McLaughlin, resident, read a statement regarding magnet schools. There was comment.
  
4. Community Relations – None.
  
5. Presentations – Wheeler High School Math Department – Information was handed out to the Board. Mrs. Allison Reyes, teacher, commented on the mathematics changes that will go into effect for the 2014-2015 school year. She reviewed current enrollment for the classes for next year. Mr. Jim Cervini, teacher, had further explanation. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment.
  
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison spoke of events happening at the elementary school including Parent/Teacher conferences in March with 94% of families attending, the Lions Club came in and did Pre-K and Kindergarten vision screening, the Lions Marathon begins this week, the Primary concert was held this evening, the fifth graders wrote an essay for the state, and Molly Butremovic will be honored this week for her winning essay and will meet the Secretary of State, and after vacation the Smarter Balance testing begins. Mrs. St. Germain said Mr. Macrino was attending the fine arts awards ceremony, an internet safety presentation will be held for the students on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Deb Karpinski received the CAS volunteer award, Earth Day celebrations are on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, placement for math students is beginning in the middle school, teachers went to the NELMS conference this year, students went to a Synagogue to prepare for a paper they are writing, and Smarter Balance is beginning. Mr.

Nero had comment regarding the Internet safety program being presented by Mr. Larry Fillipeti. He had further information. Mrs. St. Germain said they are seeking host families for exchange students and explained.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – March 26, 2014 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2014 meeting.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said he has been forwarding all the correspondence received from Mr. Mullane regarding the building project. He received information from Mr. Mullane regarding an Eagle Scout project. He explained and elaborated.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said he received a letter from Brandon Lorentz regarding his resignation as social studies teacher.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero reviewed the meetings he has been to regarding the building project. He explained that the Board of Finance wants something from the State as to what the Town's share will be from the State. He elaborated. At the Board of Finance meeting, they reviewed what the mil rate would be and other items. He had explanation. He spoke of his conversation with the Board of Finance at their meeting. He said Mr. Mullane spoke of the deeds to the property. He had further explanation. He received a map of the flood plains and had explanation. Tomorrow are the Inland Wetlands Committee and the Board of Finance meetings. Mr. Mathwich had explanation. Mr. Nero had further comment. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had further comment.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairperson – None.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Mathwich commented on the list that PSPBC was looking for. There was further comment.

9. Finance – None.

10. Old Business – a. School Building Project Update – Discussed above.

b. 2014-2015 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Carlson had comment. Questions were asked and answered regarding the magnet school transportation. There was comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. There were further questions asked and answered. Further comment was made. Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to put magnet school transportation back in the budget. Dr. Robert had comment. There was discussion. There was comment from the public. The motion did not pass with two voting in favor and four voting against the motion. Those voting against the motion were Mrs. Wagner, Dr. Robert, Mr. Mathwich, and Mr. Mendolia.

11. New Business – a. Graduation Date – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to set graduation date as June 19<sup>th</sup>.

b. Request for Early Release Date – Mrs. St. Germain had comment on this item. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to set June 6, 2014, as an early release day for middle school and high school students for Senior Project presentations.

c. Healthy Food Certification – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted four in favor, one against and one abstention that for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, the North Stonington Board of Education approves participation in the Healthy Foods Initiative under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes; that the Board of Education excludes from certification items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store; and, that the Superintendent is authorized to sign all forms necessary to comply with this approval. Dr. Robert voted against the motion and Mrs. Wagner abstained.

d. Records Destruction Approval – Mr. Nero had comment. Board members had comment and questions. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the records disposition authorization as presented dated March 3, 2014.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the next Board of Education meeting.

13. Committee Action List – None.

14. Public Comment – Mrs. Perez commented further on the magnet school transportation and asked the Board to review this again. Mr. Murphy had further comment.

15. Proposed for Executive Session –On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations and Salaries/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel and to invite Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:44 p.m.

16. Possible Action on Salaries/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel – No action taken.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education