

Board of Education Minutes
Special Meeting
April 9, 2012

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Monday, April 9, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Mathwich, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present was Mr. McCarthy. Absent were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, Mrs. Dame, and Dr. Pukas. Secretary Testa called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Mr. Testa told those present that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Discussion of the Facilities and Finance Committee's Recommendation for a Forensic Audit – Mr. Testa told those present that Board members know they have been in process of discussing this item. Mr. Testa gave background information and gave examples of some of the credit card charges. He spoke of duplication in reimbursement of expenses and his concerns about grant usage and Title IIA money. He gave examples of what Title IIA has been used for. Mr. McCarthy commented. Mr. Testa had further comment on use of grant money and elaborated. He had further concerns which he relayed and explained the rationale for wanting to explore this further. He spoke of extra payments made to an individual. Mr. Testa spoke of what needs to be reported to the auditor regarding any fraud, waste or abuse. He had further comment that included what has been uncovered warranted a review of Board of Education funds.

3. Possible Action on the Facilities and Finance Committee's Recommendation for a Forensic Audit – Mr. Testa made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to request a forensic audit under the direction of the Board of Finance and to consult with the town auditor to narrow the focus and fees to establish procedures and a starting point with the recommendation that a couple of the starting points in particular be review of all professional development and employee reimbursements, all credit card expenditures and grant expenditures and including activity account expenditures. Mr. Hundt commented on the rationale for the audit. Mr. Mathwich commented on the policy about an annual audit, the business expenses and career development that is budgeted every year, and contract language that is in place for some of this. Mr. Mathwich had questions to which Mr. Testa responded. There was further discussion among Board members. Clarification was made on the scope of the audit. Mr. Testa clarified the scope as "A review of all professional development and employee reimbursements, all credit card expenditures, all grant expenditures, and including the activity fund accounts." There was further discussion. Mrs. Amy Kimball had a question about expenditures and when they are reviewed. Her question was answered. The motion passed with four voting in favor and one opposed. Mr. Mathwich opposed the motion.

4. Public Comment – Mrs. Amy Kimball asked who will pay for the audit and Mr. Hundt said the Board of Finance will now decide if this moves forward. Mr. Mathwich clarified that either the Board of Education or the Town pays for it. Mrs. Kerri Perez had comment about not having this in the Board of Education budget. She also asked about procedures regarding receipts if a person gets this contractually. Questions were answered. Further

members of the public had questions that were answered. Board members had further comment. Mr. Shawn Murphy had comment about when he was on the Board of Education. He had comment on the audit and that it would be a Board of Education expense and he spoke of an additional appropriation. He had further comment. Board members had further comment. Mr. Dan Spring had comment. Mr. Mullane had comment about this issue in general as it related to his tenure as First Selectmen. He explained about the difference between a regular audit and a forensic audit and elaborated. There was further discussion of the audit. Mr. Mullane had further comment and suggestions. Mrs. Coats had comment and questions. Mr. Hundt had comment in response. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Testa had comment. Mrs. Biekert had comment about her tenure as WAVES Director and wanted it clarified on record that the WAVES program never had new computers in response to a comment made by Mr. Testa earlier in the meeting. She had further comment. There was discussion. Members of the public had further questions that were answered. Mr. Testa had further comment.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education