

Board of Education Minutes
August 11, 2010

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Ricker, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa, Mrs. Dame and Mr. McCord. Absent was Mrs. Banker. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, and Mr. Sandford. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was preceded by a workshop.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to move New Business, Items b and c to Items 3 a and b and to add Item 3 c, Update on Facilities.

2. Community Relations – An additional article was at their places and background on the Mastery Test was in the packet. Dr. Pukas gave an update on Sean O’Keefe and elaborated. She acknowledged the passing of former Board Member, Arthur Jerbert.

3. Presentations – a. M&J Bus Coordinator – Mr. McCarthy introduced Mike Collins from M&J Bus Inc. and Gordon Greene. Mr. McCarthy said Mr. Greene has been nominated to be the coordinator. Mr. Collins gave background information on Mr. Greene. Mr. Greene said he was glad to be welcomed back. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to appoint Mr. Gordon Greene as coordinator. Mr. Testa abstained.

b. Aramark Food Service Renewal – Mr. McCarthy explained how the food service contract renewal works. He said we had a net operating profit of \$4,700. Mr. McCarthy talked about the projected lunch prices. Bill Urban of Aramark thanked the Board for having him. He spoke of the past school year and said it had been a pretty good year. He spoke of the needed increase for lunch prices this year and said there had not been an increase in over two years. Mr. Urban explained where the increase would be used. He elaborated and the Board had comment. Mr. McCarthy said the profit goes toward the food service program and not to Aramark. There was comment on the program. Dr. Pukas asked Mr. Urban to explain the system we have in place for payment and Mr. Urban explained the Nutrikids account system. He said it was just not for payment and talked about the other part of that program. There were questions asked and answered. Mr. Sandford had comment. Mr. Urban had further comment. Mrs. Wilkison had comment. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to extend the Aramark contract for another year.

c. Flashing and Other Projects – Mr. Mullane gave an update on the flashing and said the bids were lower than expected. He said the bids were reviewed and he elaborated. He explained the funding. There were questions about a timeline that Mr. Mullane explained. He said they would like to get it authorized and get moving on it. Mr. Aiello said there will be no disruption to the schools. Mr. Mullane said they will try to disrupt the school schedule as little as possible. He thanked Mr. McCarthy for his efforts on this to make things easier. There were further

questions asked and answered. Mr. Mullane said there is nothing left on the priority list from the Board of Education and he would like another list of items from them. He spoke of his conversations with the Board of Finance about not holding up projects and he explained the funding procedure. Dr. Robert had comment on the email he received from Mr. Donahue. The administration will meet to come up with a new list. Mr. Mullane said they did look at alternatives to the flashing such as sheathing and it turned out to be more expensive. Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to approve the flashing bid presented by the First Selectman. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mullane asked about moving forward through Mr. McCarthy if that was okay with the Board which it was. Mr. Mullane had a package on boiler replacement that he gave to the Board. He commented on the package and reviewed what was told to the contractors. Mr. Mullane thinks they will have to hire someone to interpret the bid packages that come in. There were questions asked and answered. Mr. Mullane felt the financial aspect can continue the same way as the flashing and he elaborated. He said he figured this would be in the \$300,000-\$400,000 range and explained. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mullane commented on the use of gas instead of oil and the pricing. Further questions were asked and comments made. Mr. Mullane talked about the RFP for a project manager for the Ad Hoc Committee for the facilities study. There was comment on a new list of projects for the PSPBC. There was further comment. Dr. Robert thanked Mr. Mullane and Mr. Aiello for coming.

4. Administrators Reports – Dr. Robert welcomed Mr. Sandford to his first meeting as Wheeler High School/Middle School Principal. Mr. Sandford said they have gained 12 students and lost 3 with a net gain of 9 students. He said 15% of the middle/high school staff are new hires and he listed the positions that were filled. He thanked the Town for paving about 9 feet of pavement on the other side of the tunnel and explained. He said all athletic practices start on August 28th for the high school and the middle school starts after school begins. He handed out a copy of all the handbooks to the Board. He had comment on the different handbooks he passed out. Mrs. Wilkison said they have two new staff members and said Mike Baklik was hired for physical education and Melissa Mary Lincoln was hired for art. She spoke of the summer school program and the restructuring of the program. She told the Board new kindergarteners have been coming in to get used to the school and she explained. New family orientation will be held. Mrs. Wilkison said she was grateful to the PSPBC for the new bathroom in the third kindergarten class. She told the Board that as of today there are 359 students registered. She told the Board they had worked on revisions to their handbooks as well and explained. She handed out the student/parent handbook. Questions were asked and answered.

5. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – June 23 2010 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 23, 2010, Special Meeting.

June 24 2010 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2010, special meeting.

c. Correspondence – Dr. Robert told the Board he asked the Board of Finance if the money returned could be set aside for flashing, etc. and he explained the return email he received from Mr. Donahue. He had further comment. There were questions asked and answered. He read a letter from Marien and Company regarding their free classes to clients.

d. Personnel – i. Hiring Report – Dr. Pukas asked to combine her report with this one. She reviewed the new hires and added the art teacher at the elementary school to the list. She commended the administration and the people that gave of their time for interviews over the summer. She said this has been a prolific paper chase and gave the example of social studies with 157 applicants. Dr. Pukas told the Board that we have not advertised in the newspaper at all; the CTREAP site and the CAS-CIAC web sites have been used. She said she had packets for the Board on the three candidates for the Associate Principal. There was discussion regarding an interview date. Dr. Pukas explained the need for this to be done soon. Interviews will be held on Monday, the 16th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Robert thanked the teachers, administrators, office staff, etc. for all of their efforts.

6. Reports - a. Superintendent – Covered above.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairs – Mr. Testa said the Finance Committee will meet soon to talk about next year's budget. There was discussion about other meetings.

d. PSPBC Liaison – None.

e. Committee Action List – None.

7. Financial – None.

8. Old Business – None.

9. New Business – a. Appointment of Board of Education Member – Dr. Robert explained how the vote will work and said it needed to pass with four in favor. There was a question of Mrs. Banker's seat and Dr. Robert said there can be no action on her seat tonight and he explained. There was comment that she was the most valuable member of the Board. Dr. Robert said nominations are needed from the Board for these candidates; he explained there did not have to be a second to a nomination. Mr. Testa nominated Mr. Scarchili to fill the vacancy of Mr. Secchiaroli and Mr. Hundt seconded the nomination. Mrs. Ricker nominated Mr. Mathwich to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Secchiaroli. Dr. Robert nominated Kevin Ames for the Board of Education. Mrs. Ricker commented on Mr. Mathwich and elaborated. Mr. Testa commented on Mr. Scarchilli and he elaborated. Mr. Hundt commented on Mr. Scarchilli and elaborated. Mr. McCord had comment on Mr. Mathwich and Mr. Scarchilli and elaborated. Dr. Robert clarified a couple of items said at previous meetings. He commented on the candidates. There were further comments and questions. On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted

unanimously to move the question. Dr. Robert said they could do this by voice, by hand or paper ballot. He explained each one. On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously for show-of-hands. Dr. Robert asked for those in favor of Mr. Mathwich. Mrs. Ricker, Dr. Robert, and Mr. McCord were in favor of Mr. Mathwich filling the vacancy on the Board of Education. Dr. Robert asked for those in favor of Mr. Scarchili filling the vacancy on the Board of Education. Mr. Testa and Mr. Hundt were in favor of Mr. Scarchili filling the vacancy on the Board of Education. Mrs. Dame abstained from each vote. Dr. Robert talked to each of the candidates. Dr. Pukas asked Dr. Robert to talk to Mr. Mullane and she would follow up with a letter.

b. M&J Bus Inc. Coordinator – Covered above.

c. Aramark Food Service Contract Renewal – Covered above.

10. Calendar – Committee meetings were discussed. There was discussion of Monday the 23rd because they are meeting for negotiations. The Policy and Athletics Committees will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday the 23rd. The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday September 8th at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Pukas said interviews probably won't start until a little after 6:00 p.m. and explained. There was further comment.

11. Public Comment – None.

12. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education