

Board of Education Minutes
August 19, 2015

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Buzzee, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Community Relations – The North Stonington Education Foundation meeting will be held on the third Thursday of September. October 23rd is the Foundation dinner dance. The road race will be held on May 28th. Mr. Carlson had comment on Give Back Thursdays at Jonathan Edwards Winery.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mr. Chaney said summer school was a huge success. He commended Mrs. Wilkison and her staff. A new math teacher, David Grande, was hired and he elaborated. Today they worked with the guidance department on SRBI to overhaul the program. A new girls' soccer coach, Brent Bell, was hired. Meet the Coaches is tonight. Mrs. St. Germain thanked Mr. Boucher and his entire staff for their hard work this summer. She said the ECC has scheduled three non-athletic events. On September 30th, each school will be sending their class presidents to a function and she elaborated. She explained a couple of the other activities planned. A Coffee House will be sponsored as well as a regional debate which will be held at Wheeler. A musical art show will be developed to travel to each school. A lot of time was spent with the ECC this summer. Questions were asked and answered. Someone will be hired to oversee the ECC athletic program. She had further comment. Farm and Garden is moving into Phase II with the chicken coop. She elaborated. Mrs. St. Germain mentioned to the Board about the air fare for the Florida trip. She was asking for permission for the club to leave on Thursday if they could get a better fare. She elaborated. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted four in favor and one opposed to allow the Senior Travel Club to leave on a Thursday if the price can be contained to the quote. Mrs. Buzzee opposed the motion. Mrs. Costa said Mrs. Velda Hess is retiring Friday after almost 30 years with the District. Six new paraprofessionals have been hired. The preschool play group will be held tomorrow. She reviewed the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report and said we did very well. She reviewed the hiring of paraprofessionals. Mrs. Wilkison thanked everyone who has been working so hard this summer and mentioned Mrs. Kelly Gonzalez, Mr. Jim Palmer, Mr. Herb Young, Mr. Greg Carlson, Mr. Greg Pont, and Mr. Andrew Hopkins. She said the school looks great. She reviewed the reading data. 82% are at/above goal in reading, 36 were proficient, and 25 were below out of 356 students. New Family Orientation was held yesterday

and she elaborated. Kindergarten Orientation was held. A new fifth grade teacher, Rebecca Stegeman, was hired. She reviewed the process and gave Miss Stegeman's background. Open House is Thursday, September 10th. She spoke of the garden. Open house for middle/high school is September 3rd.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – June 24, 2015 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2015, meeting. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

June 25, 2015 Tri-Board Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2015, Tri-Board meeting.

b. Correspondence - Mr. Nero read a letter from the State regarding the Administrative Review of the National School Lunch Program corrective actions that were accepted. Mr. Nero spoke of the new regulations from the USDA regarding bidding for the food service program. It will now be strictly the lowest bidder only. He elaborated. He spoke of meeting with Stonington to look at the possibility of joining to bid out for food service and he elaborated.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero commented that Mrs. Costa, Mr. Chaney, and Mrs. Wilkison already spoke of their new personnel. He elaborated.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero spoke of Mr. Coats retiring on September 4th and he elaborated. There was comment. Mr. Nero commented on the summer work. He said the work has been spectacular. He elaborated on the job they have done this summer. A lot of asset protection was done this summer. Our parking lot was sealed. Some parking lot work was done at the elementary school. New carpet tiles are in the foyer of the elementary school. The elementary school stage floor was totally redone. Three classrooms on the second floor had their air conditioners replaced. The elementary art room has a double sink with a clay trap being put in. He spoke of the refinished gym floor. A company is cleaning the ductwork in the gym. Some work in the cafeteria was done and two classrooms in the middle/high school were repainted. The central office locks were re-keyed. The parent and staff letters were given to the Board. He thanked Mr. Pont and Mr. Boucher for all their work during the security installations. He thanked Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. Allen for their work. He thanked the company, ESC, for all their work and he elaborated. He re-wrote the technology grant and he elaborated. Mr. Nero spoke of the blue poles.

b. BOE Chairperson – A policy meeting needs to be held. He elaborated. Mr. Carlson said the election of a vice chairperson will be put on September 9th's agenda. He spoke of the elections and our current members secured nominations. He explained Mrs. McCarthy will be putting together an attendance summary for him for next meeting. He elaborated.

c. Committee Chairperson – Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later.

- d. LEARN Board of Directors – None.
 - e. PSPBC Liaison – None.
9. Finance – a. June 2015 Financial Statements – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Buzzee to approve the financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2015. There was comment. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Year-end Closeout – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the end-of-year transfers for the 2014-2015 school year.
 - c. July 2015 Financial Statements – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Buzzee to approve the July 2015 financial statements. There was comment. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Old Business – a. Tri-Board Update – Mr. Carlson said the Tri-Board meeting is on Thursday. A working group meeting will be held. He had comment on the working group. An Ad Hoc Building Committee was developed. He read the names. The Tri-Board had a booth at the fair with a great location. Some people filled out a questionnaire and he elaborated. People answered questions that were asked at the booth. He thanked Mrs. Buzzee for all her hours spent there. He said the science lap video was put on a play loop. He wished there were more participation from people at the fair. There was comment.
11. New Business – a. Administration Attending Board of Education Meetings – Mr. Nero had comment. He had questioned them as to why they came to each meeting. Mr. Nero elaborated. The administrators suggested that they all attend the first meeting to give their reports. They would rotate so a member would be present at the other meetings. There was comment and discussion.
12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – August 27th is the Tri-Board meeting, September 3rd is middle/high school open house, September 9th is a regular meeting, and September 10th is the elementary school open house. August 26th is the first day of school.
- b. Committee Action List – None.
13. Public Comment – None.
14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mrs. Buzzee, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. for the purpose of Personnel Issue.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:27 p.m.

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