

Board of Education Minutes
Special Meeting
August 24, 2011

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Hundt, and Mr. Testa. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Dr. Robert called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

2. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Salary of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. and to invite Mrs. Alice Peduzzi into the session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

3. Possible Action Concerning Salary of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member – No action was taken.

4. Community Relations – Dr. Pukas explained the article in the packet regarding Stonington not wanting to take our students.

5. Presentations - a. Board Article Discussion – Dr. Pukas asked to delay this to a meeting when Mrs. Dame is in attendance.

6. Administrators Reports – Mr. Sandford spoke of the hiring that had taken place and he explained. He said all three positions have been filled. He explained the letter from CAS regarding Ashley Iorio being appointed to the State Student Advisory Council on Education and he elaborated. He spoke of the billboard that PHIT had created and spoke of where it is placed. Mr. Sandford told the Board that at the end of the year he had approached two teachers to do a presentation for NEASC and our school was selected to do the presentation on the senior project on October 12th. He reviewed some of the changes that have taken place in the school over the summer. Mr. Apicelli spoke of the Advisory Program that is being started this year; it is a NEASC requirement but it will be a positive thing for the school. He explained how it will work. A presentation for the Board will be held at a later date. Mrs. Wilkison explained the staff changes and new hires at the elementary school. She said 44 students attended summer school Pre-K to 5 plus one middle school student. There are 374 students enrolled as of right now with a number of registrations pending. New Family Orientation was held and kindergarten activities were held over the summer. Mrs. Wilkison said she was grateful to Kelly Gonzalez, Jim Palmer, Greg Pont, and the other people helping to get the school ready. Mrs. Wilkison said Sharon Thompson was named the outstanding reading teacher of the year in Connecticut and she elaborated. Mrs. Costa told of the additional preschool class and explained that there is no one on the waiting list. There are 45 students between the morning and the afternoon classes. She thanked the PSPBC for getting the bathroom ready for the new class. Mrs. Costa explained about the

reading position that had been filled and then the person took a position in Rhode Island. She elaborated. There was discussion.

7. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- June 23, 2011 Workshop – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 23, 2011 workshop. Dates were discussed for Dr. Townsley's presentation.

June 23, 2011 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to accept the June 23, 2011 minutes as amended.

August 10, 2011 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2011 Special Meeting. Mrs. Banker abstained.

b. Correspondence – nothing other than what was in the packet.

c. Personnel – Dr. Pukas reminded the board that at the meeting in June she was asked to keep hiring under Step 7 Masters if possible. She read the list of new teachers and their salary steps. Dr. Robert had comment. Dr. Pukas thanked the administrators and their committees for all their hard work to fill these positions. There was discussion.

8. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas told of the New Teacher Orientation. She is very excited about the new staff coming in. She had further comment on the school activities that have occurred. She commended Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Pont for the work done this summer to get things done. Dr. Robert also thanked the staff for the hard work that each person has done.

b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert spoke of Dr. Townsley's presentation on September 27th at 6:00 p.m.

c. Committee Chairs – Two committees met this evening and action will be taken later.

d. PSPBC Liaison – None.

9. Financial - a. July 2011 Financial Statement – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial statement ending July 31, 2011 for total accounts payable of \$138,661.30, payroll of \$149,101.92, for a subtotal of \$287,763.22, grant expenditures of \$7,755.20 for July 2011 total expenditures of \$295,518.42.

10. Old Business - None

11. New Business - a. Required Policy Changes – Mrs. Banker said the Committee decided to accept the changes as proposed. On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to

accept the policy changes as proposed. Dr. Pukas stated for the minutes that this Board has decided to delete existing policies 4112.2, 4112.5, 4112.8, 4122, 4131, 5131.9, 5131.913, and 5141.4 and replace each of these old policies with revisions of each policy listed.

12. Calendar – Dr. Robert asked Board members to check their email to look for a letter confirming Dr. Townsley’s presentation date. Mrs. Banker said she has been serving as a liaison for PHIT and the NSEF and each of those has requested that there still be a Board member liaison after elections. There was discussion on other topics. There were questions.

13. Public Comment – Mr. Mathwich asked about the Board approving the architect for the facilities study. There was comment.

The Board took a recess to Discuss Collective Bargaining Strategy at 8:51 p.m.

The Board returned to session at 9:54 p.m.

14. Adjournment – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education

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