

Board of Education Minutes
August 27, 2014

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 27, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner (via telephone) and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Vice Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.

The order of the agenda will be shifted to action items first. The order was reviewed.

4. Old Business - Maintenance Van – Mr. Nero explained the history. He talked about the vans being looked at. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to give the Superintendent permission to write to the Board of Selectmen requesting that a van be purchased with a cost not to exceed \$19,900.

5. New Business - Revision of 2014-2015 School Calendar – Mr. Nero explained the need for two early dismissal days. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to make October 9th and October 10th shortened days to allow for staff development. Mr. Nero stated that the elementary school students will have a full day of school during high school exams in January.

6. Finance – a. June 2014 Financial Statements - On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to approve the June 2014 financial statements.

b. 2013-14 Year-End Closeout – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to approve the year-end transfers for 2013-2014.

c. July 2014 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to approve the July 2014 financial statements.

Mrs. Wagner was no longer taking part in the meeting at 7:25 p.m. and it became a non-meeting.

7. Community Relations – Mr. Nero explained he is on the North Stonington Education Foundation and they met last Thursday. He elaborated. The dinner dance is on October 24th at the Stonington Country Club, the Trivia Contest is on February 6th at the Pawcatuck VFW, and on May 23rd the road race will be held. Mr. Nero elaborated.

8. Presentations – None.

9. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Costa said the pre-school play date was held and she elaborated. She said it was the best start to school ever. Mrs. Costa said we received word from the state on the benchmarks that we have to meet and we did very well. She reviewed the items. Mr. Nero congratulated her and her staff. Mrs. Wilkison said it was an amazing opening of school today. She thanked the people that worked over the summer to get the buildings ready including Kelly Gonzalez, Guy Boucher and his crew, especially Jim Palmer and Larry Murphy, and Greg Pont and Jim Russell for their technology work. 380 students are registered and there are still some out there to register. At the end of the year she reported on the progress of students in math and now Mrs. Wilkison reported that 81% of the students were above or at goal in reading. She explained. She reviewed items in the school that have been introduced. One-third of the teachers were evaluated with the SEED plan and she elaborated. Kindergarteners are going through screenings and will start their first day of school on Friday. Open house is Thursday, September 11th. Mr. Nero commented on the teacher evaluation plan and said we are going to follow the flexibility plan from the state which is the same thing that the committee came up with. He had further comment. At the next meeting the Board will approve the revised plan. There was discussion. Mr. Chaney said assemblies were held for the middle and high schools. There was a lot of positive feedback from teachers. The cafeteria was painted this summer and he elaborated. NEASC was discussed with the students. Last week was freshman orientation. Fall sports are underway. Mr. Chaney said the Plainfield girls challenged our girls to the ALS ice bucket challenge and he elaborated. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of NEASC. September 28th is the community gathering. Students have been selected to participate. A tentative visiting team has been set; sixteen people with seven confirmed. Mrs. St. Germain said they are in great shape for the visit. She elaborated. An update was sent to NEASC as requested. The guidance office was reconfigured so the two counselors are working with each level. A letter will be going to out junior parents about events for their students. They are going to start a garden/farm club and she elaborated. There will be one at the elementary level as well. There was further discussion.

10. Administrative – a. Minutes – None

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said all staff has been hired. He reviewed the positions that have been filled. Questions were asked and answered.

11. Reports – a. Superintendent – He said the elementary school parking lot has been sealed and the generator was installed today for the server room. Mr. Nero spoke of the trainer. A meeting will be held on Friday with the company. He had further comment.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairperson – Mr. Mathwich said the policies were not reviewed because there was not a quorum. It will be done at the next meeting.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Mathwich said he did not attend the last meeting. He spoke of the amount in their budget.

Mr. Nero said the safety and security grant is almost finished. He elaborated. Questions were asked and answered.

12. Old Business – b. School Building Project Update – Mr. Nero sent out the draft agenda for the joint meeting. It will be held on September 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Shaw Media Center. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero spoke of environmental issues that were raised. He said we passed all of our inspections. He elaborated. He had further comment. Further questions were asked and answered.

13. New Business – a. Board of Education Policies – Not covered.

14. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – September 9th will be a joint meeting and September 10th and September 24th will be regular meetings.

b. Committee Action List - none

15. Public Comment – Mr. Urgo spoke of the security grant and had questions. He had further questions about the elementary school. A citizen had a question on the new timeline for another project. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment. Mr. Urgo asked if we had any tuition students and he was told yes. He suggested that Mr. Nero continue giving tours of the buildings and he elaborated.

16. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Strategy for Collective Bargaining – Not held due to lack of a quorum.

The non-meeting ended at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education