

Board of Education Minutes  
December 16, 2015  
Special Meeting

**DRAFT**

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. McCord, and Mrs. Buzzee. Also present was Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 trivia contest will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> instead of the 19<sup>th</sup>.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain spoke of the happenings at the high school/middle school including the installation of a hydroponics system in the greenhouse, staff members attending conferences this past month, their curriculum initiative, the NEASC conference that she and Mr. Chaney attended, the National Honor Society service projects that are underway, survey results, and the play is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Mr. Chaney spoke of the blog that he started and that he will be attending an SAT workshop. There was comment. Mrs. Wilkison spoke of happenings at the elementary school including report cards being sent home, 98% of the parents attended the parent-teacher conferences, the band and chorus concerts were held, the fifth grade student council held a toy and clothing drive and she thanked Andrea Bessette and Linda Costanza. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the PBIS celebration will be held and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the annual holiday sing-a-long will be held at 9:30 a.m.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – November 14, 2015 – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2015, special meeting. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

November 18, 2015 – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting. There was comment. Mrs. Buzzee commented that she would be on just the Facilities and Finance Committee. The motion passed with five voting in favor and one abstention. Mrs. Wagner abstained.

November 23, 2015 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the November 23, 2015, Tri-Board meeting.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said he had received a letter from Mr. Mancini of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe that was delivered by Mrs. Jean Swift, parent of former students, stating that their Board voted to allow North Stonington Public Schools’ students free admittance to the Pequot Museum. Board members had comment.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said our band and chorus teachers, Mike Noonan, Carolyn Bennett, and Zach Thomas deserve a lot praise. He elaborated and said the concerts were wonderful. There was comment. Mr. Nero told the Board he went to Hartford with Mr. Uργο (Ad Hoc Committee Chairman) and Mr. Malik (architect) to meet with State Department of Education personnel regarding the building project. They met with members of the school construction grants department. He elaborated and said they do not typically meet with school personnel. Mr. Nero went to the NEASC conference. He spoke of the article in the paper regarding “No Child Left Behind.” He had comment. He felt NEASC took a hit with that and he elaborated. Mr. Nero had comment on the conference. He had a meeting yesterday with the Stonington and Groton superintendents. They spoke of ways they could collaborate and adult education was one of the items discussed.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson attended the CABA/CAPSS conference with Mr. Nero. He spoke of the workshops they attended. He said it was a very worthwhile day. He said the Tri-Board is meeting tomorrow and urged everyone to attend.

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

d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – Mrs. Wagner was not able to attend the latest meeting.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Lord (Permanent School Planning and Building Committee) will be attending the Ad Hoc Building Committee meetings. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Mathwich had comment. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero commended Mr. Lord. There was comment on the generator.

f. Ad Hoc Committee – Mr. Mathwich attended the Ad Hoc Committee meeting. He said they went through prep work for the Tri-Board meeting tomorrow. There was comment.

9. Finance – a. November 2015 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the financial statements for the period ending November 30, 2105.

b. Transfer Requests – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to accept the transfer request as stated in the memo of December 10, 2015.

c. Equipment Purchase Request – Mr. Nero told the Board that Mrs. Allen had met with Mr. Bruce, our groundskeeper. He read a memo from Mrs. Allen regarding the purchase of an aerator. There was explanation.

Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the purchase of the aerator for \$2,400.00. Mr. Carlson had comment. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. Discussion of Proposed Building Project – Mr. Carlson said at the last Tri-Board meeting it was asked of each board to go back and have a discussion about the building project. Mr. Nero said the state has changed the particulars for a “renovate as new” project. He elaborated. The state recommended an “Alterations and Additions” project. The reimbursement rate would be better. He said it will be discussed at the Tri-Board meeting. Mr. Mathwich commented on the hazardous materials’ report and what they are looking for. Mrs. Wagner had comment on the Board of Finance’s decision. Mr. Mathwich had comment and felt it was based on the cost. There was discussion. Mr. Nero said he was disheartened that the Board of Finance went out on their own with a vote. He elaborated. He said he had mentioned a while ago that the longer you wait, it will never get cheaper. He had further comment. He said the reason we had the Tri-Board was so everything would be in the open. Board members had further comment. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was discussion. Mr. Nero told the Board about the meeting with the President of the Board of Directors of Wheeler Library. There was further discussion.

b. Tri-Board Meeting Update – The meeting is tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School media center.

11. New Business – None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next meeting is January 6<sup>th</sup>.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Personnel Benefits – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. for the Purpose of Personnel Benefits and to invite Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

15. Possible Action on Personnel Benefits – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to grant the nurses and nurse aid four paid holidays. Mrs. Buzzee abstained.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

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