

Board of Education Minutes
December 17, 2014
Special Meeting

DRAFT

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner (7:05 p.m.), Dr. Robert (7:02 p.m.), and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 – None.
5. Presentations – a. Update on Grub Infestation – Mr. Wayne Coats, Groundskeeper, gave the Board an update as to what has been done so far to remediate the grubs. Raking, aerating, over-seeding and hydro-seeding were done. Wildlife is still digging in the ground because the weather has not been cold enough for the grubs to recede underground. Mr. Nero had comment about conversations he has had with various people regarding this situation. He had further comment. Board members had comment. There was further comment.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison spoke of happenings at the elementary school including report cards being sent home on December 3rd, 98% of parents attended parent/teacher conferences, the band and chorus concerts were held, and high school students participated in give-back day by reading to students. She thanked Mrs. Linda Costanza and the staff members for very generous donations to our families. She also thanked Sal Costanza. On December 22nd the second PBIS celebration will be held and December 23rd will be the sing-a-long. Mr. Chaney spoke of happenings at the high/middle school including giveback day, the winter concerts were a success, in both newsletters social media is emphasized, the Declamation Club held an event, a critique day in art was held, and the Farm and Garden Club held a wreath-making workshop. Mrs. St. Germain said the entire giveback day is planned by students and staff and she explained some of the programs that they raised money for. She elaborated. She spoke of the NEASC conference being more focused on high school this year, the Farm and Garden Club is taking off quickly, and there is a community effort to get the greenhouse back up and running. She had further comment. Mrs. St. Germain also spoke of the cancelled field trip to New York, mid-terms, lunches have been offered on half-days on a trial basis and it has been very successful, the Glencoe Math program was selected by the staff, and the SRBI block has been aligned to become a true intervention period. She had further comment. Questions were asked and answered.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – November 12, 2014 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the November 12, 2014, meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel - None

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero attended the NEASC conference and he elaborated. He spoke to Janet Allison and he had further comment. He spoke of the greenhouse and told the Board that Mr. Mullane is funding the heating system. The tunnel had a short in the electrical wires and the drain on the Gymnasium side has a break in it. He explained. Mr. Boucher, Maintenance Supervisor, spoke to Mr. Holliday who is going to see if it's a job that the Town can do. He had further comment. He attended all the concerts and gave kudos to all the music teachers. Mr. Nero told the Board the consortium has gone out to bid on healthcare and the bids will be opened in January. He asked to delay the budget presentations until the first meeting in February. He had further comment. Mr. Nero spoke of one of the museums that the students were visiting. He explained the deposit situation with The Tenement Museum. Mr. Nero said there are still a lot of policies to be reviewed. He asked about doing a Saturday morning meeting. There was discussion. On Tuesday, January 20th, a meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. to do just policies. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero said that a meeting will be held on Monday with the mediator before a tri-board meeting is set. He elaborated. There was discussion. Mr. Nero spoke of the audit.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. McCord spoke of the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program. He elaborated. He spoke of the visit to Norwich Tech, Three Rivers Community College, and the Three Rivers Middle College Magnet High School. He elaborated and had further comment. There was comment.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Student Success Committee did not have a quorum but action will be taken later in the agenda. Mr. Carlson said the Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. McCord spoke of the updated list and there was discussion. Mr. Mathwich had comment about putting some of the items on that list into our budget. There was further comment.

9. Finance – a. November 2014 Financial Statements – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to accept the financial statements for November 2014. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. Activity Accounts Closeout – Mrs. Allen reviewed the Board policy regarding the activity account. She explained. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to move forward with the legal ad and the procedure to close out those accounts.

b. Volunteer Policy – Mr. Nero said when the policy was passed a moratorium should probably have been placed on the policy until February 1st and he elaborated. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr.

Mathwich to approve the moratorium on the volunteer policy. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

11. New Business – a. 2013-14 Audit Report – Mrs. Allen reviewed the audit report. She explained the item that should have been back-charged to the previous year but was not. She reviewed what the auditor had concentrated on and she elaborated. She reviewed some of the procedures that have been put in place. She spoke of how the grants are received and accounted for so they correlate to the town. None of the accounts were adjusted. Mr. Nero had comment.

b. Policy Revisions – Mr. Mathwich reviewed policy 1700, Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property. There was discussion. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to accept revised policy 1700.

Mr. Mathwich reviewed policy 5121, Examination/Grading/Rating. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to accept revised policy 5121.

Mr. Mathwich reviewed policy 6146.2, Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examination. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept revised policy 6146.2.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – Discussed above.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Negotiations Strategy – No Executive Session was needed.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education