

Board of Education Minutes
December 8, 2010

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa, and Mrs. Dame. Absent were Mr. Scarchilli and Mr. McCord. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli.

Music was provided by Mrs. Carolyn Bennett and members of the high school chorus.

Dr. Robert called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Community Relations – Additional articles were put at the Board’s places.
3. Presentations – a. Selections by the Wheeler High School Chorus – Covered above.
4. Administrators’ Reports – Mr. Sandford spoke of happenings at the middle/high school including middle school sports starting, progress reports being mailed, the parental portal opening in January which will save having to mail progress reports, and a workshop for parents on January 31st on Powerschool. Mr. Sandford noted that a progress report will be sent home if a parent requests it. Mr. Sandford told the Board the high school concert was tomorrow, the middle school concert went well, the exam schedule was finalized around Martin Luther King Day, the Geography Bee was going on now with the final round on December 21st. He told the Board they had offered Griswold crisis services if they needed them. He said Mrs. Costanza was working with some of our own families who are dealing with the tragedy in Griswold. Mrs. Wilkison told of happenings at the elementary school including the Cultural Program held on December 1st thanks to the PTO, Parent-Teacher Conferences were on December 2nd and 3rd with 92% of parents participating, on Staff Development Day, teachers were working on the literacy program and the Blue Ribbon Assessment Program, the fifth grade band and chorus concert is on the 19th, and on the 22nd, a celebration for all students demonstrating appropriate behavior will be held.
5. Administrative – a. Approval of Minutes – November 10, 2010 – Mrs. Dame made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Testa to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2010 meeting. Item 7b and Item 12 were amended. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas mentioned the Town Meeting has the boilers on the agenda and the meeting is scheduled for December 15th.
 - c. Personnel – None.
6. Reports – a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas told the Board that the Connecticut State Department of Education Commissioner is visiting North Stonington on January 13th. She said this was the second visit by a Commissioner

in the past 11 years. She said Wheeler was selected to do a presentation statewide at CAS on January 10th concerning the Capstone Project. The PTO treasurer's report was at their places. Dr. Pukas said the PTO has \$21,139.77 available for projects. She reminded them that another \$10,000 was earmarked for the concession stand. Dr. Pukas said the President of the PTO was unable to attend tonight because of classes she is taking. She said the dialogue has been good but needs to continue.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairs – None.

d. Committee Action List – None.

7. Finance – a. November 2010 Financial Statements – Tabled.

b. Request for Transfers – Tabled.

8. Old Business – a. Coverage of BOE Meetings on Public Access Television – Tabled.

b. PSPBC List – Dr. Pukas said the list was forwarded to the PSPBC; it is not prioritized.

c. Report of Board of Education Goal(s) – Dr. Pukas, Mrs. Banker and Mrs. Ricker worked on the goals. Dr. Pukas handed out the draft goal to the Board. The goal passed out aligns with the district goal of data-driven decision making. Mrs. Ricker had comment.

9. New Business – a. Request from Selectmen – Dr. Pukas gave background information. There was discussion including asking other schools if they even want to do this before a feasibility is undertaken. Comment was made that this was done without talking to any parents many of which moved to North Stonington for the schools. There was further comment including running out of time, needing to make decisions based upon what the Board is faced with, and needing a feasibility study by an outside group. Dr. Robert felt the Board should vote that the letter not be sent to the towns and a feasibility study should go forward. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously not to approve the letter but to request the original feasibility study be reaffirmed and to get on the Selectmen's agenda to clarify the intent and timeliness of the study.

b. Board of Education Policy 9132 – Dr. Pukas said this policy needed to be updated. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to rescind Policy 9132. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept revised Policy 9132.

c. Board of Education Policy 1110.2 – Dr. Pukas explained this was a new policy. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to approve Policy 1110.2.

d. Ratification of Bargaining Agreement between the North Stonington Board of Education and the North Stonington Education Association – Dr. Pukas handed out the contract to the Board and said the contract has been accepted by NSEA. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to add Item 12a(1), Discussion of Ratification of Bargaining Agreement and to set a 10 minute time limit for discussion. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to move Item 9d to Item 14.

10. Calendar – The Finance Committee will meet on December 15th at 6:00.

11. Public Comment – Mr. Odgen Carroll commented on the rumors going around that North Stonington is looking to shut down the school and said parents need to have these rumors addressed.

12. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Discussion of Collective Bargaining Negotiations/Strategies, b. Student Insurance Issue, c. Salary/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Employees – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:13 p.m. for Discussion of Collective Bargaining Negotiations/Strategies, Discussion of Ratification of Bargaining Agreement, Student Insurance Issue, and Salary/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Employees and to invite Mr. Frank Connolly and Mr. McCarthy into the session for Discussion of Collective Bargaining Negotiations/Strategies.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. The Board moved to Item 14.

14. Ratification of Bargaining Agreement between the North Stonington Board of Education and the North Stonington Education Association – Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to ratify the bargaining agreement between the North Stonington Board of Education and the North Stonington Education Association. Mr. Testa commended the teachers for giving up raises for this year. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to return to Executive Session for Student Insurance Issue.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:21 p.m. The Board moved to item 13.

13. Possible Action on Student Insurance Issue – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to reimburse the parent up to the sum of \$4037.42.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck McCarthy, Secretary Pro-Tem