

Board of Education Minutes
February 11, 2009

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa, Mr. Briscoe, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Keane, and Mr. Secchiaroli. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi, Mr. Sandford, Mr. Devine, Mr. Boucher, and Mr. Coats. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

2. Public Comment/Request to Comment on Agenda Item – None.
3. Community Relations – None.
4. Presentations – a. Washington, D. C. Trip – Mr. Susi explained the program started by Shannon Saglio called “Encountering Survivors” which pairs students with Holocaust Survivors. He explained the proposed trip. He elaborated. There were questions asked and answered regarding the time line of planning. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Testa to approve the trip to Washington, D.C. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Administrators Reports – None.
6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – January 14, 2009 – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Keane to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2009, meeting as amended. Mrs. Banker said she was satisfied with the changes. The motion passed unanimously.

February 4, 2009 Joint Meeting – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted seven in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2009, Joint Meeting. Mr. Secchiaroli abstained

February 4, 2009, Special Meeting – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2009, Special Meeting. There was clarification. The motion to accept the minutes as amended passed with seven voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Secchiaroli abstained.

- b. Correspondence –None
- c. Personnel – None
7. Reports - a. Superintendent – None
- b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert spoke of the FOI Workshop that was held last night. He reviewed the budget workshop scheduled given by the Board of Finance.

c. Committee Chairs – Mr. Briscoe explained the items at their places. Mrs. Ricker said they received the results of the survey and elaborated.

d. PSPBC Liaison – None.

e. Committee Action List – Meetings are to be scheduled.

8. Financial – a. January 2009 Financial Statements – Mr. Secchiaroli made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve expenditures of \$1,223,844.15, grant expenditures of \$45,460.14, for a total of \$1,269,304.29 for the month of January 2009. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. Keane, the Board voted unanimously to move Item 11, Calendar, to Item 8b.

b. Calendar – March 18th is the budget presentation to the Board of Finance with budget copies due to them by March 16th, April 1st is a follow-up meeting, and March 4th the Personnel Committee or members of the Board of Education will try to meet with the secretaries union to negotiate a contract. They will try for 3:30 p.m. meeting. March 4th the Superintendent's Evaluation will be done at 6:00 p.m. at a Special Meeting, February 25th at 6:00 p.m., there will be a special meeting to discuss non-bargaining unit personnel, the Policy and Finance Committees will meet on March 11th at 6:00 p.m. and the Policy and Curriculum Committees will meet on March 11th at 5:00 p.m.

9. Old Business – None.

10. New Business – a. 2009-2010 Proposed Education Budget – Mrs. Costa gave the Special Services budget presentation. She explained this budget was built on the needs of the current students. She reviewed her budget. There were questions asked and answered.

Mr. Susi thanked Dr. Pukas and Mr. McCarthy for guiding them through the process. Mr. Susi explained the middle/high school process and reviewed the budget and answered questions. There was clarification of the reading teacher versus the per diem substitute. There were questions asked and answered. Mr. Susi elaborated on the budget. There was further comment.

The Board took a short recess and came back in session at 9:19 p.m.

Mr. Devine explained the technology budget had two sections and elaborated. He explained the revamping of the capital plan because he wanted to get on a regular replacement of equipment schedule. He reviewed his budget. There were questions asked and answered. He reviewed his capital plan. Further questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Boucher gave an overview of the building and grounds budget and explained the different categories. There were questions asked and answered.

Mr. Coats reviewed the groundskeeper's budget and mentioned some items that were not included in the budget and gave estimated figures. There was discussion of pesticide application and cost of organic materials and their effectiveness. There was discussion of mowing the lawns. There were questions asked and answered.

11. Calendar – Dr. Robert reviewed the calendar.

12. Public Comment – None.

13. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mr. Keane, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education