

Board of Education Minutes  
February 11, 2015

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner, Dr. Robert, Mrs. Buzzee, 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 7:14 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 – Mr. Nero said The North Stonington Education Foundation held their trivia contest on February 6<sup>th</sup> and it was well-attended. The road race will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and he elaborated.
5. Presentations – The Security Grant Update will be presented at the next meeting.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mr. Chaney handed out newsletters. He reviewed items in the newsletter including the testing window. He said they are working on the schedule now. He reviewed the ski trip, the long-term English substitute and student teacher, scholarship information, the Quest for Respect assembly and thanked the PTO for helping to fund it, the middle school renaissance program, the new math program, and the Middle Ground Book Club. He elaborated. Mrs. St. Germain gave an update on the ECC. She said the principals met for about 6 hours. An agreement was made to keep it as it is with some changes; one of them being hiring a commissioner to oversee it. She explained and elaborated. There will be no opt-outs. She said it was a great meeting and elaborated. The biggest change is a three-person committee, one person from each of the different size districts. She explained. It will start with next winter's season. Mrs. St. Germain said Mrs. Turner represented Wheeler well and she elaborated. There was discussion. She thanked PHIT for purchasing a Breathalyzer for them. She thanked them for drafting a letter to parents and explained. Questions were asked and answered. She congratulated Kelsey Melinosky, Kevin Knowles, Sean Pulver, and Tim Ketelhut for their achievement awards. Mrs. Wilkison handed out newsletters. She reviewed happenings at the elementary school including the Legends and Lore programs will be presented tomorrow, the annual Jump Rope for Heart will be held on Friday, Family Science Night is on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 p.m., March 2<sup>nd</sup> is professional development and she elaborated, and each year CAS has a volunteer of the year program. Emily Lewis was chosen for the elementary school. Questions were asked and answered.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – January 14, 2015 – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2015, meeting. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

January 28, 2015 – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 28, 2015, meeting.

January 29, 2015 Tri-Board Meeting – Mrs. Buzzee made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2015, Tri-Board meeting. Mr. Carlson had comment. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero spoke of the letter received from the State regarding the food service contract and explained. Mrs. Allen had explanation. There was discussion.

c. Personnel – The new social studies teacher will be starting March 2. He elaborated.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said the hardest job is to call school for snow days. He elaborated. Mr. Nero praised the town crews for the great job they have been doing plowing and clearing the roads and parking lots. He had further comment. He spoke of the technology grant and thanked Mr. Pont. We applied for \$93,093. He elaborated. There was comment.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson said he has spoken to Mr. McCord. He elaborated on his conversation.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee has not met due to snow and other commitments. He elaborated. Mr. Carlson suggested a Saturday meeting to go through all the policies because there is a backlog. Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> will be a meeting devoted to policies. It will be confirmed at February 25<sup>th</sup>'s meeting. There was comment and suggestion.

d. LEARN Board of Directors Liaison – No report.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Nero had comment.

9. Finance – a. December 2014 Financial Statements – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Buzzee to accept the December 2014 Financial Statements. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Transfer Requests – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to accept the transfer requests.

10. Old Business – a. Tri-Board Update – There was comment. Questions were asked and answered.

b. Discussion with Preston – Mr. Carlson said he and Dr. Robert met with Preston's Board of Education Chairperson. They came up with a list that was given to our business manager who has reached out to Preston's

business manager but has not heard back yet. Their chairperson was open to having our Board members give a presentation to become one of their schools of choice. There was further discussion.

11. New Business – a. Policy Revisions – No action taken.

b. Preliminary 2015-2016 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Carlson said this is a document in the works. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. He reviewed how the budget is put together. We are currently .3% above our current budget. He explained how they were able to come up with a budget that low. He had further explanation. He said he cannot give them another zero budget next year. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero asked for questions to be submitted by the week before the next meeting. The budget will be presented on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – February 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a Facilities and Finance Meeting followed by a regular meeting and March 21<sup>st</sup> will be a meeting devoted to policies.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Two Preston citizens had comment. They felt it would be a great idea to be able to come to Wheeler. Mr. Nero had comment. Board members had comment.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Strategy for Collective Bargaining – No executive session needed.

Mr. Nero had comment.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education