

Board of Education Minutes
February 13, 2013

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. Mendolia, and Mr. Karpinski. Absent were Mr. McCord, Mr. Hundt, Dr. Robert, Mr. Mathwich, and Mrs. Dame. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, Mr. Apicelli, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Pont, and Mr. Coats. Since there was not a quorum, Chairman Testa called the workshop to order at 8:20 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Nero led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero spoke of the grant we received. He elaborated and said the ICONS (Informed Citizens of North Stonington) group will be putting together the committee. Mr. Mike Urgo of ICONS spoke of what they hope to accomplish. He elaborated. Mr. Nero had further comment.
5. Presentations – a. VHS (Virtual High School Presentation – Tabled.
b. Inaugural Trip Presentation – Tabled.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mr. Apicelli passed out information. Mrs. Wilkison said Family Science Night was being rescheduled to next Thursday, the 21st. She also spoke of the Half a Million Minute reading challenge. Mrs. Costa explained that Melanie Rainville had done her internship in Newtown and they asked if she would be willing to help with evaluations. Carley Higginbotham will also be helping with this as well. She elaborated.
7. Administrative – a. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the January 9, 2013, January 16, 2013, and January 22, 2013 meetings were tabled.
b. Correspondence – None.
c. Personnel – None.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero thanked Mr. Boucher and his crew and Mr. Pont for their outstanding work during the blizzard. He elaborated. Mr. Nero said three of our students had artwork published in the radon calendar and he elaborated.
b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Testa said there was nothing pressing at this time and apologized for the delay in starting the meeting.
c. Committee Chairperson – None.

- d. PSPBC Liaison – None.
- 9. Finance – a. January 2013 Financial Statement – Tabled.
- b. Transfer Request - Tabled.

The workshop was suspended to go into a work session at 8:40 p.m.

Work Session

- 1. Review of Proposed Maintenance Budget for 2013-14 – Mr. Boucher explained the different parts of his budget and what is incorporated in each section. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Mr. Boucher told the Board that his budget is lean and he elaborated. He had further comment. There were further questions asked and answered. Board members had comment.
- 2. Review of Proposed Grounds Budget for 2013-14 – Mr. Coats reviewed his budget and highlighted some items that may be of concern. He elaborated. There was comment.
- 3. Review of Proposed Technology Budget for 2013-14 – Mr. Pont reviewed his budget and explained the areas of increase. He went over the different areas of his budget and explained what they contain. He told the Board about the donations that were received. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Pont had further comment and answered questions.
- 4. Review of Proposed Central Office Budget for 2013-14 – Mr. McCarthy reviewed each line item in the Central Office budget and explained them. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. McCarthy had further comment. He reviewed the tuition line and went over the enrollment at each of the magnet schools. He spoke of the utilities in response to a question at the last meeting. He elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Transportation and fuel oil were discussed. Further questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.
- 5. Discussion of Policy 3240, Student Tuition Fees – Questions were asked and answered. This was tabled to a later date.

The workshop resumed at 9:43 p.m.

- 10. Old Business – a. Update on Insurance Consortium – There was nothing new to report.
- b. 2013-2014 Proposed Education Budget – No discussion.
- c. Update on Safety and Security Committee – No update.
- 11. New Business – None.
- 12. Calendar – a. Future Meetings – February 20th will be the next meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Mr. Joe Gross had comment regarding the budget presentations. He elaborated. He is concerned about getting this same information out to the Town. He appreciated the Superintendent’s communication with the students. He elaborated. Mr. Nero had comment.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – This was tabled to the next meeting. a. Discussion of Teacher Non-Renewals - b. Discussion of RFP’s for Legal Services - c. Discussion of RFP’s for Boilers.

15. The workshop ended at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education