

Board of Education Minutes
February 17, 2010
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 17, 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 was Cres Secchiaroli. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi, and Mr. Sandford. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

2. Public Comment – Mr. Shawn Murphy commented on item 10a.

On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to move item 4a, Presentations, Class of 2011 Travel Club – Proposed Senior Year Trip, to item 2a.

a. Class of 2011 Travel Club – Proposed Senior Year Trip – Miss Abby Souza, junior class president, explained some details of the proposed trip. Dr. Pukas explained this was according to Policy 6153(a) and had further comment. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Senior Class Travel Club to plan their trip to Florida during April of 2011 according to Policy 6153(a) and (b).

3. Community Relations – Additional articles were at member's places and Dr. Pukas explained.

4. Presentations – a. Class of 2011 Travel Club – Proposed Senior Year Trip – Covered above.

5. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Wilkison explained happenings at the elementary school. She said the PSPBC had been moving to prepare for the addition of the third bathroom in the kindergarten room, February 8th was the 100th day of school, February 9th was the “Artist in Residence” play production, on the 12th was a technology workshop day that they had received grant money for thanks to a grant written by Joan Quinn, Technology Day is upcoming, and CMT's are scheduled for March 1st. Mr. Susi spoke of happenings at the middle/high school including the Renaissance breakfast that was held, faculty PBS training, Zach Brayman and Tom Gavitt, students, presenting to other students in-district and out-of-district on Internet safety, the tile mural is up which was started when the seniors were in middle school, and the CMT's and the CAPT are coming up. Mr. Susi commended Mr. Sandford on the scheduling. Mr. Susi also told the Board that tryouts for the play took place and they are doing Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Mr. Sandford told the Board that Wheeler won the high school survivor contest held by a local radio station and he explained. Mr. Susi told the Board that the report due to NEASC was sent.

6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2010 Tripartite Meeting – On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted three in favor and two abstentions to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2010 Tripartite Meeting as written. Mrs. Banker and Mr. Hundt abstained.

January 27, 2010 Meeting – Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Dame to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2010 meeting. There was discussion. The Board voted three in favor and two abstentions to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2010 meeting as amended. Mrs. Banker and Mr. Hundt abstained.

c. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas explained the memo sent out to SECASA members about the meeting being held on February 27th. She is planning to attend and she explained.

d. Personnel – Dr. Pukas said she had accepted Shane Devine’s resignation and told the Board today was his last day. She elaborated. There was discussion. She asked for some volunteers for a hiring committee and Dr. Robert volunteered. Dr. Robert said it was a devastating loss to the district and elaborated. Dr. Robert said Mr. Devine had done wonderful things for the district and other Board members concurred. There was discussion.

7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas commented on the fifth grade pasta dinner.

b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert commented on the dinner as well.

c. Committee Chairs – i. 2010-2011 Budget Update – Mr. Testa said the Finance Committee had been meeting with the administrators and the Board of Finance liaison. Mr. Testa explained at this point it will be a .5% increase due to the Superintendent’s payout information but that could change. He said it has gone smoothly—the administrators and Mr. McCarthy have put a lot of work into it. He had further comment about items that were included in the budget. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to send the proposed 2010-2011 budget which is about a .5% increase to the full Board for discussion.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Testa told the Board the high school tech. ed. room was tabled until the next meeting due to a concern about some bids. They were waiting for architect plans for the elementary school bathroom project and once that is done work can proceed for April vacation. He said the committee was informed about the concession stand and that it is an ongoing project. There were questions about the amount left in the line item and Mr. Testa explained. He explained the bid packet for the flashing.

e. Committee Action List – None.

8. Financial – None.

9. Old Business – a. Board of Education Workshop – There was discussion of a date for the next workshop. Meeting dates were discussed.

10. New Business – a. Board Member Vacancy – Dr. Robert read a letter from the Democratic Town Committee recommending David McCord to fill the vacancy left with Mr. Hescok’s passing. Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to appoint David McCord to fill the vacancy. There was discussion. The

Board voted unanimously to move the question. The Board voted three in favor and two opposed to appoint David McCord to fill the vacancy. Mr. Testa and Mr. Hundt opposed the motion. Dr. Robert welcomed Mr. McCord to the Board.

b. Teachers' Medical Benefits Committee –Dr. Pukas explained this item and elaborated. There was comment. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to allow the Chairman to appoint a member to the committee.

11. Calendar – Dr. Robert reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule: February 24th at 6:30 p.m. is the Board's workshop, at 6:00 p.m. on the 24th is the Curriculum Committee meeting, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. will be a special meeting for the budget, and March 10th is a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Robert reminded the Board that March 17th is the Board's presentation to the Board of Finance.

12. Public Comment – None.

13. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Discussion Concerning the Employment of the Superintendent (Superintendent's Contract of Employment/Terms) – At 8:27 p.m., Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to adjourn to Executive Session for Discussion Concerning the Employment of the Superintendent - Superintendent's Contract of Employment/Terms. There was discussion. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

14. Possible Action Concerning Superintendent's Contract of Employment/Terms – No action was taken.

At 9:21 p.m., On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education