

Board of Education Minutes
February 20, 2013
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Hundt, Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mathwich. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Chairman Testa called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The students present led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – None.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said he attended the ICONS (Informed Citizens of North Stonington) function Saturday and he will also be attending the grant committee meeting at Hilltop Inn this coming Saturday.
5. Presentations – a. VHS (Virtual High School Presentation) – Mr. Sandford gave some background information on the middle school students participating in the VHS program. Mrs. Ostrout had further explanation. Kendall Lynch, Juliet McGowan, and Andrew Carlson, grade eight students, made the presentation to the Board. The students answered questions. Mr. Sandford had comment. Board members had further questions. The students thanked the Board for their time and support of this program.

b. Inaugural Trip Presentation – Mr. Sandford introduced Mr. Heughins and student Billy Jeckel. Mr. Heughins gave a summary of the things they did on the trip and continued with the presentation. Mr. Heughins and Mr. Jeckel explained highlights of the trip. Mr. Heughins said the students were exceptional and he hopes to plan this trip again. Board members had comment.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison reminded the Board about Family Science Night the following evening.
7. Administrative – a. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2013 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting.

January 16, 2013 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2013 meeting.

January 22, 2013 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2013 meeting. Mr. Testa abstained.

February 6, 2013 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2013 meeting. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

- b. Correspondence – None.
- c. Personnel – None.
- 8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Nothing to report.
 - b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Testa said he had spoken to Mr. Spring about the RISSA account but right now the budget has taken precedence. He said the Board of Finance is open to discussing the school business manager position. Questions were asked about the RISSA account and there was discussion. He said he spoke to the Board of Finance Chair about needing budget guidance and there was discussion.
 - c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee will have items later in the agenda.
 - d. PSPBC Liaison – Dr. Robert reminded the Board he would like the list of items the PSPBC has worked on and is working on. He had explanation.
- 9. Finance – a. January 2013 Financial Statements – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to approve the January 2013 Financial Statements. Dr. Robert had comment. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Transfer Requests – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transfer requests of February 7, 2013.

The meeting was suspended at 7:57 p.m. to go into a Work Session.

Work Session

- 1. Discussion of Policy 3240, Student Tuition Fees – Mr. Sandford had explanation on the suggested revisions. He recommended lowering our tuition rate and he explained his rationale. He said we have room for about 30-40 students and he elaborated. He suggested hiring an advertising firm to market the school. He said many area schools do this. Mr. Nero had comment and explanation. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Sandford had further comment and explanation. There was discussion. Further information will be put together.

The Board returned to the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

- 10. Old Business – a. 2013-14 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero said he has nothing new to report since the last time we met. He said some information was received today regarding the insurance consortium that will be worked on to put into the budget. There was some discussion. Recommendations and suggestions were made to lower the budget. An additional appropriation was suggested. Further suggestions were made as to what to reduce out of the proposed budget. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment and discussion. Mr. Nero had comment on the budget.

b. Update of Safety and Security Committee – Mr. Testa said it has been a challenge getting people together and he elaborated. He has asked different groups to submit to him their concerns and expectations. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment.

11. New Business – None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meetings – February 27th is a regular meeting. March 6th is a possible date for the Tripartite meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:23 p.m. for the Purpose of a. Discussion of Teacher Non-Renewals, b. Discussion of RFP's for Legal Services, and c. Discussion of RFP's for Boilers.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

15. Possible Action Concerning RFP's for Legal Services – No action taken.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education