

Board of Education Minutes
February 25, 2015

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, and Dr. Robert. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, Mr. Chaney, and Mr. Pont. Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Strategy for Collective Bargaining – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. for the Purpose of Strategy for Collective Bargaining and to invite Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:12 p.m.

5. Community Relations – None.
6. Presentations – Security Grant Update – Mr. Greg Pont, Network Administrator, gave an update on the security grant and the equipment to be purchased. Questions were asked and answered. He reviewed the equipment being purchased and how it operates. Mr. Nero had comment. Further questions were asked and answered.
7. Administrators' Reports – None.
8. Administrative – a. Minutes – February 11, 2015 Joint Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted three in favor and two abstentions to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2015, Joint Meeting. Mr. McCord and Mr. Karpinski abstained.

February 11, 2015 Regular Meeting - Mr. Carlson made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Robert to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2015, regular meeting. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Correspondence – At their places is the Paw Print Press, Wheeler's school newspaper, and information on Norwich Adult Education.
- c. Personnel – The new social studies teacher starts on Monday.
9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said we will be getting air quality results in shortly. We are still waiting for news on whether we have to re-bid the food service contract. There was comment. The food service

advisory groups have been meeting regularly. We had an independent audit done on special education. He congratulated Sue Costa on the awesome audit results. Mr. Nero elaborated. He thanked Mrs. Costa. A final report will be released in the next couple of months.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson recapped the meeting with Preston. Mrs. Allen and Preston’s business manager will be meeting this Friday to talk about possible collaboration. Mr. Carlson had further comment. Board members had comment.

c. Committee Chairperson – There was no quorum for the Facilities and Finance Committee meeting. Action will be taken during the meeting.

d. LEARN Board of Directors Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Carlson had spoken to Mr. Lord, of the PSPBC. There was discussion. Mr. Coats, of the PSPBC, had comment. There was further comment.

10. Finance – a. January 2015 Financial Statements – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to accept the January 2015 Financial Statements. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had comment. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Transfer Request – Mr. Carlson had comment on the transfer explaining that Mr. Baker, girls’ varsity basketball coach, was volunteering his time. Mr. McCord thanked those volunteers that go above and beyond. There was comment. On motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the transfer with amended wording to better explain where the transfer is coming from.

11. Old Business – a. Food Service Contract Update - Covered above under Superintendent’s Report.

b. Wheeler High School Tuition – There was discussion. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to lower the tuition rate for the 2015-2016 year to \$11,433 which is \$500.00 lower than what had previously been voted on.

c. Preliminary 2015-2016 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero had opening comments. He said we are already looking at the 2016-17 budget. He had explanation. He spoke of his direction to the administrators. He spoke of our vigilance to reduce costs and find savings. He reviewed a presentation that gave an overview of the budget. He reviewed additions to the budget. Mrs. Wilkison gave a presentation on her budget. She reviewed some of the changes that happened in the current year. She spoke of grants. She continued with costs and breakdowns. Mrs. Wilkison had explanation on the instructional supply increase. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.

Mrs. St. Germain gave an overview of her budget and explained they had to split the middle school from the high school. She reviewed the grants they are utilizing. Mr. Chaney spoke of the personnel costs. He elaborated. He went over the rationale for the request for an additional math specialist/teacher. Mrs. St. Germain reviewed the plan for the proposed math teacher. Mr. Nero had comment. There were questions asked and answered. Mr. Chaney continued with the presentation. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. Questions were asked and answered. Comments were made.

Mrs. Costa gave an overview of the special education budget. She reviewed the various aspects of her budget. She spoke about some of the decreases in her budget. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.

Mr. Pont, Network Administrator, reviewed the components of the technology budget. He went over the changes and had explanation. Mr. Pont explained the increase in new equipment was due to grant obligations. Questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Wayne Coats reviewed the grounds budget. He said his budget has remained the same for a number of years and had further comment. There was comment from the Board. Mr. Coats explained the repairs made to the fields and the repairs still needed due to the grub infestation. Questions were asked and answered.

In Mr. Boucher's absence due to conference attendance, Mr. Nero reviewed the maintenance budget.

Mr. Nero had comment. The list of questions and answers will be attached as part of the minutes. There was discussion. Mr. Carlson explained to the Board about magnet school transportation and its possible reduction from the budget. A letter was drafted to go to the parents that will be affected. Mr. Nero had additional comment. Board members had comment.

12. New Business – None.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The Tri-Board meeting is tomorrow, the 26th, March 11th will be a regular meeting and Saturday, March 21st will be a special meeting devoted to policies.

b. Committee Action List – None.

14. Public Comment – A citizen had questions on the security grant presentation, grubs, the multipurpose room floor, and he supported the new math teacher request. Mr. Nero thanked the administrators, the IT Administrator, and the groundskeeper for their work on the budget.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education

<u>Dept. Code</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>% over 14-15</u>	<u>Comment</u>
A	218	SPED	-17.81%	Big drop from previous years *contracted services/out of district tuition not expected based on current student enrollment
	640	Utilities	-22%	Need explanation *based on actual costs of this year -signed new contract to lock in our electricity rates to ensure costs don't increase
	700	Maintenance	33.26%	Need detail *asset protection - gym & stage floors refinishing \$22,000); stage curtains (\$12,500); Grubs (\$30,000)
	832	Employee Retirement	15.21%	Need detail; seems high *first year the Business Manager is eligible for contribution; IT Technician proposed new benefit
	1400	Tuition	-34.50%	Need detail *decrease in Vo-Ag student enrollment and SPED has fewer anticipated students for out-of-district tuition
B	7	Medical Insurance	8.83%	Why the increase *changes in elections and increase in rates based on current renewal plans
	12	Retirement/pension	56.68%	Why the increase *first year the Business Manager is eligible for contribution; IT Technician proposed new benefit; negotiated contract increases
	44	PD - Superintendent	N/A	I thought Peter had trips this past year for various conferences * correct; however Title II grant funds are used for the superintendent's conferences
	55	Transportation	9.27%	Why the increase *increases are per the contract
	58/59	Diesel Fuel for buses	9.30%	How was this derived *based on actual current year costs charged to us by the Town (costs spiked the first several months, then decreased, but are increasing again
	64	Substitute teachers	26.55%	What were the actuals for the past three years including anticipated for this year? *detailed actuals attached
	75	Electricity	blank	Why is this blank?

*now shows N/A-line added this year to correctly reflect the CO's share of costs

C	11	Social security	16.14%	Why the increase *anticipated salary raises increase social security payments
	59-61	Tuition	-300%	Why were these eliminated? How is the audit going? *our 18-21 population have exited the SPED program
	67	Transportation	2.80%	How many >18 year olds do we have in the system? *three for 14-15; expect all to exit at the end of the year
D	77	Reading	138.58%	Is this for K-5? Are these the same books but latest edition or brand new material? *new curriculum to align with the CT Common Core
	34	Language		\$8,200 - Just wondering why the disparity of funding for the core subjects? *budgeted based on building administrator's priority
	51	Math		\$12,100 *budgeted based on building administrator's priority
	76	Reading		\$18,590 *budgeted based on building administrator's priority
	88	Science		\$1,060 *budgeted based on building administrator's priority
	Not assigned	World Language(s)		Any possibility to include something in the budget for this (part time)? *building administrator will address
	112	Instructional supplies	41.67%	Why the increase *addition of printer toner to school budgets (transferred out of tech budget because it's a consumable)
E	44	English	-13.46%	Is this okay considering MS test performance? *budgeted based on building administrator's priority
	5420	84	Math	\$4,195 - Just wondering why the disparity of funding for the core subjects? *budgeted based on building administrator's priority
	103	Reading		\$1,000 *budgeted based on building administrator's priority
	110	Science		\$8,470 *budgeted based on building administrator's priority
	136,137	Distance learning/testing		\$15,000 is new. Why was this added?

				*line 136 (\$7200) has been transferred from the system-wide budget to the MS/HS budget- \$5420 increase in requests for teacher conferences
	143	Heating oil	0%	Is oil still used in the gymnasium? *Yes (hot water only), it is budgeted under system-wide expenses as a Central Office expense
	158, 161, 164, 167, 170	Coaches stipends		Why the variation between sports? *all stipends are per negotiated contract
	153	HS - replacement equipment	291.38%	Why the increase *no increase per the current draft - no replacement equipment being requested
	173, 176, 179, 182, 197,	Coaches stipends		Why the variation between sports? *all stipends are per negotiated contract
	201, 205, 208, 211, 215, etc.	Coaches stipends		Why the variation between sports? *all stipends are per negotiated contract
	228	LAX		What are the anticipated number of players for this year? *18 boys & 15 girls
	231	LAX		What are the anticipated number of players for this year? *18 boys & 15 girls
	249	Dues	-	Does this cover the contribution for the new ECC Commissioner? *yes, as of the recent draft
	265	Transportation for al sports		Due to the grub problem, I understand we have to use other fields for practices and no home games. Is this picked up somewhere? *yes, small increases budgeted in each athletic transportation line to accommodate traveling and field usage
F	20	Dust mops	A lot	Why \$7,000 for dust mops? *includes weekly rental, cleaning and disinfecting; budget request based on actual costs through January 2015

	General comment			Any impacts for security grant additions (e.g., added fees, annual maintenance, etc.)? *there is one software renewal cost added for the Raptor visitor background/badging system
	64	Inspect/test oil tank in gym.	-	Same comment as above...does the gymnasium use oil for heat? *Yes (hot water only)
	68	Elementary school		Can we get a quote to add a new floor to the cafeteria/gym...be it wood or rubber we can apply over the old floor? *will move forward as directed by Board
	107	Tile repair	-	Added \$12,000 for tile repair. Where will this be? *revised to \$1,200 for general tile repair throughout school
	117		0%	Why is this budgeted since the grub maintenance is covered in 118? Not sure other maintenance is done. *the \$10,000 is for regular maintenance (i.e. leaf removal, irrigation, fertilization, etc.)
G	19	Toner and ink	0%	Why no expenses this year? *moved to individual building budgets since toner/ink is a consumable
	53	New equipment	41.80%	Leasing an option? *Greg will discuss directly with Board
H	Total New Equip.	2017-2018		Column should be added up *formula corrected
	System wide	Snow broom/blade		Explain the \$4,386? *new piece of equipment with both a broom and blade/plow for snow removal
	SPED Plan	2018-2020		Why are these columns blank? *They have recently been updated and will be reflected in next budget draft.
	MS/HS	2018-2020		Why are these columns blank? *They have recently been updated and will be reflected in next budget draft.

Department Code

- A Summary Pages
- B System wide Expenses

C	Special Education
D	Elementary school
E	MS/HS
F	Buildings and Grounds
G	Technology
H	5-year plan

2015-2016 Budget Questions from Darren: (From 2/25/15 budget)

	Page Number	Line Number	Question	Answer
1	System Expenses 1	19	What does Financial Services Cover?	Our district phoenix and fixed asset software
2	Same	22	GASB 45 went up 13.13% : Is it a law that we have to do it this year? Have we asked the BOF what their plans are for its use?	Being removed from this year's budget – last year's report included both the annual and skip year reports (our auditor has discussed with the Town – no decisions made to fund yet)
3	Same	33	7K for Food Service Management?? I know this has probably gone down from 15K but wasn't it supposed to be \$0 for this new contract? Why are we paying for lunches?	Funds budgeted to cover any outstanding student lunch payments at the end of the year – per SDE, accounts must be closed out each June. Last year's payment was \$1,100 and the balance used to cover additional legal expenses
4	Same	43	Is the \$4K for administrators PD contractual and what are the plans for its use?	Yes, contractual obligation – administrators select PD to attend and also utilize for personal PD materials
5	Same	45	Approximately how many adults receive education for \$29,221?	1-2; however, participation is mandated by State law
6	System Expenses 2	58	Bus Fuel went up \$25,296 = 21.59%: Why? Haven't fuel prices gone down since last year? And Magnet school transportation has been excluded?? What are the possibilities of the Bus company putting external tanks near the busses?	Budget based on current year actuals; last two months have showed decreases but have begun increasing again – Magnet school for high school will be removed if BOE approves and directs its removal (\$7000 will be removed from transportation line)
7	Same	64	Substitute Teachers up \$13,636 = 26.55%: Is this due to maternity/paternity expectations?	Yes
8	System Expenses 3	102	Vo-Ag Tuition = how many students for the \$122,814	18 – based on current and anticipated new enrollments

9	System Expenses 3	103	Magnet School Tuition: How many elementary students vs. ms/hs for each of the past 3 years?	History report attached
10	Special Education 2	67	How many students attend summer school? Are all provided transportation?	23 (SPED enrollment)– yes to transportation (SPED students)
11	Elementary 2	53	Instructional Supplies Math = \$9000.00 = is this because of the Common Core changes and now there are textbooks to accompany? And for all new text books in each subject.	Add'l envision materials
	3	77	Reading = \$12,000	New reading curriculum to align with CT Common Core
12	Elementary 4	122 and 126	Do we have comparisons yet for Oil Vs. Gas? 1 Year/3 Years/5 Years?	See Attached
13	Same	134	\$2944 for Coaches/Advisors == what activities do these entail? About how many children participate? What other programs/activities may be desired and wanted if more money were available?	AV Coordinator, Drama Coach, Lead Teacher/Coordinator (administrator will respond regarding additions)
14	High/Middle 1	6	Salaries –what is the New Position? = \$135,100 = new position vs wage increases	New position wage budgeted at \$47,734 – rest of increase are contractual increases
15	Same	16	Why has dues and memberships gone down \$10,429	Last year, both MS & HS were budgeted as one figure, this year it was separated by school (total change is a decrease of \$1,999)
16	High/Middle 3	136	Why has testing changed by \$7200 – was this in “Central Office” before?	Yes, transferred from Central Office to school
17	Same	137	Why has MS workshops – out of district gone up from 0-\$7200.00?	Last year, both MS & HS were budgeted as one figure, this year it was separated by school (total change is an increase of \$5,420)
18	Same	143 and 147	Same question about Oil vs Gas Comparisons	See Attached
19	Same	144	Why did Electricity go down \$51,707 = - 35.23%	Based on actual costs of this year; costs have decreased because we locked in rates with Liberty Power

20	Same	164/167	Why are MS Cross Country and Baseball/Softball Coaches paid more than other coaches? Are the seasons longer? Do they have more athletes? Im sure contractual but why?	Error in budgeted stipend – corrected to \$2,183; budgeted as once coach for both boys & girls but the teams were split again this year into two teams.
21	High/Middle 4	199	Why is Boys Soccer Transportation much more than girls and other sports? Up \$1910.00 this year.	Budgeted additional funds for travel if we cannot play on our fields (grub problem)
22	Same	215/219	Same questions as #20 with HS basketball.	Based on contract – AD would like this addressed in next round of negotiations
23	High/Middle 5	258	Is there a list of clubs/advisor so we know what the \$47,979 are used for?	see attached list
24	Same	262 263 264	Having the .00 at the end of the first two lines but not the third makes my eyes think a different number... any reason? No big deal – just not uniform but there may be a reason.	I'll remove the zeroes for uniformity
25	Building and grounds 1	19	Why did uniforms go down my 10K?	We will no longer be renting and cleaning custodian uniforms – will outright purchase per contract and have staff responsible for their own uniform cleaning
26	2	80	Playground repairs doubled to 5K = what for? And will everything be operational?	Everything is currently operational; budget is for general repairs (i.e. cracks from this winter, braces and “S” rings)
27	Same	85 and next page 111	Roof Repairs = What does “Contract” mean?	We have a contract to repair any necessary roofing tiles and/or flashing – yearly contracted service
28	Buildings and Grounds ½	42 and 65	HVAC -- \$13,200 and \$24,900 – when was the last time we went out to bid on this?	The district has never gone to bid for this contract. Working on specs to bid the service out this upcoming school year.

Thank you all very much!

Darren