

Board of Education Minutes
February 27, 2013

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, Mr. Mendolia, Mr. Karpinski, and Dr. Robert. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Chairman Testa called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Nero led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed out of respect for the family affected by the recent tragedy.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – None.

4. Community Relations – Mike Urgo, of ICONS, said they had their first meeting this past Saturday. There were about 18 people in attendance. April 27th will be the community meeting. He elaborated. The conversation will be how to get our schools moving forward in a positive direction. He elaborated and had further comment.

5. Presentations – None.

6. Administrators' Reports – Mr. Sandford handed out the program of studies for next year. The new graduation requirements are taken into account. He attended the ECE program yesterday at UCONN and handed out information on the total number of students enrolled throughout the state and he elaborated. There was comment. Mr. Apicelli handed out the CMT/CAPT schedule and Mr. Sandford explained the schedule. He elaborated. Mrs. Wilkison said science night was a real success and thanked Jen Regan. She will be recognized at CAS as their volunteer of the year. She spoke of further happenings at the elementary school including Read Across America and the PBIS March Madness event will take place and she elaborated. CMT's are starting and she explained they are doing a little exercise first and then a little snack before they take the exam. Mr. Nero said research has shown that exercise before a math exam improves the scores.

7. Administrative – a. Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2013 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2013 meeting.

February 20, 2013 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 20, 2013 meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero thanked Mr. Urgo, Mrs. Mazzella, Ms. Floyd and everyone else involved in the Community Conversations grant and he elaborated. He spoke of teacher evaluation and mentioned

that the Commissioner of Education has heard the concerns of the rest of the state regarding full implementation. He said the Teacher Evaluation Committee met and he had comment. He spoke of the three options and said a preliminary proposal has already been sent to the State. Mr. Nero explained the option North Stonington will be completing. He elaborated. A presentation will be done soon on the SEED document. He had further explanation.

b. BOE Chairperson – The Tri-Party meeting is next week on the 6th at 7:00 in the elementary school library. He congratulated Dr. Robert on the tremendous job he did with the middle school girls' basketball team; they won the championship. The middle school boys also won their championship. Both teams will be honored at an April meeting.

c. Committee Chairperson – None.

d. PSPBC Liaison – None.

9. Finance – None.

10. Old Business – a. Update on Insurance Consortium – Mr. Nero said we had some preliminary numbers last week but just wanted to make sure they checked out before he brought them forward. He said they are hoping to have a contract in place by the end of March. He said it looked like there will be a savings of \$180,000 over what is currently in the budget and he elaborated. Mr. Nero explained that the cost savings really show up in a couple of years. He felt this would open it up to more competition and elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. McCarthy explained what the increases would be with and without the consortium. Mr. Nero had further comment. Further questions were asked and answered.

b. Discussion of 2013-2014 Proposed Education Budget - Mr. Nero said nothing has changed except the consortium rate. We are at 5.33% right now. He spoke of other area towns' budget requests. He again explained what happens when you a zero percent increase for a number of years. There was discussion and comment. Mr. Testa said we usually look for guidance from the Board of Finance but this year we should look at our administration for that guidance. There was further comment among the Board members. Mr. Testa wants us to have the opportunity to go for what we need. Mr. Nero had comment. There was agreement to leave the budget as is for now. There was further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. McCarthy explained the breakdown of the budget by category. Board members had comment.

11. New Business – None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meetings – March 6th is the Tri-Party meeting and March 13th is a regular meeting. The administrators' reports will be done only one time a month. Mrs. Wilkison said the Invention Convention was yesterday and Mr. Nero was a judge.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Lisa Mazzella, parent, said the PTO will be hosting a benefit for the Perry family on March 28th from 5-8 p.m. with more details forthcoming. Shawn Murphy, citizen, encouraged the Board not to reduce the budget any more before it goes to the Board of Finance and he elaborated. He had explanation and had suggestions. Mr. Murphy told the Board that LOCIP (Local Capital Improvement Funds) funds have not been able to be utilized for the schools in the past but the State has opened it up to allow the school to put in security-type funding requests. He said we usually get the same amount of money but next year it will be going up about \$20,000. He had further comment and said now the school projects can compete with the Town projects and he elaborated. He said it is not automatic but the Board of Finance will have to decide which projects to fund. Mr. Nero clarified what the funds could be used for and Mr. Murphy said it was for security type projects. He elaborated. Damien Robert, citizen, had comment on a use for the LOCIP funds.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Review of Legal Services RFP and b. Discussion of Middle School Boiler RFP's – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. and to invite Mr. McCarthy into such session for the boiler RFP discussion.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

15. Possible Action Concerning Legal Services RFP's – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to enter into agreement with Siegel, O'Connor, O'Donnell and Beck for negotiation services and with Shipman and Goodwin for all other legal services.

16. Possible Action Concerning Middle School Boiler RFP's – No action was taken. The Board will interview the top two choices before a decision is made.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education