

Board of Education Minutes
February 9, 2011

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa, and Mrs. Dame. Absent was Mr. McCord. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He told those present the meeting was being recorded.

2. Community Relations – Dr. Pukas said there were several other things at their places and she explained those items.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to move Item 11, Public Comment to Item 8.5.

3. Presentations – a. Educational Article as per Board of Education Goal – Mrs. Ricker passed out a number of articles and explained the relevance. She elaborated. Articles will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Hundt will supply the next article.

4. Administrators Reports – Mr. Sandford passed out the new NEASC standards for the next visit. A presentation on these will be done at a later date. He had explanation. Board members had questions that Mr. Sandford answered. Dr. Pukas had comment. Mr. Sandford gave an update on Powerschool and parents and students being able to log on. He elaborated. Mr. Apicelli spoke of happenings in the middle and high school including the Teens for Jeans program started by Tessa Roy and Nick Litke, and the second quarter Renaissance event with 131 students meeting the criteria and he elaborated. He spoke of the NEASC advisory portion and explained. Mrs. Wilkison gave some follow-up information on the kindergarten presentation. She spoke of assessments and explained they can't make comparisons and she elaborated. Board members had comment. She spoke of happenings at the elementary school including the third graders working with the Artist in Residence program and Carol Glenn, plays being presented on February 15th, the Read Across America event coming up, the implementation of a student PBIS team of 4th and 5th graders, and the CMT letters going home. Board members had comment. Mrs. Wilkison had further comment.

5. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – January 19 2011 - On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2011 meeting.

January 31, 2011 – Tabled until the March 9th meeting.

c. Correspondence –None.

d. Personnel – None.

6. Reports -
 - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas said Mr. Sandford and some teachers will be presenting on the Capstone Project to the Board of Directors of LEARN. She told the Board that testing materials had arrived and been disseminated. Articles for the community newsletter are due by February 18th. Board members had questions.
 - b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert said three committees met this evening and he reviewed the committees and items discussed.
 - c. Committee Chairs – None.
 - d. PSPBC Liaison – Mrs. Ricker said there have not been any meetings.
 - e. Committee Action List – Dr. Robert suggested putting this along with the calendar. In the future, the agenda will be changed to reflect this under Item 11, Calendar.
7. Financial –
 - a. Financial Statements for January 2011 – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept expenditures of \$886,244.33, grant expenditures of \$30,732.39, for a total of \$916,976.72 for the month of January 2011.
 - b. Request for Transfers – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the budget transfers requested by the Business Manager in a memo dated February 4, 2011.
8. Old Business –
 - a. Coverage of BOE Meetings on Public Access Television – Mr. Scarchilli handed out a sheet and reviewed it. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion about taping of the meetings. Board members had comment. There was clarification and further discussion. Dr. Pukas is going to poll other districts to find out how they do it. This item was tabled until more information is available.
 - b. Feasibility Study – Dr. Robert commented on the draft study and said he appreciated the work done on it. Board members had comments and question. Dr. Robert explained why the Board of Education was taking this on and had further comment. Board members commented and there was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. There was further discussion and comment. This item was tabled. A workshop will be held to review the draft feasibility study.
- 8.5. Public Comment – Jana Sullivan, parent, was concerned that they spent hours at the last meeting formulating these questions to have them taken out of the document. Dr. Robert replied. Board members had comment. A parent asked if there was a goal for a time and had further comment. Dr. Robert answered his question. Walt Mathwich, parent, commented and suggested sending it to the Selectmen for their comment; it would be on record so it would not be biased. The Selectmen will be invited to the workshop. There was comment. A parent had comment on the use of the word “success” in earlier discussion and she elaborated.

9. New Business – a. Healthy Food Certification – Dr. Robert explained. Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker that for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, the North Stonington Board of Education approves participation in the Healthy Foods Certification under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes; that the Board of Education excludes from certification items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store; and that the Superintendent is authorized to sign all forms necessary to comply with this approval. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Change in Technology Day – March 1, 2011 – Dr. Pukas explained this item. On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to do away with the March 1, 2011 Technology Day and make it a full day of school for students.

c. Make-up Snow Days – Dr. Pukas had comment. She explained the survey she had taken. She explained the correspondence she received from the State regarding making up the snow days. She had further explanation and said it was not an easy decision. She had further comment. She recommended to the Board to cancel the February vacation and have February 22, 23, 24, and 25 as school days. Mr. Hundt made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to dissolve the February vacation. There was discussion. Dr. Pukas had further explanation. Questions were asked and answered and there was further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Revised Art Course – The Student Success Committee met and discussed the proposals. Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to approve these courses. Dr. Robert explained there would be no added cost. There was comment. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Golf Proposal – Mr. Hundt explained the committee discussion. Mr. Hundt made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to approve the golf proposal. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Annual Report for 2009-2010 – Dr. Pukas asked for approval for the 2009-2010 Annual Report. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the annual report.

g. Regional Calendar – Dr. Pukas explained the history of the regional calendar. She elaborated and had further comment. Mr. Hundt made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to accept version 2 of the proposed Regional Calendar. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

h. Dates for Budget Meetings – The Facilities and Finance Committee will meet on February 16th at 6:15 p.m. for budget discussion. A special meeting of the Board will be held on February 23rd starting with an Executive

Session at 6:00 p.m. for non-bargaining unit salaries and benefits discussion followed by budget discussion at 7:00 p.m. March 2nd will be held aside for a meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to add Custodial Negotiation Team to New Business.

Questions were asked that were answered by Dr. Pukas and Mr. McCarthy. There was further comment and discussion.

i. Negotiation Team for AFSCME contract – Drs. Robert and Pukas had comment. Members will let Mr. McCarthy know by the end of the week if they want to be on the negotiation team.

10. Calendar – A workshop on the Feasibility Study will be held on Monday, February 21, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to add Item 11, Proposed Changes to Athletic Handbook.

11. Proposed Changes to Athletic Handbook – Dr. Robert had explanation. Mr. Sandford and Dr. Pukas had explanation regarding the administrative latitude that is not there anymore. There was further explanation. Board members had comment. There was discussion.

11. Public Comment – Covered above under Item 8.5.

12. Proposed for Executive Session – None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education