

Board of Education Minutes
January 14, 2015

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner, Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Vice Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero spoke of the NSEF Trivia Contest to be held February 6th. He elaborated and spoke of their other events. There was comment.
5. Presentations – a. Athletic Conference Review – Mrs. Turner spoke of the athletic conference we are in. There is some turmoil in the conference and she elaborated. One school is leaving for a different conference and that is causing some upheaval. There was comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. There was further comment.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Costa spoke for Mrs. Wilkison on events at the elementary school. Fifth graders attended the student leadership conference, it is Technology Week, and National Hat Day is tomorrow with students being allowed to wear hats. Questions were asked. A comment was made about use of the system-wide announcement system and that it was being used too much. Mrs. Costa spoke of baseline assessments of preschoolers. She said significant increases were made and the students did well. The early childhood education cabinet came up with learning standards. She worked with the preschool teachers and they came up with report cards. A survey was sent out to parents. She passed out information. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Chaney said exams start tomorrow and explained the schedule. He spoke of the media center being open late and teachers volunteering to help. He spoke of Aramark being very helpful with working out lunches for half-days. He elaborated. He spoke of the athletic conference situation. The ski club met about their upcoming trip. Questions were asked and answered.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2014.
 - b. Correspondence – Information was received regarding the joint meeting on the budget to be held on February 11th.

c. Personnel – A letter of resignation of a custodian was received before the holidays. The position will be filled shortly.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero spoke of the new mats in the gym. He had comment. He spoke of the Tri-Board meeting on the budget and the meeting on the 20th will have to be cancelled. It will be rescheduled for January 28th at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Nero spoke of the technology grant that is due. He explained what was going to be written. Our reimbursement percentage has increased. Questions were asked and answered. He spoke of the consortium meetings that he and the business manager have attended. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero spoke of the security grant. There are some things that need to be bid out for specialty items. Mrs. Allen spoke to the Board about a moratorium on the bid process in order to get these specialty items and meet the deadline to spend the grant. There was discussion. Mr. Nero reviewed the equipment items that are to be funded by the grant. Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Robert to waive the bid requirement for the security grant. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion and comment. The motion passed unanimously.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairperson – None.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Nero said he met with Mr. Mullane who asked for a prioritized list for the \$75,000 budget line. He elaborated.

9. Finance – None.

10. Old Business – a. Tri-Board Meeting Update – Mr. Carlson passed out the drafts of the agenda and the press release. He went over the meetings with the facilitator and explained what the goals are. He elaborated and had further comment. Mr. Carlson reviewed the agenda and what the hopes for the meetings are. He explained the process. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.

There was discussion of the joint board meeting on the budget. Board members would like the agenda item information before this meeting.

b. Volunteer Policy Update – Mr. Nero spoke of the steps taken so far and what the plan is for implementation. Questions were asked and answered.

11. New Business – a. Proposed Calendar for 2015-2016 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the calendar for the 2015-2016 school year.

b. AP Testing Fees – Mrs. St. Germain said beginning in the 15-16 year they no longer wanted to cover the costs for the AP tests. She gave the rationale. She explained the ECE courses are being given more weight with

colleges. She would like to offer a reduced rate to students taking the S.A.T. She elaborated. She gave the breakdown of the proposed costs. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Action will be taken at a later meeting.

c. Tuition for 2015-2016 School Year – Mrs. St. Germain explained the rates which will remain the same as the current year. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommended tuition rate for the 2015-2016 school year.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – January 20th is cancelled. January 28th will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the Student Success Committee to review policies, Facilities and Finance will begin at 6:45 p.m., and the meeting at 7:00 p.m. January 29th is the Tri-Board meeting on facilities. February 11th is the Tri-Board meeting for the budget.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Strategy for Collective Bargaining – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. for the Purpose of Strategy for Collective Bargaining.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:03 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education