

Board of Education Minutes
January 18, 2012

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Band Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Mathwich, Mrs. Dame, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Dr. Robert called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Community Relations – Nothing other than what was in the Board packet. Dr. Pukas commended Sharon Thompson on being named the top reading teacher in Connecticut and also Christopher Sandford as being recognized as one of the outstanding first year principals.

3. Presentations - a. Readers' Advisory Club Donation Field Trip – Mr. Sandford introduced Rebecca Schilke, reading teacher, to do the presentation. Mrs. Schilke explained she wanted to share what the club does and she and three students did a video presentation. Student Erin Spencer explained Reader's Week activities. Student John Rock explained the field trip they took to The Expeditionary Learning Academy at the Moylan School in Hartford. Student Lauren Swanson explained further. Mrs. Schilke had further comment. She said they gave 1,000 books to Hartford and about 400 to 600 books were exchanged at the middle school. Questions were asked and answered. Brittany Hattoy and Kristine Charles are also club advisors. Mr. Sandford had comment.

4. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Wilkison reviewed happenings at the elementary school including the newly-created fifth grade Student Council, the Student Council's leadership field trip, the creation of a food pantry, next week is the annual technology week, the ongoing after-school enrichment programs, Family Science Night on February 16th, and an Intervention Block. Mr. Sandford had hand-outs for the Board. He explained the drop-out prevention program they are piloting and he explained some of the factors that led to this. Questions were asked and answered. He reviewed the handout on the program and had further explanation. Mr. Sandford spoke of eighth grade students taking Virtual High School courses. Student Jessica Gray spoke of happenings at the high school.

5. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- December 14, 2011 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Scarchilli, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2011 meeting.

December 21, 2011 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Scarchilli, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the December 21, 2011 meeting. Mr. McCord abstained.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

6. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas told the Board she attended a CMT/CAPT meeting and that she had been asked to serve on the State's TEAM Committee.

b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert passed out information regarding the merger of our auditor, Marian and Company.

c. Committee Chairs – The Student Success Committee met as did the Facilities and Finance Committee. Action will be taken later in the meeting.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Testa spoke of the list that the administrators were putting together for the committee. Dr. Pukas will put the finalized list together.

7. Financial - a. December 2011 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept total accounts payable of \$416,419.37, payroll of \$855,264.02, subtotal general fund of \$1,271,683.39, grant expenditures of \$46,701.29 for a total of \$1,318,384.68 for the month of December 2011.

b. Transfer Request – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted seven in favor and one opposed to accept the transfers as stated in a memo from the Business Manager dated January 3, 2012. Mr. Testa opposed the motion. Questions were asked and answered.

8. Old Business – a. Feasibility Study – Dr. Robert asked the Facilities and Finance Committee to meet on January 25th to put together correct numbers for the Feasibility Study. Discussion ensued. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Hundt suggested working together to send a letter out.

b. Superintendent Search – Dr. Robert told the Board a number of items needed to be decided: a committee, a spokesperson, and to approve the application. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to have the Board of Education be the search committee. Dr. Robert accepted nominations for a spokesperson. Mr. Hundt nominated Mr. Mathwich and Dr. Robert seconded the nomination. Dr. Robert nominated Mr. Testa and Mr. McCord seconded the nomination. The Board voted unanimously to close nominations. Mr. Mathwich received four votes and Mr. Testa received three votes. Mr. Mathwich was named spokesperson. There was discussion of the application. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the application and have a writing requirement as part of the process.

9. New Business – a. LEARN Board of Directors – Dr. Pukas explained the LEARN Board of Directors and that North Stonington has not had a representative for many years. She elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mendolia and Mr. Testa will contact LEARN for further information.

Dr. Pukas reviewed some items in the CABE Policy Highlights that were included in the Board packet.

b. Textbook Adoption for Accounting I and II – Mrs. Dame explained the reasoning for the new book. Mr. Sandford had further explanation. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Dame made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to approve the textbook. Further questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Policy 5131.81 – Electronic Devices – Mrs. Dame had explanation and noted the changes they would like. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion and further questions were asked. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to delete existing policy 5131.81. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adopt new policy 5131.81 as amended.

d. Policy 3160 – Transfer of Funds between Categories; Amendments – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to delete paragraph two.

e. Policy 3323 – Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations) – On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the changes as noted in a memo read by Dr. Robert.

f. Scheduling of Sessions with Non-Bargaining Unit Employees – Dr. Pukas had explanation. The Board decided to meet with non-bargaining unit employees on February 15th beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Pukas will let those involved know.

10. Calendar – On January 25th the Facilities and Finance Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m., February 8th is the Tripartite meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary library followed by a regular Board of Education meeting at 7:00 p.m.

b. Committee Action List – The draft budget will be available on January 25th.

11. Public Comment - Wendy Hauptmann, citizen, voiced her frustration regarding the Feasibility Study and she elaborated. She also commented on not closing Wheeler, the letter that was written and didn't pass, action needed on the study, and her struggle to support the Board. Jane Robert, citizen, spoke of Mr. Testa's letter that was published in the *Westerly Sun*. She quoted some of the items in the letter and elaborated. She spoke of other items in the letter and had further comment.

Dr. Pukas asked to take Item a. of Executive Session off the table.

12. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:38 p.m. for the Purpose of Student Discipline Matter and to invite Mrs. Costa and Mr. Sandford into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to The Board of Education, and Dr. Natalie J. Pukas, Secretary Pro-Tem