

Board of Education Minutes  
January 27, 2010

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Mrs. Ricker, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa, and Mrs. Dame. Dr. Robert arrived after the conclusion of the Joint Meeting and Mrs. Banker was absent. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi, and Mr. Sandford. Vice Chairman Ricker called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

2. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to move item 9a, Old Business, Athletic Boosters' Concession Stand Proposal, to item 2a.

a. Athletic Boosters' Concession Stand Proposal – Mr. Jeff Frenette of the Athletic Boosters' Club brought the Board of Education up-to-date on the status of the PTO/Booster Club concession stand. He passed out the proposal to the members of the Board. He said full-sized plans were developed by an architect in conjunction with a civil engineer and the Town planning department and they are available for review. Mr. Testa brought up concerns about site location and wetlands issues. Mr. Frenette said alternate sites have been identified in the event wetlands became an issue; however, the preferred location would service the largest number of sports although it would be furthest from the baseball field.

3. Community Relations – Nothing other than what was in the packet.

4. Presentations – None.

5. Administrators Reports – Mr. Sandford told the Board that two students, Zach Brayman and Tom Gavitt, in conjunction with the state police, put together a presentation on “sexting” which was presented to grades 9 and 10 and it will also be presented to the grades 7 and 8. Other items of interest are the NEASC report is due March 1<sup>st</sup> and he and Mr. Susi are working on it, Renaissance events are coming up which will include the showing of a movie and a breakfast, a middle school Valentines' Day dance will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> with proceeds going to aid for Haiti and the high school's Winter Ball is February 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sandford also told the Board students are competing to design the cover for the new student handbook, the school paper which is put out entirely by staff and student volunteers has published its second edition, auditions for “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” are happening and an all-night bowling event is coming up on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Wilkison said “Hats for Haiti” day raised \$2,399.71 in one day and those proceeds will be going to the Save the Children Fund. The Standing up to Bullies program was held, the Character Education program was held, a pasta dinner is this Friday to benefit the fifth grade class, and CMT's will be coming up March 1<sup>st</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>.

6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – December 16, 2009 – On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2009 special meeting.
  - b. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas read part of a letter from CIRMA announcing that North Stonington was a 2010 CIRMA Risk Management Award recipient.
  - c. Personnel – Dr. Pukas read a letter from Colette Azoulay resigning from her position as French teacher at the end of the school year. Dr. Pukas said she had accepted her letter of resignation. Mr. Testa questioned advertising now and recommended not hiring a replacement until the budget is done. The issue was assigned to the Personnel and Curriculum committees for resolution. There was discussion.
7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Nothing other than what was in the packet notes.
  - b. BOE Chairperson – Not yet present.
  - c. Committee Chairs – Mr. Testa said the Finance Committee met. He said everyone was introduced to the process. He said Mr. Herbert was going to be a liaison with the Board of Finance and he explained.
  - d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Hundt didn't have a report. Mr. Testa said a meeting will be set and that an RFP should be done for the flashing for this building.
  - e. Committee Action List – Dr. Pukas said the Chairman asked her to remind them that an action item for the Personnel Committee is the Administrators' dental insurance issue. There were questions asked and answered.
8. Financial – December 2009 Financial Statements – Mrs. Dame made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Testa to accept expenditures of \$1,271,378.59, grant expenditures of \$33,847.81 for a total for December 2009 of \$1,305,226.40. There were questions asked and answered. Dr. Robert arrived at the meeting and took over as chairman. The motion passed with four in favor and one abstention. Dr. Robert abstained.
  - b. Transfer Request – Mr. McCarthy explained the transfers. Questions were asked and answered. There was comment. On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted four in favor and one opposed to accept the transfer request as stated in a memo from the Business Manager dated January 7, 2010. Mr. Testa opposed the motion.
9. Old Business – a. Athletic Boosters' Concession Stand Proposal – Covered above.
  - b. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Revision to Minutes of December 10, 2008 Board Meeting – Dr. Robert explained the revision. Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Testa to accept the revised wording to the minutes as follows: On a motion by Mr. Keane, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted

unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session and invited the Business Manager into Executive Session. There was discussion. The motion passed with four voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Hundt abstained.

10. New Business – a. Board Member Vacancy – Dr. Robert explained the discussion Mr. Briscoe had with Mr. Mullane. There was discussion.

b. Discussion Concerning Investigation of Retention of Private Firms to Provide Custodial Services (Joint Report of the Facilities and Finance Committees) – Mr. Hundt said the committees asked Mr. McCarthy to move forward and look at this. Dr. Pukas had comment. There was discussion. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to allow the Facilities, Finance, and Personnel Committees to continue their investigation of retention of private firms to provide custodial services.

c. “Race to the Top” – Dr. Robert asked Dr. Pukas to address this. Dr. Pukas listed off a few districts that did not take part in this grant. She said if you really read this, you’ll come to the same conclusion that the mandates will cost more than we would have gotten. She doesn’t think Connecticut will get money in the first round and explained. She said a second round will be coming in June which would allow more time for questions. She elaborated. She said she did not enter into a memorandum of understanding although we do have a signed copy ready to go. Dr. Pukas said she didn’t think it was fiscally prudent to do it at this time. Mrs. Ricker had comment on the administrative burden.

d. Bylaws of the Board, Policy 9010 – Dr. Robert thanked Mrs. Ricker for bringing this up. Mrs. Ricker had some suggestions about combining some of the committees. There was discussion.

e. Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee for Possible Resolution to the Boiler Problem - There was discussion about moving forward to get a resolution to this. Board members had comment. Mr. McCarthy had comment. There was further discussion. Questions were asked and answered. There was further discussion. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to have Mr. McCarthy make a phone call to get an estimate on replacing the boilers. Mr. McCarthy clarified making additional calls if needed.

f. Board of Education Workshop – Dr. Robert will contact Mr. Brochu about another workshop on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

The Board revisited item 7a, Reports, BOE Chair. Dr. Robert relayed what he learned at the Joint Meeting. The Board of Finance wants a 0% increase on the budget. He had further comment on Mr. Donahue’s remarks. There was further discussion.

g. Dates for Budget Meetings – The Personnel and Finance Committees will meet jointly on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

11. Calendar – Already covered.
12. Public Comment – Mr. Robert Miner had questions on comments made, the bylaws, and the ad hoc committee for the boilers that were answered by Dr. Pukas and Dr. Robert.
13. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck McCarthy, Secretary Pro-tem and  
Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to the  
Board of Education