

Board of Education Minutes
January 8, 2014

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Macrino, and Mrs. St. Germain. Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:03 for the Purpose of Negotiations Strategy and to invite Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. Dr. Robert left the meeting.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
5. Community Relations – None.
6. Presentations – None.
7. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison told of happenings at the elementary school including a number of grants they have received. She said the state department of education released the school performance index in early December and this year the school scored 88.2 and met the target. The fifth grade student council will be attending a student leadership conference, and Family Science Night will be held on February 19th at 6:30 p.m. with a snow date the following week. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Macrino spoke of happenings at the middle/high school including the generosity of the students during the holiday season and a faculty meeting was held and the NEASC standards were reviewed. He said there is a general consensus with the seven standards. Mrs. St. Germain said the Zinz family benefit is Friday at the Elks' Club in Westerly. At the middle school, 3 students were winners of the Patriot Pens contest with one student winning at three levels and advancing to the next level and the middle school lunch group with Rebecca Schilke meets with students coming on their own. She said the students went to the theatre in Olde Mistick Village and had a tour. An author wants to come to Wheeler, the Virtual High School is becoming very popular, the Oxfam group at the high school spent a Saturday morning at the Shoreline Food Pantry and she commended Jessica Sullivan on her dedication to that group, and the change in the exam scheduled was reviewed. Questions were asked and answered.
8. Administrative – a. Minutes – December 11, 2013 – On a motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as amended.

- b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said we received a letter from NEASC and he reviewed the contents of the letter.
- c. Personnel – None.
- 9. Reports – a. Superintendent – None.
- b. BOE Chairperson - None
- c. Committee Chairperson – The Student Success Committee met and the Bring Your Own Device policy was discussed. Mr. Mathwich said by the next meeting it should be ready for a vote. He elaborated. Board members had comment. Suggestions were made for members not being able to attend meetings and having them have a chance to comment on items. There was further comment.
- d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Mathwich said he spoke to Mr. Aiello. The last meeting was cancelled. There was comment on some of the items they are working on.
- 10. Finance – None.
- 11. Old Business – None. The BYOD policy will be on the agenda for next meeting.
- 12. New Business – a. High School Tuition Rate for 2014-2015 – There was discussion. The background of this was reviewed. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to accept the tuition rate of \$11,933 for the 2014-2015 school year. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Approval of Elementary School Arts Leadership Matching Grant – Discussed above during Administrators Reports. No action is needed.
- c. 2014-2015 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero had explanation. He said there is a projected increase of 1.49% Mr. Nero explained the increase of \$35,000 in the technology budget for the matching portion of the grant. The workers’ compensation increase of \$43,300 is also in this budget and he reviewed that history. NEASC was allocated for \$30,000, and \$11,000 for new math textbooks for grades 6, 7, and 8 was included. There is an increase of \$28,613 for benefits, and the Art position has been increased back to full time and he explained.
- 13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – There was discussion of the joint meeting. We will meet on Tuesday the 21st at 7:00 p.m. for a special meeting to accommodate the joint meeting on January 22nd.
- b. Committee Action List – None.
- 14. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education