

Board of Education Minutes  
January 9, 2013

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, Mr. Mendolia, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Hundt (7:09 p.m.), Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mathwich. Mrs. Dame was absent. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Chairman Testa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – Mr. Mullane said they are trying to get a meeting scheduled with Representative Urban and Senator Maynard and he explained.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said he met with Mary Broderick and Nora Pope about the Community Conversations grant. He explained how it would work and he elaborated. The grant is for \$2,500. He explained there would be training involved.
5. Presentations – a. Special Recognition for Fall Sports Team Members – Mr. Nero read the names of the students recognized on the boys' soccer team. They are: John Mulhern, Justin Audoin, Jacob Sylvestre, Mark Durham, TJ Condon, and Alfredo Carlson. Mrs. Ellen Turner, Athletic Director, said Wheeler had four out of the 11 slots on the ECC team. She elaborated. Coach Joe Mendonca was present. Mr. Nero read the names of the students recognized on the girls' soccer team. They are: Taylor Mathwich, Jessica Morgan, and Jessica Muller. Mrs. Turner said both teams qualified for the Class S State tournament. She had further comment. Coach Charles Roark was present. Mr. Nero read the names of the students recognized on the volleyball team. They are Sarah Dalton and Kayla Collins. Mrs. Turner had comment. Coaches Jennamarie Lesky and Brooke Dalton were present. Mr. Nero read the names of the students recognized on the cross country teams. They are Asa Palmer and Kelsey Melinosky. Mrs. Turner had comment. Coach Marc Tardiff was present. Mrs. Turner had comment on winter sports happenings and said three students are running track with Stonington and one student is a team of one with the East Lyme swim team.
6. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Wilkison told of happenings at the elementary school including the drama production held thanks to a grant from Macy's, the elementary school has a Facebook page, students will be attending a student leadership conference, the week of January 28<sup>th</sup> is Technology Week, and February 13<sup>th</sup> is the second annual Family Science Night. Mr. Sandford spoke of happenings at the middle/high school including exams, students being ex-officio members of the North Stonington Education Foundation, the annual Athletic Boosters Golf Tournament, and students in grade 8 taking Algebra I and Spanish I are eligible for high school elective credits; they are trying this as a pilot program. There was comment. Mr. Sandford had further comment and explanation.

7. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- December 12, 2012 – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting. Mr. Hundt abstained.

December 20, 2012 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted five in favor and two abstentions to accept the minutes of the December 20, 2012 special meeting. Dr. Robert and Mr. Hundt abstained.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports - a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said that he, Mr. Hundt, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford and the resident troopers attended a seminar on safety on Monday and he elaborated. He told the Board he will be talking about the budget later in the agenda. He said teacher evaluation will be the topic of the March 28<sup>th</sup> Professional Development day, and the teacher evaluation committee will be meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>. He told the Board he had a long conversation with Dr. Cirasoulo of CAPSS and he elaborated. He attended the elementary school play and thanked Mike Noonan as musical director of the play.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Testa said his report is under various topics on the agenda. He had a conversation with Mr. Spring to continue talks on the RISSA account. He elaborated. He commended the superintendent, staff, teachers, and administrators for their work and actions over the last number of weeks during this rough time.

c. Committee Chairs – Mr. McCord said the Facilities and Finance Committee met and will review the financials later. Mr. Testa had comment on the PSPBC item that Mr. Mullane spoke of. He will get in touch with the chairman tomorrow. Mr. Nero said the last time he spoke to Mr. Spring was after the Board of Finance meeting and he had further comment. He asked that Board Chair correspond with Board Chair on matters and had further comment. He explained his reasoning. There were questions asked and answered.

d. PSPBC Liaison – None.

9. Financial - a. December 2012 Financial Statements – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to accept the December 2012 statements as presented. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Transfer Request – Mr. McCord explained the transfer. Dr. Robert had comment. Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to accept the transfer. Mr. Hundt commended Dr. Robert. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. Early Release Days – Mr. Nero explained that he didn't realize at the last meeting that the motion should have included the elementary school in these early release days. He elaborated on what the elementary school would be working on. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to have early release days for the elementary school the same days as the NEASC early release days.

b. Discussion of Business Manager Position – Mr. Nero said we need to make a decision soon and elaborated. He said we have to decide whether to consolidate with the Town or go on our own. He had further comment. He spoke of the favorable audit review. Mr. Nero said we do very well here and elaborated. Mr. Hundt said he agreed with Mr. Nero about having our own person and he elaborated. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. Testa said discussions have started years ago with the Board of Finance on this topic and he elaborated. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to solicit for a Business Manager for the Board of Education for July 1<sup>st</sup>. There was further comment. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had comment and suggested a meeting. There was further comment. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Update on Insurance Consortium – Mr. Nero said Mr. McCarthy attended a meeting and it was determined that this could be in place by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. McCarthy had comment and explained what the next steps will be. Mr. Nero had further comment.

d. Middle School Boiler – Mr. Nero said a meeting was held with the First Selectman and Funk Boiler. He said we are running on one boiler and he elaborated. An RFP is being formulated and he elaborated. Mr. Nero made some recommendations. Mr. Testa had comment. He spoke of conflicting information and elaborated. He spoke of items to be put into the RFP. Mr. Nero read the list to be included in the RFP. Mr. Nero spoke of his concern about the boilers and not knowing what would happen if there was a building project. He elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment and said he wanted to make sure we were being efficient. Board members had questions. There was further comment.

The meeting was suspended at 8:00 p.m. to go into a work session.

## WORK SESSION

### Policies and Regulations for Review

1. 2400 – Evaluation of Administrators and Administration – This policy was okay.
2. 4111 – Recruitment and Selection – Mr. Nero will check with other superintendents on their policy.
3. 4112.2 – Certification – Questions were asked and answered.
4. 4115 – Evaluation (and Support Program) – Questions were asked that Mr. Nero answered.
5. 4116 – Awarding of Tenure – Questions were asked and answered.
6. 4117.4 – Non-Renewal/Suspension (Policy and Regulation) – Questions were asked and answered.
7. 4131 – Staff Development (Existing policy but a major change) – Questions were asked and answered.

8. 5125 – Student Records; Confidentiality (Policy and Regulation – FERPA) – Questions were asked and answered.
9. 5141 – Student Health Services – Questions were asked and answered.
10. 5141.21 – Administering Medication – No comments were made.
11. 5141.25 – Students with Special Health Care Needs – No comments were made.
12. 5145.14 – On-Campus Recruitment – Dr. Robert made a suggested change. Comments were made.
13. 6142.6 – Physical Activity – Questions were asked and answered. Dr. Robert reviewed the policy with the Board. This will be tabled to the next meeting.
14. 6159 – Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program – No comments were made.

The Board returned to the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

11. New Business - a. Approval of Policies 2400, 4111, 4112.2, 4115, 4116, 4117.4, 4131, 5125, 5141, 5141.21, 5141.25, 5145.14, and 6159 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the revised policies as listed and to rescind the listed existing policies.
- b. Proposed Calendar for 2013-2014 – Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted six in favor and one against to accept the 2013-2014 calendar as presented. Mr. Mendolia voted against the motion.
- c. Dates for Review of Proposed Education Budget for 2013-2014 – Mr. Nero had comment. Dates were discussed. Mr. Nero handed out information and said they were just rough numbers and we have a long way to go. He met with the administrators today. He reviewed the handout. He had comment. He gave the history of our zero percent increases. Board members had comment. There were questions asked and answered. Mr. Nero said he just wanted to give the Board an idea as to where we are right now. Board members had comment.
- d. Safety and Security – Mr. Testa had comment about the importance of this item. He suggested reviewing where we stand and elaborated. He encouraged being pro-active and made some suggestions including having an evaluation done by someone or putting together our own committee that involved all the stakeholders. He elaborated. The administration regularly reviews our procedures. He had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment. He has spoken to the administrators and reviewed the plans. He spoke of bringing in someone from the outside. He elaborated. He had further comment. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was discussion and suggestions made. Mr. Testa will make contact to get a committee started. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to have Mr. Testa make a list of people to involve and to get them together as soon as possible.
12. Calendar – January 16<sup>th</sup> is the meeting with the Ad Hoc Committee and January 23<sup>rd</sup> is a regular meeting. The meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be used to start on the budget. February 13<sup>th</sup> is the first regular meeting in February. It

was suggested to send the legal RFP's to the Facilities and Finance Committee. That committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

13. Public Comment – Mr. Mike Urgo, citizen, had comment on the Business Manager position. He commented on the communication between boards last budget season. Mike Noonan, citizen, hoped every position is looked at carefully before it is cut. Mrs. Stephanie Barber, citizen, spoke of safety and had comment and suggestions. Mr. Nero had questions. Dr. Barbara Deindorfer-Young also spoke of safety in the schools. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment. Mrs. Alice Zeeman spoke of the school, safety and the drill. Mr. Cottingham, citizen, commended the superintendent on his communications and he elaborated. Mike Costanza, teacher, thanked the Board and administrators for their communications on this and asked that there be as much public input as possible and he elaborated. He had comment. Damien Robert, citizen, commented on the campus recruitment policy and asked if there was a way to filter it. He also had comment on security. Mrs. Kerri Perez, citizen, had questions on the committee that was forming.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education