

Board of Education Minutes
Tri-Board Meeting
June 25, 2015

A joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education was held on Thursday, June 25, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Media Center. Present for the Board of Selectmen were Mr. Donahue and Mr. Testa (7:13); present for the Board of Finance were Mr. Spring, Mr. Pavlovics and Mr. Woodward; and present for the Board of Education were Mr. Carlson and Mr. Mathwich. Also present was Mr. Nero. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Mr. Donahue. He welcomed everyone.

2. Public Comments – M. Donahue (BOS) – Mr. Spring asked if there were any comments from the newsletter that went out. It just was received in mailboxes yesterday. Mr. Donahue commented on someone coming from the State to speak to us.

3. School Construction Grant Process – R. Carlson (BOE) – Mr. Carlson said the State's website is very easy to use to get information on construction. Mr. Carlson reviewed items in the handout on the School Construction Grant Process. He gave some examples of what is reimbursable. He reviewed the timeline in the presentation. Mr. Mathwich commented on how the State reviews the projects and decides on grant awards. He elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Carlson spoke of numerous projects happening at the same time and he explained. He spoke of the current reimbursement rate from the State. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Donahue explained different aspects of the web site. There was discussion and comment. There were further questions asked and answered.

4. Ad Hoc/Communications Committees Status – M. Donahue (BOS) – Mr. Donahue said the Selectmen did meet on Tuesday. They are actively seeking Ad Hoc Committee members. They are still collecting applications for the Committee. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Mathwich would like to share a seat on the Committee since they had been members. There was discussion of a member from each Board being a liaison. There was further comment and discussion. Mr. Donahue had further comment. Mr. Spring suggested having an orientation for the committee. Mr. Nero had comment. There was a question on whether a process was developed to follow. There was discussion. Mr. Donahue said they are in the process of soliciting volunteers to be on the Communications Committee. Mr. Carlson said Mr. Riley will give them a booth at the fair and he elaborated. Mr. Donahue passed out a sample flyer. The science lab video was shown. There was discussion of the video. There was a suggestion of having the video shown at the fair booth. There was further comment on the video. There was a suggestion of having credits on the video.

5. Support of Professional Services – D. Spring (BOF) – Mr. Spring said to bring forward what we have built on we need to bring in professionals to bring it to life. He said architects were spoken of. He had comment on that. There was comment on bids and proposals. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Spring mentioned the bond counsel. He spoke of wondering what could be done in terms of sustainability and possible grant monies for that.

There was comment. He spoke of technology and the need to be cutting edge. He spoke of incorporating agriculture. He said these are some things that start to color the vision of where we want to go. Mr. Nero and Mr. Mathwich had comment about putting some of these things into the scope. There was further comment. The school system is important to move the community forward and he elaborated. Mr. Spring said the public needs to get the sense that this is a campaign – a means to an end.

6. Discussion – Boards – Mr. Donahue said these venues are chance for the Boards to move forward together. Mr. Spring said we would be smart to bring someone forward to give examples of how investing in your schools brings health to the community. There was comment. Mr. Spring said what he wants to do is get our facilities up and running but it is larger than fixing windows or expanding a classroom. Mr. Carlson wanted to set up some type of schedule for fair coverage. He reviewed the blocks of time. There was discussion of coverage. There was discussion of drawing attention to the booth. There was further discussion.

7. Session Summary – D. Spring (BOF) – Covered throughout the discussions.

8. Assignments/Next Topics – R. Carlson (BOE) – The working group will meet on July 16th to review input from the fair.

9. Next Meeting – R. Carlson (BOE) – The next Tri-Board meeting will meet on August 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary school library. There was discussion.

Mrs. Pat Lewis asked they were going to be filming the safety concerns at the elementary school. She suggested changing the ad on the web site to reflect the North Stonington School System buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education