

Board of Education Minutes
Tri-Board Meeting
May 28, 2015

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A joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education was held on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the North Stonington Elementary School Multipurpose Room. Present for the Board of Selectmen were Mr. Donahue, Mr. Mullane and Mr. Testa (7:12 p.m.); present for the Board of Finance were Mr. Spring, Mr. Pavlovics, and Mr. Woodward; and present for the Board of Education were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Buzzee, Mrs. Wagner, and Mr. Mendolia (7:13 p.m.). Also present was Mr. Nero, Mr. Pont, Network Administrator, Guy Boucher, Maintenance Supervisor, and Ashis Roychowdhury, consultant for Eagle Environmental. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mr. Spring. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief history of the meetings held to date.

2. Public Comments – Mrs. Nita Kincaid asked about involving the Ad Hoc Committee. She asked what role the Ad Hoc Committee would have. She thought it would be answered in the next item.

3. Recap of Last Session/Next Step-Ad Hoc – D. Spring (BOF) – He listed the items the Boards were in agreement on. They included the state of the facilities, some type of project is needed to be done, the scope of a project, and Ad Hoc involvement. Names were submitted to the First Selectmen for the Ad Hoc committee and they were still looking for candidates. Mrs. Wagner had some concerns about a new Ad Hoc Committee and the length of time it would take to get them up to speed. Mr. Spring addressed her concerns. He said there are still some members on the committee that are familiar with the history. Mr. Carlson had comment as a former Ad Hoc member. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Spring said they had talked about representation from each Board being on the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Donahue had comment. Mr. Spring had further comment.

4. Update on Security and Environmental Issues – Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Nero introduced Ashis Roychowdhury and he gave his background information. Mr. Roychowdhury said he has been working with North Stonington since the 1990's. He spoke of the PCB's issue and the EPA's response. He said a decision has to be made as to whether to fix the issue or wait for a referendum on the building project. He didn't see a reason to test inside the school at this point. He elaborated. Mr. Woodward asked about the cost. Mr. Roychowdhury had explanation. He said just a guess would be roughly \$150,000 to \$250,000 but emphasized that is just a guess. Mr. Nero had comment. He said if you do this now, you would have to replace windows as well. The EPA could also come in and say to shut the school down during the process. Mr. Spring clarified that if PCB's are present, then remediation is necessary. Mr. Roychowdhury explained the numbers. A sample of the caulk is actually taken and he elaborated. He explained how you have to sample the layers until it is clear, including the soil. It is a very lengthy process. Mr. Spring asked if PCB's are a carcinogenic. Mr. Roychowdhury said it must be ingested. Mr. Testa said this has been a known issue for a long time. Mr. Roychowdhury and Mr. Nero clarified it was 2010 when the windows were going to be replaced and the issue came to light. Mr. Roychowdhury had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment and there was discussion. Mrs. Wagner clarified what we are looking at and that

moving forward we need to be aware of what we are dealing with. There was discussion and further questions asked and answered. Mr. Roychowdhury had closing comments.

Mr. Nero introduced Greg Pont to review some of the items in place for safety and security. Mr. Pont gave an overview of the door access systems. He went over the visitor security and visitor badging system. The intercom expansion system was reviewed. The interior door lock upgrades at the elementary school was also reviewed and said this involved retrofitting the door locks. The security camera expansion and upgrade was reviewed. Mr. Pont explained that in the future, he is looking to expand and upgrade the fiber optic communications. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Pont had further explanation on some of the systems. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. There was comment from various Board members.

5. Outline of Communication Plan – M. Donahue (BOS) – Mr. Donahue reviewed the Communication Plan. Mr. Donahue said he took a stab at developing a timeline. Mr. Donahue had comment on the timeline. He reviewed the items on the timeline. He said this was a starting point to get something started in the next fiscal year. He had further comment. He spoke of communications. Mr. Donahue reviewed the communications materials to develop, communications activities and events, and communications outlets and channels. Mr. Donahue reviewed the next steps which include staffing the Ad Hoc Committee to formulate the proposal and developing and implementing the communications plan with the working group to recruit volunteers to assist in that.

6. Discussion – Boards – There was discussion of the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Mullane had suggestions on the timeline. Mrs. Wagner spoke of the communications plan and recruiting volunteers. There was discussion. Mr. Spring felt Mr. Donahue's presentation was very helpful and he elaborated. Mr. Nero commented on Mr. Donahue's presentation and that he was going to have her send a copy of his presentation and timeline to NEASC. He elaborated. There was further comment. Mr. Spring said we need to look for points of leverage and self-promotion. He elaborated. Mr. Donahue had comment on the Ad Hoc Committee. Mrs. Wagner voiced her concern again about the Ad Hoc Committee and placing our trust in them and that we are behind them. There was discussion about having the Ad Hoc in place no later than August. There was talk of what needed to happen to move that up. Mr. Nero had comment about the architect. There was comment about having a target number. Mr. Carlson had comment on the priorities that we had set and working from a number. Mr. Nero spoke of the State's constraints about going back to them for building projects and their reimbursement. There was a suggestion to bring in a representative from the state to speak to the Tri-Board. Mr. Testa spoke of getting a balance on the Ad Hoc Committee. There was discussion. There was clarification about members of the Ad Hoc being fiscally responsible. Mr. Spring said we entered into these meetings with integrity in our intentions and that can carry in to the Ad Hoc Committee.

7. Session Summary – M. Donahue (BOS) – Mr. Donahue summed up the meeting by reviewing the PCB's issue, security issues, and challenges we will be facing. He said the communications plan was reviewed, a schedule was presented, there were good discussion points on the budget process with the schedule, some information from

tonight will be presented to NEASC, how we will get professional services involved, and a major build project versus a renovation plan were discussed.

8. Assignments/Next Topics – R. Carlson (BOE) – Mr. Carlson said we have covered a lot tonight. Mr. Spring felt we need to establish a timeline for the communications plan. He said we need to get the communications committee together pretty quickly. There was discussion. Mr. Carlson said after the working group meets there would be about a month to get things in place for the fair. Mr. Pavlovics felt we needed two committees to report to us and they are the communications committee and the AD Hoc Committee. There was discussion. Mr. Carlson will look into having someone from the State come to talk to us.

9. Next Meeting – R. Carlson (BOE) – There was discussion on the date for the next meeting. The working group will meet on June 11th and the next Tri-Board meeting will be on June 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the high school media center. There was discussion on the science video.

10. Public Comment – Nita Kincaid said it takes a long time to get communications together and getting something printed for the fair. She had comment and suggestions. She said you need to move quickly. There was discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education