

Board of Education Minutes
July 10, 2012
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Mathwich, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Chairman Testa called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. Testa told those present the meeting was being recorded.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Scarchilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

4. 2012-2013 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero gave background information on the budget. He met with the business manager, administrators, and the technology director and explained they were able to get to the \$300,000 cut. He elaborated. He explained how he constructs a budget to be able to de-construct it. He had further explanation. Mr. Nero listed some of the items they looked at to eliminate including reducing personnel to less than full time, combining cross country teams, and the elimination of lacrosse. He said everything was looked at. Mr. Nero told the Board that art was reduced by .2, technology education by .2, and family and consumer science by .2. He went over the “must-haves” versus the “nice-to-haves.” He had further explanation and elaborated. He explained some of the items may be able to be restored throughout the course of the year. Mr. Testa asked for Board members to comment. Mr. Mathwich had questions on speech services for summer school and there was explanation. Mr. McCord asked about the bus contract freeze and contract extension. Mr. McCarthy explained the law on extending contracts. He had further explanation. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero also had comment on the contract. Mr. McCord commented on the utilities reduction. Mr. McCarthy explained the retro-fitting of the lighting and other items including an audit done by CL&P. Mr. McCarthy spoke of the cut to the natural gas cost. Mr. McCord questioned Title IIA and Mr. McCarthy had explanation. Mr. Nero spoke of professional development and spoke of teachers going to conferences and having people coming in to the schools and classrooms. He elaborated on how he will be speaking with the administrators to develop this. Mr. Testa had questions on the previous lighting programs. Mr. McCarthy explained how the current program works, starting with an energy audit. Mr. McCord had further questions about the reduction in staff. There was discussion. Mr. Nero said it was unfortunate we have to do this but we have to balance the budget. He commented that this leaves us with an increase of .12%. Mr. Testa said he knows this process is difficult and he had further comment. He said it is not going to get any easier if we keep getting level funded. On a motion by Mr. Scarchilli, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the new budget of \$12,095,282 for a .12% increase.

5. Calendar – Mr. Testa told those present that he spoke to Mr. Hennick at the Freedom of Information Commission about doing a presentation for the Board and staff members in light of the fact that we have a new Superintendent and many new Board members. Dates will be looked at in July, August or September for the presentation. Mr. Mathwich had questions on sub-committee meetings. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

6. Public Comment – Gretchen Noonan, citizen, had comment on the budget cuts. She asked if information on the cuts could be shared with them so they would know what questions to ask.

7. Adjournment – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education