

Board of Education Minutes
July 24, 2013

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, July 24, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. Mendolia, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert (7:30 p.m.), Mr. Mathwich (7:07 p.m.), and Mrs. Dame. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, and Mrs. Wilkison. Mr. Testa called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to move item 11b, Board of Education Vacancy to item 2a.

2a. Board of Education Vacancy – Mr. Testa explained that Mr. Robert Carlson will be filling the vacancy left by Mr. Hundt. On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Carlson to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Hundt's resignation. (Mr. Carlson joined the Board as a participating member since Town Clerk Norma Holliday had sworn in Mr. Carlson.)

3. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Discussion of Strategy Regarding Collective Bargaining – On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. for the Purpose of Discussion of Strategy Regarding Collective Bargaining and to invite Attorney Grello into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. The meeting began again at 7:57 p.m.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.

5. Community Relations - None

6. Presentations – “North Stonington Quarterly” Newsletter Proposal – Mr. Mike Urgo explained the background of the newsletter and he elaborated. The first issue will be out in October. He explained they will be getting an article from each Board and Commission and look at this as a way to reach out to the general public. A quarter-page will be asked of each Board and Commission. Mr. Urgo had further comment. The schools would also be invited to submit an article. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion about the newsletter and the process. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further discussion.

7. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison told of happenings at the elementary school including the summer school program is in progress, the kindergarten teachers have been working with the incoming kindergarten students, and the staff changes at the school. She passed out a sheet on Reading Advancements and Achievements for the 2012-2013 school year and explained the handout. Questions were asked and answered.

8. Administrative – a. Minutes – June 12, 2013 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted five in favor and two abstentions to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2013, meeting. Mr. Karpinski and Mr. Carlson abstained.

June 26, 2013 Special Meeting – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the June 26, 2013, special meeting. Mr. Carlson abstained.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero spoke of the letter received from the State regarding the Annual Performance Review stating that we met the requirements. He explained.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said that Cheryl Biekert resigned from her position as special education teacher to take a special services director position in Lebanon. Mr. Nero had further comment and wished Mrs. Biekert well.

9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero spoke of the invoice from CIRMA for Workers' Compensation. He explained how the payment percentage was changed without our knowledge. He had further explanation. Mr. Nero handed out a draft letter that he received from Mr. Mullane for the Board of Education to send to the Board of Finance. There was discussion. Mr. Nero handed out his edits for the letter. There was comment. Suggestions were made for the letter. Mr. Nero asked the Board of Education to read the letter to the editor in The Westerly Sun regarding the town meeting for the fire station and he elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Testa said he spoke with Mr. Mullane at the end of the school year and also spoke to Mr. Spring about the RISSA account. He has requested a meeting with Mr. Nero, Mr. Mullane, Mr. Spring, and him. He elaborated. He spoke of needing to speak about the new tuition policy. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment.

c. Committee Chairperson – Mrs. Dame said she has been attending the PTO meetings and she elaborated. Mr. Mathwich said this past year, the Sports Boosters purchased a new scoreboard for the soccer field and he elaborated. There was further discussion.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Mathwich said they are working on transferring blueprints from the schools to CD's so contractors can use them. He said the committee was replacing two doors at the high school and they were doing lights for the elementary school parking lot. He elaborated on the lights. There was comment. The committee will be resurfacing and restriping the high/middle school parking lot this summer. Mr. Mathwich had further comment. Mr. Mathwich said he will take on the role as PSPBC liaison. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment.

10. Finance – None.

11. Old Business – Insurance Consortium Update – Mr. Nero had comment on the roll-out of the prescription and dental plans.

b. Board of Education Vacancy – Covered above.

12. New Business – a. Boys’ Lacrosse Co-Op with St. Bernard’s – Mr. Nero said he met with Mrs. Turner on this and he elaborated. Mr. Nero was recommending we participate in this. Questions were asked and answered. There was a question on transportation that will be clarified with Mrs. Turner. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposal for the Boys’ Lacrosse Co-Op with St. Bernard’s.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next meeting is August 28th.

Mr. Testa spoke of an academic collaborative and would like this put in the next agenda. He elaborated.

b. Committee Action List – Mr. Testa said since our next meeting is August 28th and that is the due date for the newsletter, he suggested that he and Mr. Nero collaborate on the article for this issue. Suggestions were made. There was further discussion.

14. Public Comment – Mr. Urgo said he was at the meeting in question that was referred to in The Westerly Sun and spoke of the dialogue that took place. He said this person was addressed by Mr. Spring. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Urgo commented on his role of Board of Finance liaison. Mr. Joe Gross spoke of defining of maintenance and elaborated. He spoke of defining responsibilities. He had questions. He commented that the Superintendent is doing a good job. He commented on the school project. He spoke of insurance costs and showing it in the budget. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Gross spoke of the ICONS group. Mr. Testa explained the role of the Board of Finance liaison and how it originated.

15. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Student Matter and b. Evaluation and Employment of Superintendent – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. for the Purpose of Student Matter and Evaluation and Employment of Superintendent and to invited Mr. and Mrs. Steinbrecher into such session for the Student Matter portion.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:36 p.m.

16. Possible Action Concerning Student Matter – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to approve the student request for early graduation.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. for the Purpose of Evaluation and Employment of Superintendent.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:09 p.m.

17. Possible Action Concerning Evaluation and Employment of Superintendent – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to table this item.

On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education