

Board of Education Minutes
June 25, 2014

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mrs. Wagner, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Ben Hayes, resident, spoke. He explained he is a first-time magnet school parent and commented on the magnet school transportation that was cut from the budget. He elaborated. He asked that the Board of Education supply transportation to his students and the others that go to the Regional Multicultural Magnet School. He had further comment. Mr. Nero had explanation. Mr. Hayes had further comment. There was additional comment.
4. Community Relations – None.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Costa said there are 23 new preschool students enrolling, and an information session was held and a summer play date is set. Her department ended on a positive note with 90-95% of students mastering their goals this year and she elaborated. Mrs. Costa commended Mrs. Costanza, Mrs. Higginbotham, and the intern for coming in and helping during the time of need for the student's family. Mrs. Wilkison said they had a great ending to the year. There are 59 fifth graders are going to the middle school. Mrs. Wilkison reviewed the student outcomes in mathematics with CCSS instruction and implementation of the EnVision Math Program. She reviewed the figures. Mr. Nero commented on the math specialist they had this year. Mrs. Wilkison commented. Mrs. St. Germain commented on the difficult time that the school has been going through. She elaborated. She spoke of the ceremony to be held on Saturday. She elaborated. She said graduation was a success. Ryan Chaney starts on Tuesday. She had comment on NEASC, the web site and other items. Mr. Macrino's last day is Monday.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – June 11, 2014 – On a motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2014, meeting.
 - b. Correspondence – None.
 - c. Personnel – Mr. Nero read a letter of resignation from Ashley Glorioso from her high school mathematics position. Mr. Nero had comment.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero thanked the administrators. He said they have probably faced the most difficult year yet. He spoke of the teacher evaluation changes, and the SBAC test among some things and it all worked. There have been a lot of great events the past couple of weeks. He spoke of the passing of a student. Mr. Nero explained that permission was granted for the family to have a celebration of life for the student at Wheeler. He spoke of the student and elaborated. He thanked the Board for their understanding.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. McCord commented that the student was a profile of courage. He had further comment.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Mathwich said he went to the Selectmen’s meeting last night. The RFP for the generator will be going out by next week. The upcoming budget will be used for the elementary school parking lot’s sealing and coating. He said they are going to ask the Board of Education to pick up the cost of sealing and striping next year. Mr. Nero had comment on the cuts he had to make his first year. He spoke of the workers’ compensation bill that was given to us this year without our knowledge. He spoke of the RISSA account that he wanted to set up for maintenance items. He elaborated and had further comment. There was comment and discussion.

9. Finance – a. May 2014 Financial Statements – Mr. Carlson had comment. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to accept the May 2014 Financial Statements as presented.

b. Transfer Requests – Mr. Carlson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to accept the transfers as presented. Mr. Carlson had comment on the transfers. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. 2013-2014 Education Budget – Mr. Nero commented on budget reductions over the years. He said we have a bit of a surplus this year. He was asking for permission as they did last year for purchasing. Mr. Nero commented on the surplus. The savings came from insurance and staffing changes to name the major budget savings. He explained some of the billing items that we are waiting for. He had further comment. There was discussion on the maintenance van. He had further comment. The Board gave their consensus for the year end spending as the administration saw fit.

The Board took a recess at 7:55 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 8:05 p.m.

Mr. Nero said he will get a list to the Board of the items that will be purchased.

b. School Building Project – Mr. Carlson suggested coming up with a time table for a project and elaborated. Mr. Nero had comment and said there was no back-up plan when the first plan was brought forward. Mr. Nero commented on some of the items concerning the buildings. Mrs. Wagner commented on the plans. She suggested getting the costs of the piece-mealing of certain items. Board members had comment on the condition of the buildings. There was further comment. Mr. Nero suggested that Mr. McCord ask to be placed on the next Selectmen’s meeting agenda.

11. New Business – None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The July 9th meeting will be cancelled and a meeting will be held on July 23rd if needed. August’s meeting date will be discussed at a later date.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Mrs. Pat Ostrout, citizen, thanked everyone who supported the building project and all those that spent a lot of time on this. She asked for clarification on information that she read in the newspaper. There was discussion on the misinformation being published regarding the schools. Mrs. Ostrout then spoke as co-president of the NSEA. She spoke of the mailings, signs, and support of the teachers.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent’s Evaluation and Contract and Change of Salary Classification of Administrative Assistant and to invite Mrs. Allen into such session for the salary classification item.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:41 p.m.

15. Superintendent’s Evaluation – The Board had reviewed Mr. Nero’s evaluation and gave him a favorable evaluation. Mr. Nero met all the benchmarks that were set.

16. Possible Action on Superintendent’s Contract – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to extend Mr. Nero’s contract for one year and to give the superintendent a 2.6% salary increase and place him in the high deductible health plan. There was comment that there would be an overall savings of approximately \$2,800 on Mr. Nero’s contract.

17. Possible Action on change of Salary Classification of Administrative Assistant – On a motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to change the salary classification of the administrative assistant from an hourly employee to a salaried employee.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to The Board of Education