

Board of Education Minutes  
Emergency Meeting  
June 6, 2012

An emergency meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Hundt, Dr. Robert, Mr. Mathwich, and Mr. Mendolia (7:05 p.m.). Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, and Mr. Sandford. Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. 2012-2013 Proposed Education Budget – It was mentioned that the Board of Finance was meeting tonight. Dr. Pukas explained the need for calling an emergency meeting. She said we have a short time frame before the teachers are leaving for the summer and explained about the situation with the budget not passing and the non-tenured teachers. She explained about the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline with the non-tenured teachers. Dr. Pukas asked the Board to consider at their June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting that the teachers that are not being renewed be given contracts and she explained. She referred to Mr. McCarthy who said the unemployment cost for these teachers will be about \$5,000 a week. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. McCarthy explained about the deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup> and being able to file July 1<sup>st</sup>. A question was asked about the ramifications of reinstating them. Dr. Pukas explained the rights and process if they are not reinstated. She had further explanation. Further questions were asked and answered. Dr. Pukas answered questions about the positions. She reiterated to the Board that we have not been in this position before. There was further comment and explanation. Dr. Pukas told the Board of her concern if there is no clear direction from the Board of Finance and that this could be an issue. She also explained that the issues on the agenda were critical and that the Board needed to be aware of them immediately. She also reminded the Board that she would not be in attendance on Friday and this information could very well impact their future decisions.

Mr. Testa made a point of order about the meeting criteria for an emergency meeting. He told of his concern based on the criteria for an emergency meeting. He had further comment and elaborated. Dr. Pukas explained her reasoning for the emergency meeting. There was discussion. Mr. Hundt had comment about policies and following them. He elaborated and commented on the cancelled meeting. Mr. McCord had comment on the reasons the meeting had been cancelled. He elaborated. Mr. McCord spoke of the issue of the transition and how important this is for the district. Dr. Robert had comment. There was further comment. There was discussion.

Mr. McCord asked for a motion to make this a workshop instead of a meeting. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to change the meeting to a workshop.

The Board moved to Item 5.

3. Proposed for Executive Session – No discussion or action on the Executive Session item.
  - a. Discussion Concerning the Performance of Public Officials/Board of Education

4. Possible Action Concerning the Performance of Public Officials/Board of Education – No discussion or action.

5. Transition Planning – Dr. Pukas told the Board she wanted to make sure there is a plan in place for transition and elaborated. She explained the financial aspects and the law about having a superintendent of schools. She had further explanation of what needs to happen in the interim. She had further comment. She commented on faculty and staff meeting with the new superintendent prior to August 27<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Pukas said we want to be able to welcome him and help as much as we can. She had further comment. Mr. Testa explained what Mr. Nero had in place for his plan. Mr. Mathwich had comment. There was discussion. She reiterated that the financial aspect is very concerning. She had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. McCord had comment. There was discussion.

6. End-of-Year School Activities – Dr. Pukas listed the end-of-year events which include Grade 5 promotion on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., Senior Class Night on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., Grade 8 promotion June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> is graduation at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Testa addressed the Board about graduation. He commented that he would like to see Mr. Robert carry out the traditional activities for end-of-the year activities and explained his reasoning. Mr. McCord had comment about it being the right thing to do. Dr. Robert agreed to do the end-of-year activities.

7. Public Comment – Questions were asked to clarify the year-end activities. Mr. Noonan had comment about the referendum. He had further comment and explained his daughter's experience while at Town Hall. There was discussion of the referendum. Mr. McCord commended Mr. Sandford and Mrs. Wilkison for the great job getting the word out about the good things in the schools. He had further comment on the great students, faculty and administration.

The workshop ended at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education