

Board of Education Minutes  
Special Meeting  
June 8, 2012

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Friday, June 8, 2012, at 6:45 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Hundt, Dr. Robert, Mr. Mathwich, Mrs. Dame, and Mr. Mendolia (6:54 p.m.). Also present was Dr. Pukas (via telephone), Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Mr. McCord called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m.

2. Suspension of Policy 2131 (Administration, Superintendent of School) – Mr. McCord explained the first order of business on the agenda. There was discussion on the need for this action. Dr Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to suspend 2131a item 1. There were questions and comments about excusing the Superintendent from tonight's meeting. There was discussion. The motion to suspend 2131a item 1 passed with six voting in favor, one opposed and one abstention. Mr. Scarchilli was opposed to the motion and Mr. Hundt abstained. After the motion, Dr. Pukas was no longer taking part in the meeting.

3. Discussion of Suspension of Board of Education Policies – Mr. McCord explained there were conflicting policies, 9122 and 9221. He read the policies. He had further explanation. He said when one is suspended that whichever one is suspended should be referred to the policy committee to review. Mr. Hundt had comment regarding terminology in the policies. His opinion was that both of these stay in place. Mr. Mathwich had clarification of the policies. Mr. McCord said when Dr. Robert resigned, he sought counsel of the Board's attorney and explained the opinion received from counsel. He had further explanation. He explained when the conflict was discovered legal counsel said either one of these would have to be suspended and he explained the scenario of each policy. There were questions asked and answered. There was further comment. There was discussion about tabling both of these and just holding an election for Chairman.

4. Possible Suspension of Board of Education Policy 9122 (Bylaws of the Board, Office of the Vice-Chairman) – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to table this item and send it to committee for review.

5. Possible Suspension of Board of Education Policy 9221 (Bylaws of the Board, Filling Vacancies) – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to table this item and send it to committee for review.

6. Possible Action to Fill Board of Education Officer Vacancy – Mr. McCord nominated Mr. Hundt for Chairman and Dr. Robert seconded the nomination. Mr. Hundt nominated Mr. Mathwich for Chairman and Mr. Scarchilli seconded the nomination. Dr. Robert nominated Mr. McCord for Chairman to which there was no second. Mr. Scarchilli nominated Mr. Testa for Chairman and Mr. Mathwich seconded the nomination. Mr. Hundt

wanted to withdraw and explained. A paper ballot vote was taken and Mr. Testa received seven votes and Mr. Mathwich received one vote. Mrs. Dame cast her vote for Mr. Mathwich and the seven other members voted for Mr. Testa. Mr. Testa was elected as the new Chairman.

7. 2012-2013 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Testa explained the administrators met and came up with reductions. Mr. McCarthy handed out a sheet and said we were told by the Board of Finance to come to a 2.6% budget. Mr. Hundt had questions on the reductions. Mr. McCarthy answered questions about the reduction of the maintenance position and bumping rights. There were further questions asked and answered including those relating to the NEASC report and the shortage of custodians. Further questions were asked regarding the math intervention teacher. There was further discussion. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the recommended reductions on the sheet. There were questions asked and answered about the reduction items purchased ahead. Dr. Robert thanked the administrators for their work on this. There was comment on whether a 2.6% budget would pass and what the impact would be if it had to go lower. There was discussion of what the budget increases have been over the past five years. There was comment and discussion about the math intervention teacher being added back in, the 2.6% figure being a recommendation, and the pre-school program. There was comment about adding in educational programs if it goes beyond 2.6%. Mr. Sandford reviewed the handout he put at the Board members' seats. He wanted to make some recommendations for adjustments to his budgets. He further explained the shifts. He explained the co-teaching model. He had further explanation and comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Testa asked if the Superintendent had seen this plan. Mr. Sandford said this discussion has been in the works. Mr. Testa clarified that the Superintendent had approved this. Further questions were asked and answered. There was clarification of Mr. Sandford's plan. There were further questions asked. Mr. Testa commented we are all going to be working hard with the transition. The motion passed with seven voting in favor and one opposed. Mr. Mathwich opposed the motion.

8. Employment of New Superintendent - Mr. Testa made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Scarchilli to adjourn to Executive Session for the Purpose of Employment of the New Superintendent. There was explanation of why this was allowable in executive session even though it was not posted as such. Mr. Testa commented that the Freedom of Information Commission was called to get direction on the agenda item and had further explanation. The motion to go into Executive Session passed unanimously at 7:59 p.m.

The Board came back to open session at 8:25 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted six in favor and two opposed to ratify the contract between the North Stonington Board of Education and Peter Nero. Those voting against the motion were Dr. Robert and Mr. McCord.

9. Public Comment – Mr. Bing Bartick asked to have public comment at the beginning of the meeting and he explained. He asked that the Board work together and civility be the rule and find common ground to keep North

Stonington's education system sound. He elaborated on the school facilities and setting a time table for a referendum. He had further comment. Mr. Shawn Murphy asked what the goal was to have the superintendent in place to which Mr. Testa said it would take effect July 1<sup>st</sup>. There was further comment. Mr. Murphy also had comment regarding the educational plan and the building project. Student Connor Yakaitis spoke. He explained he spoke with a Board member and elaborated. He commented on the current direction of the Board and his speech and elaborated. Mrs. Wendy Corrigan had comment on Connor Yakaitis' statement and she elaborated. There was comment by Mr. Testa. Mr. Steve Ostrout had comment on the public comment portion of the agenda. Mr. Tim Yakaitis had comment. Mr. Testa said he will contact Dr. Pukas to find out what had happened. Mr. Yakaitis had further comment about the incident with his son. There was further comment and discussion. Mr. Hundt had comment in response to Mr. Yakaitis. He explained what had transpired in his discussion with the student. There was discussion. Mr. Yakaitis had further comment. There was further comment. A student had comment on what transpired. Mr. Miguel Dejesus had comment on recent publicity and elaborated. He had further comment. Mr. Scarchilli read bylaw 9325 regarding public comment. He had further comment.

10. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Discussion Regarding Attorney-Client Privilege/Written Communication – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for the Purpose of Attorney-Client Privilege/Written Communication at 8:58 p.m.

Mrs. Dame left at 9:55 p.m. The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

11. Possible Action Concerning Correspondence with Parent - On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted five in favor and two opposed to take no action regarding correspondence with parent, to get clarification on the law on the bottom of page 4, and to have Mr. Scarchilli draft a brief alternate letter for the Board of Education to review. Those voting against the motion were Mr. Scarchilli and Mr. Testa.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education