

Board of Education Minutes  
March 10, 2010

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa, Mrs. Dame, and Mr. McCord. Mrs. Ricker and Mr. Secchiaroli were absent. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi, and Mr. Sandford. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Dr. Robert told the audience that the meeting was being audio-recorded.

Dr. Pukas commented that March is Board of Education Appreciation month. She thanked those sitting around the table for all they do for the children and she elaborated. She thanked Mrs. McCarthy for the refreshments. Dr. Robert said as a Board they are going to rededicate themselves to North Stonington. The Board took a short recess.

2. Public Comment – None.

3. Community Relations – Nothing other than the articles in the packets. Dr. Pukas said there has been a lot of good press lately.

4. Presentations – None.

5. Administrators Reports – Mr. Sandford said testing has been going on and he explained. He said Report Card Night is now Progress Report Night and he explained. He told the Board teachers are making recommendations for next year's courses and he elaborated. There were questions that Mr. Sandford answered. Mr. Susi said there are cases where students pick electives and if selections aren't available because of core courses they have to make other choices to fill their schedule. Mrs. Wilkison made a correction to the kindergarten class numbers. She told of happenings at the elementary school including Technology Week being held, CMT's finishing up, a post-testing ice cream social, the Raise a Reader School Challenge, the upcoming art show with Mexico as a theme, and the Drama Club presentation coming up on March 26<sup>th</sup>. There were questions asked and answered.

6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – February 17, 2010 – On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted four in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting. Mr. McCord abstained.

March 3, 2010 – Tabled.

c. Correspondence – Dr. Robert explained the letter received about the senior trip. He said this was a Senior Travel Club trip and not a class trip. He elaborated. There were questions and comments. There will be clarification on what went home to the parents.

d. Personnel – a. Coaching Assignments – Mrs. Banker explained she had not heard any comments on these recommendations. Mrs. Banker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to accept the recommendations from Mr. Susi and Dr. Pukas for the coaching positions provided they have the necessary paperwork and course work completed. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Possible Action Concerning Superintendent’s Contract of Employment/Terms – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to extend the Superintendent’s contract to June 30, 2012. There were questions asked. There was comment. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas passed out an article from the *Hartford Courant* about the “Race to the Top.” She had comment. She distributed the letter from M&J Bus Company that included articles from the *Hartford Courant*. She had explanation. Dr. Pukas told the Board that she and SECASA are actively participating in the Southeastern Connecticut regionalism forum. She explained further. She had comment on articles included in the packet. It was decided that Diana Urban will be contacted to make a presentation to the Board.

b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert spoke of meeting times after the budget has been presented in order to set goals.

c. Committee Chairs – Mr. Testa said the Finance Committee met just on formalities.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Testa said he is the new chair of the PSPBC. He said the elementary bathroom bids are being gathered and due by March 22<sup>nd</sup>; they are hoping to get it done during April vacation. He said the committee had a concern over the change in administration and wanted to discuss the value of the technology education room project. Mr. Hundt had comment. Mr. Testa had further comment. There was discussion. Mr. Testa said the Committee believed that communication had been working well with the administrators. They were trying to get better communication with the Board of Selectmen. There was comment. Questions were asked. Mr. McCord volunteered to be on the Facilities Committee.

e. Committee Action List – None.

8. Financial – January 2010 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept general fund expenditures of \$848,042.87, grant expenditures of \$61,425.43 for a total for the month of January 2010 of \$909,468.30.

b. February 2010 Financial Statements – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to accept general fund expenditures of \$933,049.28, grant expenditures of \$30,441.42 for a total for the month of February 2010 of \$963,490.70. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Transfer Request – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to accept the transfers requested by the Business Manager in a memo dated March 1, 2010.

9. Old Business – a. 2010-2011 Proposed Education Budget – There was discussion of line items in the budget. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to eliminate from the budget for 2010-2011 line 190 for the search firm for \$20,000. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to eliminate from the budget for 2010-2011 line 191 for the added Superintendent buyout of \$39,819. Mr. McCarthy explained. The motion was amended to eliminate the amount in the insurance line to bring the budget to a 0% increase. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Robert said we are at a 0% budget for \$12,081,172. Mrs. Dame made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt to send a budget with a 0% increase to the Board of Finance. Mr. Testa said this was not possible without the teachers and he wanted to make note of that. Mr. McCord had comment about the process. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Robert thanked everyone and said the budget will be sent to the Board of Finance. Dr. Robert spoke about the presentation. Mr. Testa as Finance Committee Chairperson will be the presenter along with the administrators and the Superintendent. Dr. Pukas had comment and said the administrators are preparing for the presentation. There was discussion about procedures.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to add Golf Team as New Business, Item a, and to move the rest of the agenda down.

10. New Business – a. Golf Team – Dr. Pukas explained the memo she had received. She explained the request that had come through the athletic director. She requested that since we are not fielding a junior varsity lacrosse team that a coed golf team be formed. There was discussion of the costs. On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. Hundt the Board voted unanimously that in lieu of the fact that there is no jv lacrosse that the money be put to a coed golf team provided they stay in the same funds that were allotted for this year and appoint Carl Weber as coach. A detailed budget of the team will be sent to the Board as soon as it is available.

b. High School Program of Studies Booklet – Dr. Pukas told the Board this had gone through the Curriculum Committee. There were some recommended changes. On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the booklet with the changes.

c. Proposed Courses at High School – On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to approve the pilot course in AP chemistry.

On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to approve general geometry as a new pilot course.

On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the new keyboard pilot course. There was comment.

d. Healthy Foods Certification Statement – Mr. McCarthy explained why this needed to be done. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the motion in the memo from the Business Manager to the Board of Education regarding the healthy foods certification statement.

11. Calendar – A Facilities Committee meeting will be held on March 17, 2010 after the budget presentation.

12. Public Comment – None.

13. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education