

Board of Education Minutes
March 11, 2009

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, Mr. Briscoe, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, and Mr. Secchiaroli. Mr. Testa and Mr. Keane 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 7:40 p.m.

2. Public Comment/Request to Comment on Agenda Item – None.
3. Community Relations – Nothing other than in the Board’s packet.
4. Presentations – None.
5. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Wilkison said the CMT’s were almost done and elaborated. She said the second trimester ended today with parent conferences coming up, the basket raffle was coming up, the art show is next Thursday, and Jump Rope for Heart will be happening. Mr. Susi said they are currently in the middle of testing, progress reports are going out, and they are gearing up for next year with the course of studies at the Board’s places for their review.
6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2009 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted four in favor and two abstentions to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2009, meeting. Mr. McCord and Mrs. Banker abstained.

February 25, 2009 Workshop – On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted four in favor and two abstentions to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2009, workshop as amended. Mr. McCord and Mrs. Banker abstained.

February 25, 2009 Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2009, meeting. Mr. McCord abstained.

March 4, 2009 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2009, Special Meeting.

March 4, 2009 Second Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the second special meeting of March 4, 2009.
- b. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas pointed out the letter from George Coleman naming Wheeler as a participant in the Capstone Study. She reviewed other correspondence.

c. Personnel – None.

7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas reviewed the items mentioned in her packet notes. There was comment on the kindergarten survey. She reviewed the Step Program grant, the newsletter, and the performance test for hiring. She elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert spoke of an email he received from the Board of Finance. He explained. He brought up the budget presentation and said they need to discuss who will present it.

c. Committee Chairs – Mr. Secchiaroli said the Finance and Policy Committees met. He will draft a policy to bring to the Board regarding the Activity Fund. Mrs. Banker said the Curriculum and Policy Committees met to discuss the PE/Health requirements. She said they have enough staff in place to meet the goals. She said there was discussion of a waiver for those not able to meet the requirement. She elaborated. Mrs. Banker said they looked at the program of studies booklet. She reviewed other items that were discussed. On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted unanimously to add 10d, New Business, Program of Studies and 10e, Additional Courses. On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted unanimously to add 10f, New Business, Textbook Approval for Health Course. There was further discussion.

d. PSPBC Liaison – None.

e. Committee Action List – Dr. Robert reviewed items.

8. Financial – a. February 2009 Financial Statements – Mr. Secchiaroli made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to accept general fund expenditures of \$826,775.26, grant expenditures of \$31,505.60 for a total of \$858,280.86 for the month of February 2009. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Transfer Request – On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the transfer request from the business manager as stated in a memo dated March 11, 2009.

9. Old Business – a. Salary/Benefits of Superintendent – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to grant the Superintendent a salary increase of 1.5% for 2009-2010 and to extend her contract for one year.

b. Salaries/Benefits of Non-Certified/Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to grant the part time non-certified personnel a 1.5% salary increase for 2009-2010.

c. 2009-2010 Proposed Education Budget – On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted unanimously to accept the budget of 2.49% with the salary changes that were made this evening.

There was discussion of the presentation. There was discussion of who would make presentations. There was further discussion.

d. Flashing for Gymnasium and PSPBC List – Mr. Briscoe said he had asked that this be put on the agenda so they could come up with a maintenance list. He said the flashing is the item in question. He explained and had further comment. He said this would be a maintenance issue the Town would have to pursue because we don't have any resources for this. He had further comment on facilities maintenance. There was discussion of the \$75,000 line item. The Facilities Committee will meet. This will go on the next agenda.

10. New Business – a. Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the North Stonington Board of Education and the North Stonington Association of Educational Secretaries – Tabled.

b. PE/Health Graduation Requirements – Mr. Briscoe told the Board the committee was going to recommend leaving the graduation requirements as they are and he explained the waivers. On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to leave policy 6146(a) intact.

c. Request for Heating Assistance Money – On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted unanimously to resubmit the request for the heating assistance money since the heating account is in a negative balance.

d. Program of Studies – Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to accept the Program of Studies for 2009-2010. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. New Course Proposals – Mr. Briscoe explained. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to approve the Architectural Design course. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Briscoe explained the English course. On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to allow the administrators to move ahead with their planning to meet the requirements of the ECE Communications course with the Pathways Program.

On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to assign .5 (1/2) credit for the communications course.

On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the ECE English course and collaborate with UCONN.

On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to change the offerings of Mathematics Applications I and II to Algebra I and Algebra II. There were questions asked and answered.

f. Health Textbook Adoption – Mr. Briscoe explained. He said a grant will supplement the cost of the books. On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposed health textbook. There were questions asked and answered. Mr. Sandford explained the creation of the course proposal form.

11. Calendar – Facilities Committee will meet on April 8th at 6:30 p.m. The Policy/Finance Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on April 8th.

12. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted to add 12a, Presentation of Proposed Reading Program at the Middle School to the agenda.

a. Presentation of Proposed Reading Program at the Middle School - Mr. Susi explained that he met with the middle school Language Arts and Social Studies Departments and he reviewed the meeting. He spoke of the tentative plan to craft a program. He said they will provide professional development to middle school core teachers and he explained the process. There were questions asked and answered.

13. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education