

Board of Education Minutes
March 11, 2015

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner, Dr. Robert, Mrs. Buzzee, and Mr. Mendolia (7:38 p.m.). Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Vice Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Carlson asked for an amendment to the agenda. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda and move Old Business, Preliminary 2015-2016 Education Budget to Item 5, after Public Comment.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. for the Purpose of Strategy for Collective Bargaining and Salaries/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit/Non-Certified Staff and to invite Attorney Grello and Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came back into session at 7:27 p.m.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Mr. Patrick Murphy, citizen, had comment on the magnet school transportation. He spoke in favor of keeping magnet school transportation in the budget. He had some questions that were answered. He had further comment. Mrs. Keri Perez, citizen, passed out a handout for the Board. She reviewed the handout and had comment. She spoke of the grant money. She spoke in favor of the Board keeping magnet school transportation in the budget. She thanked the Board for the letter alerting them to this meeting.

5. Old Business – a. Preliminary 2015-16 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero had introductory comments about a zero budget. Mr. Nero went through some budget reductions that brought the budget to a zero increase. Mr. Nero spoke of the magnet school transportation. He spoke of the bus contract. He had further comment on magnet schools. Mr. Nero said the list of cuts reviewed plus magnet school transportation for \$7,000 equaled \$35,740 in reductions that would bring the budget to zero. Dr. Robert commented. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. Karpinski had comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was further comment by Board members and Mr. Nero. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted to accept the Superintendent's suggested reductions and accept the budget at a zero percent increase.

5. Community Relations – Mr. Nero reminded everyone about the North Stonington Education Foundation road race in May. He said Chikumbuso is celebrating their 10th anniversary and were also having a road race in April.

6. Presentations – None.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – February 25, 2015 – Mr. Carlson had comment. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Wager, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting as amended.

February 26, 2015 Tri-Board Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2015 Tri-Board meeting.

8. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison commented on happenings at the elementary school including Science Night and thanked Jen Raggon for her efforts, Read Across America was held, Math sessions were held, the second trimester has ended and report cards go home next week, fifth graders will be taking the science CMT, Emily Lewis was named as the elementary school volunteer of the year, and the drama club will be performing Aladdin on March 31st with Mrs. Gonzalez as the coach. Mr. Chaney handed out middle school and high school newsletters and spoke of happenings at the middle/high school. Both schools' athletic teams were very successful, students are getting accepted to colleges and they are posted in the school, the Eastern Region Music Festival was held, book club has finished, the NELMS conference is being attended by staff, Mrs. Shannon Curioso has joined the staff, and a staff member, Kristi Williams, had her father, a WWII veteran, come to speak to the history club. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. She spoke of the ECC. She explained the latest events concerning the ECC. We have applications in with the Shoreline Conference and the Constitution Conference and she explained. Questions were asked and answered. She said the state of the ECC is not good. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of the graduation credit information. She spoke of the reasoning for dropping the extra credit, which is based on the CAPT which is no longer in existence. She had further explanation. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to change the graduation requirements from 26 to 25 credits. Questions were asked and answered. There was comment. The motion passed with five voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero reviewed a letter he had written to Mr. Mullane regarding the old weight room equipment.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said we had two resignations. Christine Sylvia, the middle/high school nurse, and Jim Russell, the network technician, will be leaving. Questions were asked and answered.

9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said tomorrow was a Tri-Board work group meeting. Mr. Nero said the consortium voted to undertake healthcare. He had explanation.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson had a question on the meeting with Preston. Mr. Nero said they discussed everything on the list. He will be putting together something formal. He had further comment. There was discussion. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to start discussion with Voluntown to be a school of choice and to continue those discussions with the Preston Board of Education. There was comment and discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Committee Chairperson – None.

d. LEARN Board of Directors Liaison – Mrs. Wagner gave an update on the latest meeting. She said she is learning a lot at these meetings. Board members had comment.

e. PSPBC Liaison – None.

10. Finance – None.

11. Old Business – Covered earlier in the agenda.

12. New Business – a. None

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – March 21st at 8:00 a.m. the Board will meet to review policies. Mr. Nero had comment. March 28th is the next Tri-Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the high school media center. The next regular Board meeting is March 25th.

b. Committee Action List – None.

14. Public Comment – Mrs. McLaughlin, citizen, had comment on the magnet school transportation. She suggested pooling with other towns for transportation. Mrs. Perez clarified some items and had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. Perez had further comment. There was further comment. Mrs. Perez asked for Mrs. Allen to clarify some items for her. She had further comment.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education