

Board of Education Minutes
March 14, 2012

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. (The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. but did not start until later.) Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Mathwich, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, Mr. Apicelli, and Mr. Boucher. Dr. Robert called the meeting to order at 8:51 p.m.

2. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Discussion of Employment of Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussion of Employment of Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel and to invite Mr. Boucher into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to move Item 9a, Old Business, Letter to BOS Regarding Feasibility Study to Item 3a.

3. a. Letter to BOS Regarding Feasibility Study – Mr. Testa had comment and said the Board is not divided on this--just how they are going to get there. Mr. Testa made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Hundt that the Board of Education is committed and unified to use existing resources available to us to maintain the current system Pre-K to 12 meaning that grades 9 through 12 will continue to be educated in North Stonington. Dr. Robert had comment. He hoped this would put people at ease. Mr. McCord had comment about why he wouldn't vote for the motion explaining it wasn't specific regarding the Ad Hoc Committee's study. There was discussion on items including the studies that had been done and the different letters that had been drafted. There was further discussion. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted five in favor and one opposed to moving the question. Mr. McCord was opposed to moving the question. The Board voted five in favor and one opposed to the motion. Mr. McCord opposed the motion. There was further discussion. Dr. Robert requested we invite Janet Allison of NEASC to come speak to the Board.

Recess – Board of Education to hear Sabbatical Request Proposal – No recess was taken.

3b. Community Relations – None.

4. Presentations – a. Class of 2013 Travel Club Trip Proposal – Dr. Pukas explained. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to allow the Class of 2013 Travel Club to plan the trip to Florida.

5. Administrators Reports – Mr. Sandford explained a situation in the chemistry lab. He elaborated. Mr. McCarthy had explanation as well. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to make the immediate fix to get the lab running and to have Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Boucher get someone out to inspect the system.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted five in favor and one abstained to allow the meeting to go over 10:00 p.m. Mr. McCord abstained.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to go Item 6c, Administrative, Personnel.

6c. Personnel - i. Non-renewal of One Year Contract Employees – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich that the one-year contracts of Laura Goderre and Brittney Hattoy not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2011-2012 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Non-renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich that the contracts of Stephanie Vaughn, Melanie Rainville, Melissa Lincoln, Terry Gabriel, Kerry Henderson, Jennamarie Lesky, Megan Perkins, Kara Rose, Mike Hassell, Kyle Legnos, Brandon Lorentz, Marybeth Tavares, Janet Devaux, Nancy Liner, and Cara Mizak not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2011-2012 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action. Questions were asked and answered. Dr. Pukas explained that these were not for job performance and she elaborated. The motion passed with four voting in favor, one opposed, and one abstention. Mr. Testa was opposed and Mr. Mendolia abstained.

iii. Sabbatical Request – Ms. McGowan explained that the focus of her sabbatical had changed from Africa and she elaborated. She said it seemed like a good idea to augment the art department but also for high school reform and she elaborated. She had further explanation on the focus change.

iv. Salaries/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to table this item.

The Board moved to Item 10g, New Business, 2012-2013 Proposed Education Budget.

10g. 2012-2013 Proposed Education Budget – There was discussion of the increases over the past five years. Dr. Robert had comment. Dr. Robert went through the items that were eliminated from the budget. Dr. Pukas said the decisions to reduce these items was difficult and she explained. She commented on the fixed costs over which there is no control and elaborated. Dr. Robert elaborated. He said a 3% increase does not cover our contractual

obligations but that is what we are asking for. He had further comment about various aspects of the budget. Board members had comment on the percentage of the budget and what the budget originally came in at. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Sandford had comment and complemented the teachers and he elaborated.

The Board moved to Item 7, Reports.

7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Nothing other than what was in the packet.
- b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert requested the Board go back to two meetings a month and he explained. It was decided if the second meeting was not needed it would be cancelled. These would be special meetings. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to go back to the fourth Wednesday of each month for a second meeting calendar permitting.
- c. Committee Chairs – None.
- d. PSPBC Liaison – None.
8. Financial – a. February 2012 Financial Statements - Tabled to the next meeting.
9. Old Business – a. Letter to BOS Regarding Feasibility Study – Already covered above.
- b. PSPBC List – Dr. Pukas had comment. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to table this to the next meeting.
- c. Science Labs – Covered above. There were questions asked and answered.
- d. Board Structure – Tabled to the next meeting.
- e. Educational Specs Report – Tabled to the next meeting.
10. New Business – a. Request for Calendar Change – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request for the calendar change.
- b. Discussion of 2011-2012 Calendar – Dr. Pukas had comment. She said the graduation date cannot be set until April 1st. She asked the Board to consider moving a staff development day from the end of the year and she explained her reasoning. She received consensus to move the staff development day to around Memorial Day.
- c. 2012-2013 School Calendar – Dr. Pukas gave explanation of the proposed calendar. She said it is the regional calendar with the exception of the built-in days around Memorial Day. She elaborated. On a motion by

Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposed calendar for 2012-2013.

d. Healthy Foods Certification – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously that for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, the North Stonington Board of Education approves participation in the Healthy Foods Certification under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes; that the Board of Education excludes from certification items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store; and, that the Superintendent is authorized to sign all forms necessary to comply with this approval.

e. Strategic School Profiles – Dr. Pukas said by law she is required to submit the profiles at the next meeting after they are released.

f. Regional Professional Development Memorandum of Understanding – Dr. Pukas explained the memorandum and elaborated. She explained the cost associated with this for participating teachers. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Regional Professional Development Memorandum of Understanding. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Calendar – Future meeting dates – Dr. Robert had comment. There will be a special meeting on March 21st starting at 7:00 p.m. with an executive session. The budget will be the topic of the agenda.

12. Public Comment – A member of the public asked about the status of the ed. specs. The administrators had comment and said they have done what has been asked of them.

The Board moved to Item 6a, Administrative, Approval of Minutes.

6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – Mr. Hundt made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the past minutes listed. Questions were asked and answered. The Board voted five in favor and one abstention to approve the minutes. Mr. Testa abstained.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to the Board of Education