

Board of Education Minutes
March 16, 2011
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa and Mrs. Dame. Also present was Dr. Pukas. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

2. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Salaries/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit and Non-Certified Staff and b. Collective Bargaining Proposal – On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. for the Purpose of Salaries/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit and Non-Certified Staff and Collective Bargaining Proposal. Members of the NSFSA (North Stonington Federation of School Administrators) were invited into the session for the Collective Bargaining Proposal portion of the Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford and Mr. Apicelli joined the meeting.

3. Action on Salaries/Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit and Non-Certified Staff – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Scarchilli, the Board voted two in favor and five opposed to granting no raises for now to those employees in the Board's control and once the budget unfolds to revisit raises. The motion did not pass. Those voting against the motion were Mr. Hundt, Mrs. Ricker, Dr. Robert, Mrs. Banker, and Mrs. Dame. Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to grant a 2% raise to non-bargaining unit and non-certified staff. Dr. Robert read the list of employees. The motion passed with five voting in favor and two opposed. Those voting against the motion were Mr. Testa and Mr. Scarchilli.

4. Action on Collective Bargaining Proposal – Dr. Robert read a letter from the NSFSA. On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposal from the NSFSA.

5. Proposed Education Budget for 2011-2012 – An updated sheet was handed out. Dr. Pukas reviewed the recent changes. She explained the Jobs Fund grant was in question at the last meeting and she elaborated. She read the dollar amount of the bottom line. She explained the reduction in staff was based on need. She read a list of items added back in the budget. She spoke of the re-staffing and changes of staff. She explained this process had not been easy and said this budget represents what will best meet the needs of the students. Mrs. Wilkison handed out a sheet regarding the elementary budget. She explained what was reduced to get to zero. She had further explanation. Mrs. Costa handed out a sheet to explain the reorganization. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Sandford handed out a sheet and reviewed the initiatives. He said the budget meets all the requirements of high school reform and SRBI and elaborated. He reviewed the staffing level sheet. He elaborated on the current and

proposed support models. He spoke of the proposed student study center and explained how it would work. He stressed they were gaining academic electives at no cost. Questions were asked and answered. Dr. Pukas spoke of the administration's recommendation for extra funds. She had further comment. There was discussion on needed items. On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the add-backs of \$18,139. Mrs. Dame made a motion to put \$5,000 to the fitness center. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Ricker seconded the motion. Further questions were asked that were answered by Mr. Sandford and Dr. Pukas. Dr. Pukas had further comment. The motion passed with four voting in favor of the motion, two abstentions and one opposed. Mr. Hundt and Mr. Scarchilli abstained and Mr. Testa opposed the motion. On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Scarchilli, the Board voted unanimously to put \$2,000 into the high school/middle school school-wide instructional supplies account, \$2,000 into the elementary school school-wide instructional supplies account and \$4,406 into technology. Dr. Robert said we were at about a zero percent increase.

Mrs. Dame made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to approve the budget of \$12,081,172. Mr. Testa had questions on the Jobs Fund and future funding of these positions. He had further comment. Mr. Sandford had comment in response to the concerns. He elaborated. Board members had comment. Mrs. Banker thanked everyone for the hard work and concessions made by everyone. The motion passed with five voting in favor, one opposed to the motion and one abstention. Mr. Testa was opposed and Mr. Scarchilli abstained.

Dr. Pukas said this budget has caused a lot of problems for some people. She elaborated about the feelings that have been raised during this budget season. She commented further. Dr. Pukas said this budget that is presented provides programs and services to move the district further. She said this budget was not entered into lightly. She feels there has been a division and she would like to stop it.

6. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education