

Board of Education Minutes
Special Meeting
March 19, 2014

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich (via telephone), Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner, Dr. Robert (7:44 p.m.), and Mrs. Buzzee. Mr. Mendolia was absent. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Macrino, Mrs. St. Germain, Mr. Pont, Mr. Boucher, and Mr. Coats. Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. McCord led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Community Relations – None.
5. Presentations – 2014-2015 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero had comment and read a quote from Lyndon Johnson. He explained the budget components. Mr. Nero said the proposed increase is 1.98%. He had further explanation. Mr. Nero reviewed additional information including the increased workers' compensation costs, a new sports athletic trainer, funds to meet the obligation for the technology grant, the NEASC visit, new middle school math textbooks, and district air quality testing. He had further explanation on those items. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wilkison reviewed the elementary school budget. She spoke of grants the school has received from various sources. Mr. Nero had comment and commended the school staff for their readiness with Common Core. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Macrino had comment about Wheeler. Mr. Macrino and Mrs. St. Germain reviewed student statistics and courses the students have available to them. They went over the high school and middle school budget. Further explanation was given. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Costa reviewed the special services budget. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Pont reviewed the technology budget. Mr. Nero had comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. Boucher reviewed what is contained in each category of the maintenance budget. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Coats explained what is contained in each of the categories of the grounds budget. He had explanation of the increase in his budget. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion and further comment. There were further questions asked and answered.
6. Administrators' Reports – None.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – February 26, 2014 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting.

March 5, 2014 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 5, 2014 special meeting.

- b. Correspondence – None.
 - c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said a letter of resignation that he received will be read at the next meeting.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero thanked Nick Mullane for the work he has put in to heading us in the right direction for the building project. He said we are on an aggressive and tight timeframe. He had further comment. He thanked everyone involved in this to make it happen. Mr. Nero had further comment. Board members had comment.
- b. BOE Chairperson – None.
 - c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.
 - d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Mathwich commented that there was nothing new to report.
9. Finance – a. February 2014 Financial Statements – Mr. Carlson had comment. Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to accept the February 2014 Financial Statements. Comment was made. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Transfer Requests – Mr. Carlson made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Buzzee to transfer \$969.69 from special education purchased services (0218) to special education other supplies (0250) and \$250 from high school science supplies (0240) to high school other supplies (0250). Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took a short recess.

The Board resumed the meeting.

10. Old Business – a. Vote on 2014-2015 Proposed Education Budget – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to approve the budget as presented but to remove the magnet school transportation. There was comment and questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously. The budget will be reduced by \$22,966. Board members thanked everyone for all the work on the budget. The numbers will be adjusted.
- b. Vote on School Building Project - Mr. Rusty Malik, architect for Quisenberry Arcari, reviewed some items that resulted from his conversation with Mrs. Wilkison. He reviewed cost breakdowns. Mr. Malik answered questions. Mr. Nero said the resolution the Board will be voting on is for option A1 for the middle/high school and option D for the elementary school. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment and

explanation. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to approve the resolution as follows:
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF NORTH STONINGTON APPROPRIATING \$46,990,000 FOR COSTS OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPPING AND FURNISHING OF ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL / WHEELER MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF SUCH APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAID FROM GRANTS

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Town of North Stonington appropriate FORTY SIX MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$46,990,000) for costs with respect to the design, construction, equipping, and furnishing of additions and renovations to Wheeler High School / Wheeler Middle School and North Stonington Elementary School.

Improvements to the Wheeler High School / Wheeler Middle School are contemplated to include: (1) an approximately 30,050 square feet addition to accommodate the music program including: a band room and a chorus/orchestra room, storage; a gymnasium including storage, concession, locker rooms, public toilets, and a lobby/circulation space; a science addition with science laboratory classrooms, lab preparatory and storage rooms, a graphics, CADD and computer lab; and an addition for the Kitchen and cafeteria; (2) improvements within the existing building including: fully renovated classrooms and science laboratories; updating of language laboratory and classrooms; integration of the art and technology program in a fully renovated space; renovation of all classrooms; renovations, and improvements at the media center and special education programs; renovations associated with the nurse/health clinic, administrative and guidance offices; and expansion and renovation of the cafeteria and kitchen; (3) various building systems improvements including: replacement of all mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protections systems and infrastructure; security and communication systems upgrades; energy conservation improvements including exterior wall, door, window, and roof replacement or updates; central air conditioning system installation throughout the building; and installation of an emergency generator and alternative energy systems; (4) various code and ADA compliance improvements and renovations; (5) various site improvements including: separation of the bus/parent/student/parking and circulation; and (6) related improvements and work.

Improvements to the North Stonington Elementary School are contemplated to include: (i) an approximately 11,700 square feet addition to accommodate the music program including a band room that will be located on the stage, a gymnasium including storage, offices, public toilets, and a lobby/circulation space; (ii) improvements within the existing building including: fully renovated classrooms and handicapped accessible toilets in the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms; relocation of the art, music and technology program in a fully renovated space; relocation renovations and improvements of the media center and special education programs; renovations associated with the nurse/health clinic, administrative and guidance offices; and expansion and renovation of the cafeteria and kitchen; (iii) various building systems improvements including: replacement of all mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protections systems and infrastructure; security and communication

systems upgrades; energy conservation improvements including exterior wall, door, window, and roof replacement or updates; central air conditioning system installation throughout the building; and installation of an emergency generator and alternative energy systems; (iv) various code and ADA compliance improvements and renovations; (v) various site improvements including separation of the bus/parent/student/parking and circulation; accessibility to all site facilities; pavement resurfacing; physical education and athletic fields; and building access improvements; updating the site utility and drainage infrastructure; and (vi) related improvements and work.

The appropriation may be spent for design, construction, acquisition, and installation costs; site improvements; infrastructure improvements; equipment, furnishings, and materials; architectural, engineering, consultant, and other professional fees including legal fees; administrative costs, including costs related to the application for and acceptance of grants; the payment of net temporary interest and other financing costs; and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Building Committee, for the School Projects -- Wheeler High School / Wheeler Middle School and North Stonington Elementary School established by the Board of Selectmen for the project shall determine the final scope and particulars of the project. Said Building Committee may reduce or modify the scope of the project if funds are not sufficient to complete the entire project, and the appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified. The Town anticipates applying for and receiving a grant from the State Department of Education to defray in part eligible costs of the project.

(b) That the Town issue bonds or notes, in an amount not to FORTY SIX MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$46,990,000) to finance the aforesaid appropriation. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town and applied to defray the aforesaid appropriation. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Sections 7-369 and 10-289 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

(c) That the Town issue and renew its temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes and the receipt of grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed FORTY SIX MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$46,990,000). The temporary notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, or any other enabling acts. The temporary notes shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes if the notes do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

(d) That the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign any bonds, notes or temporary notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds, notes or temporary notes. The First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds, notes or temporary notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds, notes or temporary notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or

notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds, notes or temporary notes; to sell the bonds, notes or temporary notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds, notes or temporary notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds, notes or temporary notes.

(e) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds, notes or temporary notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(f) That the First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds, notes or temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds, notes or temporary notes.

(g) That the Building Committee for the Project shall act as the school building committee for the project and is authorized to approve design and construction expenditures for the project, and to exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the project. The records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon completion of the project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to contract with architects, engineers, contractors, construction managers, and others in the name and on behalf of the Town as necessary or desirable to implement the project.

(h) That the Board of Education is authorized to apply for, and accept grants for the project. The Board of Education is authorized to file applications with the State Board of Education, to execute grant agreements for the project, and to file such documents as may be required by the State Board of Education to obtain grants for the costs of financing the project.

(i) That the First Selectman, the Treasurer, the Board of Education, the Building Committee for the project, and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to issue bonds or notes and temporary notes and obtain grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation. Board members had comment. The motion to accept the resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Nero had further comment. Mrs. Wagner was concerned about getting the correct information out to the public. Mr. Nero had further comment and explanation. Mr. McCord thanked everyone involved and thanked Mr. Mullane for getting us up to speed with the bonding and Planning and Zoning Commission requirements. He had further comment.

11. New Business – None.
12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – March 26th there will be a short meeting at 7:00 p.m. and then the budget will be presented to the Board of Finance at town hall at 7:30 p.m.
13. Committee Action List – None.
14. Public Comment – Mr. Urgo reiterated about getting the word out and had further comment.
15. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Contract Negotiations – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations and to invite Mr. Coats into such session. Mr. Mathwich was no longer participating in the meeting.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:33 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education