

Board of Education Minutes  
March 25, 2009

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa (7:38 p.m.), Mr. Briscoe, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, and Mr. Secchiaroli. Dr. Robert was absent. Also present was Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison (8:35 p.m.), Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi, and Mr. Sandford. Vice Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. McCord told those present that the meeting was being audio-taped.

2. Public Comment/Request to Comment on Agenda Item – None.
3. Community Relations – Nothing other than what was in the packet.
4. Presentations – a. National Merit Scholars – These will be announced after April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was noted that there are two National Merit Scholars at the high school.  
b. Students' Review of the *Money Madness* Seminar – Will be presented at a later date.

On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to move item 10b, New Business, Five-Year Educational Technology Plan, to item 5a.

5. Administrators Reports – Dr. Pukas told the Board that Mrs. Wilkison was at parent/teacher conferences. Mr. Susi told of events at the middle/high school including the five-year NEASC report being submitted, students will be choosing classes next week, the drama club play is next Friday and Saturday which was written by student Glenn Sidle, they are gearing up for the end of the year by doing book awards, field trips, and checking in with students about their Senior Project. There were questions asked and answered about the Apprentice Challenge. Mr. Sandford spoke of the NEASC report. Mr. Susi spoke of the SRBI and PBS initiatives. There were questions asked and answered.

a. Five-Year Educational Technology Plan – Dr. Pukas thanked Mr. Devine and the committee for all their work on this. She said the plan is actually a three-year plan and she elaborated. Mr. Devine gave an overview of the technology plan. He explained its purpose. He explained the funding page. He acknowledged the members of the committee. He explained LEARN's review of the plan. Mrs. Banker commented and had questions. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to adopt the three-year educational technology plan. There was comment from Board members. Mrs. Lynn D'Angelo, committee member, commented. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2009 – On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mrs Ricker, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2009 meeting. Mr. Testa abstained.

b. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas read the letter from Mr. Keane to Mrs. Holliday resigning from the Board of Education. She pointed out the letter from Mr. Mullane. She read the letter to Mrs. Wilkison regarding Sue Starr’s student teacher. Dr. Pukas spoke of the letter she received from Pat Lewis.

On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to add item 10h, New Business, Letter from Selectman, to the agenda.

Mr. Briscoe asked that a copy Mrs. Lewis’ letter be brought forward to the Ad Hoc Committee.

c. Personnel – Dr. Pukas read a letter from Monique Cronin resigning from her position as school psychologist at the elementary school. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to accept Mrs. Cronin’s resignation and send appreciation for her years here. Dr. Pukas explained the non-renewals of persons with a one-year contract. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted unanimously that the contract of employment of Gail Thompson not be renewed for the following school year upon its expiration at the end of the current school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted unanimously that the contract of employment of Siobhan Warren not be renewed for the following school year upon its expiration at the end of the current school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted unanimously that the contract of employment of Nancy Liner not be renewed for the following school year upon its expiration at the end of the current school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted unanimously that the contract of employment of Elizabeth Panciera not be renewed for the following school year upon its expiration at the end of the current school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli, the Board voted unanimously that the contract of employment of Julie Hirbour not be renewed for the following school year upon its expiration at the end of the current school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action. Dr. Pukas explained which positions these people hold.

7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas passed around the brochure for the elementary school’s art show. She said there were 86 bags of groceries delivered to families in North Stonington from the collection of food at the art show. Dr. Pukas told the Board that Sue Starr had an article published and she explained. She told the Board they were still looking at the “supplant” versus “supplement” terminology. There were questions asked about the supplemental money. Mr. Briscoe asked if there was a status on the “shovel-ready” project the town submitted and

Dr. Pukas said she hadn't heard anything. There were further questions asked and answered about the IDEA money. There were questions asked about the supplemental money. There was Board comment on the budget.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairs – Mr. Secchiaroli said he was still working on the draft policy and hoped to have it by the next meeting. He spoke of the presentation to the Board of Finance and said he stayed for rest of the meeting. He elaborated on comments made. He said the feedback from the Board of Finance was very positive. There was further comment on the presentation by Board members. Mrs. Ricker said the newsletter went out and elaborated. There was further comment. Mr. Briscoe said the Facilities Committee will be meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. He said he was added as a member of the Policy Committee. The Policy/Finance Committee will meet also on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Testa said there is an engineer that will be coming out in the next couple of weeks to do an assessment of the flashing; he said it will be a Town issue and elaborated. There was discussion.

e. Committee Action List – Reviewed already.

8. Financial – a. Transfer Request – On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the transfer request as stated in a memo dated March 25, 2009 from the Business Manager to transfer \$450 from middle school health supplies (0240) to health textbooks (0220). On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted five in favor and one against accepting the request to transfer \$20,000 from heating oil (0630) to legal (0130). Mr. Testa opposed the motion.

9. Old Business – a. 2009-2010 Proposed Education Budget – Dr. Pukas passed out information from the Connecticut Superintendent's group. Mr. Testa explained he misunderstood the intent of the motion for non-bargaining unit salaries. He elaborated. There was discussion of the raises and the budget passing. There was further discussion. Mr. Testa made a motion to rescind the raises of the non-bargaining unit personnel. There was no second to the motion. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli to have the Superintendent put together a list of possible recommendations for concessions from the bargaining units and non-bargaining unit personnel. Mr. McCord had comment. There was explanation and clarification. Mr. Briscoe elaborated. There was further comment. On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted unanimously to move the motion. The motion to have the Superintendent put together a list of possible recommendations for concessions from the bargaining units and non-bargaining unit personnel passed unanimously. There was further comment and clarification.

b. Flashing for Gymatorium and PSPBC List – Covered under PSPBC Liaison report.

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

to the current contract. He elaborated. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to accept the contract dated July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012 as negotiated with the secretaries union. There was discussion. The motion passed with five voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Testa abstained.

b. Five Year Educational Technology Plan – Covered above.

c. Proposed Administrative Procedures for the “Typical Peers” Slots - North Stonington Special Needs Pre-School – Dr. Pukas gave an explanation. Mr. Briscoe said this is an administrative procedure and had comment. On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the administrative procedures as marked “Draft Copy March 2009”.

d. Policy 6146 – Graduation Requirements – Dr. Pukas explained the proposed change. There were questions asked and answered. There was discussion. On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to accept Policy 6146(b), item III, Section D, as amended.

e. Policy 5118 – Nonresident Students – Dr. Pukas explained the changes. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to delete Policy 5118(c) and (d). There were questions asked and answered. There was further comment. The motion passed unanimously. On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to add policy 5118(c) and (d) as amended in the proposed policy.

f. Policy 3240 – Tuition Students Enrolled on an Individual Basis – Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Secchiaroli to delete policy 3240 (a), (b), and (c). There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously. On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to accept policy 3240(a), (b), and (c).

g. Proposed 2009-2010 School Calendar – Dr. Pukas spoke of the 2008-2009 school calendar. She was looking for some type of consensus from the Board. She explained the last day of school and the snow days. She asked for the class of 2009 to graduate on the 180<sup>th</sup> day of school. She explained about bringing in the students on Monday and Tuesday for the 182 days of school. She talked about allowing students to go only 180 days. There was discussion of using those teacher days for professional development. There was a consensus of allowing the students to attend 180 days. Dr. Pukas had comment on the calendars for next year. She spoke of a shortened February vacation and the lateness of Labor Day. She elaborated. She wanted to recommend an extended weekend for February. She had further explanation. There were questions asked and answered. The calendar will be voted on at the next meeting.

h. Letter from Selectman – Mr. McCarthy gave an explanation. He said he would offer to take over the Town’s bookkeeping and run it on our server. He elaborated. He said he would not recommend giving our bookkeeping to the Town. There was comment. There was comment about combining services. There were questions asked and answered. Mr. Briscoe asked for permission to address Mr. D’Angelo. He asked questions of

Mr. D'Angelo. There were further questions asked of Mr. McCarthy that he answered. There was further comment. Dr. Pukas suggested setting up a meeting with either the Finance or Personnel Committees and the Selectmen or write a letter and wait for a response. There was further comment. Mr. Briscoe suggested talking about this at a Committee meeting.

11. Calendar – Already reviewed.

12. Public Comment – Mr. Wayne Coats had comment on the PSPBC list. He spoke of the “Little People” building. It was suggested taking items out of the building and donating those items to the class tag sales. There was discussion of the items in the building. There were questions asked and answered.

13. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Secchiaroli, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education