

Board of Education Minutes  
Special Meeting  
March 5, 2014

**DRAFT**

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on March 5, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, Mrs. Buzzee (7:06 p.m.), and Mr. Mendolia. Absent were Mrs. Wagner and Mr. Mathwich. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Macrino, and Mrs. St. Germain. Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 7:05 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. Discussion of Proposed Building Project – Mr. Carlson had an introduction. Mr. Rusty Malik answered questions about costs, layouts, parking and other items. Mr. Nero had questions and comment. Additional questions were asked. Mr. Malik had comment. Questions were asked about certain building options. Funding was explained. There was further comment. More questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Nero read a statement. “What needs to be understood, what differentiates this plan from previous plans, is the largest focus in this project is on school safety, not only for now but for the foreseeable future. After the tragic events in our state last year, our goal is to make our building as safe as possible and meet all new safety and health standards and regulations. The renovation project as I describe it, will “button-up” and contain our students all day in their respective buildings without having to cross a major thoroughfare, between classes to go to the Gymnasium and other functions held there, an egress that connects our school from two major casinos. One of the casinos is only 5 miles from our schools. Finally, the middle/high school was built in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, other than some cosmetic work, it remains pretty much the same. It becomes difficult to teach a topflight curriculum in a facility where the notion of having an American land on the moon was twenty (20) years from being a reality when the school was built.”
5. Possible Action on the Proposed Building Project - None.
6. Public Comment – None.
7. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Contract Negotiations – On a motion by Mrs. Buzzee seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations and to invite Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:55. On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

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