

Board of Education Minutes
March 9, 2011

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 9, 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 (arrived at 8:43 p.m.). Mr. Testa left to attend the Board of Finance meeting. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. Community Relations – None.

3. Presentations - None.

4. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Wilkison spoke of the CAS Award banquet for “Volunteer of the Year” and said Mrs. Tara Fauth will be honored. She also told of other events at the elementary school including the “Read Across America” event, students participating in the Invention Convention, CMT’s started this week, the second trimester ends March 11th, parent-teacher conferences will be held March 24th and 25th, the “Hope for Haiti” fundraiser was successful, and the Drama Club play is March 31st. Mr. Sandford told of events happening at the middle/high school including CMT and CAPT started yesterday with the 9th grade doing practice tests, teachers are making recommendations for classes for students for next year, the schedule is being formulized, the blood drive tomorrow is sponsored by the NHS, this Saturday grade 11 will have a pancake breakfast, and Cindy Roy is the Volunteer of the Year for the middle/high school. He elaborated. Mr. Sandford also spoke of the drug presentation that was held for parents. He said March 1st was the deadline for hours due, etc. for the Senior Project. He had further comment. He spoke of future deadlines. Mr. Sandford will give a presentation on the NEASC letter in April.

5. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 31, 2011, February 7, 2011 Joint Meeting, February 9, 2011, February 23, 2011 and March 2, 2011 meetings as written and to accept the changes by Mr. Mullane for the Joint Meeting.

b. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas told the Board a letter from the PSPBC signed by Mr. Costanza was at their places. She elaborated. She explained the memo at their places about the class of 1981 and the liquidation request. On a motion by Mr. Scarchilli, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to add item 5b1 to the agenda, Liquidation of Class of 1981 Funds.

b1. Liquidation of Class of 1981 Funds – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the liquidation of the funds of the Class of 1981.

c. Personnel – None.

6. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas told the Board she read to the students on March 2nd and she elaborated. She explained the items in the packet.

b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert explained that Mr. Testa was at the Board of Finance meeting and he elaborated.

c. Committee Chairs – None.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mrs. Ricker said she had gone to a meeting and compared her notes with Mr. Costanza's letter and they are pretty much the same. She said they reiterated that they are flying blind and need help from some of our staff on several projects and she elaborated. They would like a closer collaboration on a number of things. She spoke of the stop light request. There was discussion. There was discussion of ongoing projects.

7. Financial – None.

8. Old Business – a. 2011-2012 Proposed Education Budget – On a motion by Mr. Scarchilli, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to table this item until Mr. Testa returns to the meeting.

b. Feasibility Study – Mr. Hundt put forth a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to approve the feasibility study as written except to the insert the dates. The motion passed with four voting in favor and one opposed to the motion. Mr. Scarchilli voted against the motion. Mr. Scarchilli explained his vote. Dr. Robert had comment. The Facilities and Finance Committee will meet to discuss dates and committee procedures. Dr. Pukas had questions. There was discussion. Dr. Robert had comment.

c. Coverage of BOE Meetings on Public Access Television – Mr. Hundt commented that it seemed to be the general consensus that it's a great idea but it doesn't work well. There was comment. Mr. Hundt made a motion to table this until after the budget and pick it up in earnest after. There was no second. On a motion by Mrs. Banker, seconded by Mr. Scarchilli, the Board voted unanimously to take no action on this.

9. New Business – None.

The Board returned to Item 8a, 2011 – 2012 Proposed Education Budget – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to reduce the substitute teacher line for committee work by \$4,000. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to reduce the superintendent search amount by \$5,000. Dr. Robert explained what Mr. Testa was clarifying with the Board of Finance (Jobs Fund). Dr. Robert suggested tabling the budget to March 16th. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Scarchilli, the Board voted unanimously to table the budget to March 16th.

The Board moved to Item 11, Public Comment.

11. Public Comment – Colleen Hawrylik, teacher and citizen, commented on what the Board was waiting for. Dr. Robert explained. Mr. McCarthy explained the Jobs Fund is a federal grant through the state. He elaborated and said this does not affect the MBR. There was discussion. Heidi Mehringer-Macina, teacher and citizen, commented on the recent Board of Selectmen meeting she attended. There was discussion.

10. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The Facilities and Finance Committee will meet on March 16th to discuss dates and procedures for the feasibility study. The Board will meet on March 16th at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Pukas told those present that March is Board of Education Appreciation month but thought it was best to postpone the recognition until next month. She commended the Board on their hard work and said it has not gone unrecognized.

The Board took a recess at 8:30 p.m.

The Board came back into session at 8:42 p.m. Word came via phone message from Mr. Testa that the Board of Finance had given us a two-week extension.

b. Committee Action List – None.

11. Public Comment – Covered above.

12. Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education