

Board of Education Minutes
May 11, 2011
Non-Meeting

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Since there was not a quorum, a non-meeting was held. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Scarchilli, and Mrs. Dame. Absent were Mrs. Ricker, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa, and Mr. McCord. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, and Mr. Sandford. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Community Relations – Nothing other than what was in the packet.

3. Presentations -
 - a. Elementary School Contest Winners – Black History Month Essays – Mrs. Wilkison told the Board on April 25th Congressman Courtney recognized the students. Tommy Marsh was the winner and he read his essay to the Board. Kevin Velez also read his essay. Mrs. Biekert commented on the essay contest and explained what is incorporated into the essay-writing. She commended all the students.

 - b. Middle School – Young Inventors’ Contest Winners – Mr. Sandford had comment. He said Rebecca Graves coordinated the efforts. Ms. Graves explained the radon poster contest. Kyera Labbs was the winner for the state of Connecticut and Ms. Graves presented the certificate. She explained the inventors’ contest having to do with bubble wrap. Alysia Rathbun was a semifinalist for the entire country. The Board thanked Ms. Graves for her efforts. She had comment.

 - c. High School – CAFE Leadership Awards – Mr. Sandford spoke of the CAFE student leadership awards and gave information on each student. Dr. Robert presented the awards to Tessa Roy and Jacob Sylvester and commended them. Mrs. Banker commended all the students.

 - d. Discussion on *Waiting for Superman* – Dr. Robert had comment. Mrs. Dame commented on different aspects of the movie. Mrs. Banker had comment on the movie and spoke of the articles that Ms. McGowan had found. Board members had further comment including the United States being compared to Finland which is a socialist country and the types of things happening in colleges and what the clubs that are formed are trying to do to help education. Dr. Robert had comment. Dr. Pukas said she led the discussion after the meeting. She felt that everyone walked away with a greater appreciation of what we have here. She elaborated. Dr. Robert thanked those that organized this and had further comment.

4. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Wilkison spoke of happenings at the elementary school including the spring concerts, Student Authors’ Day, the annual art show, the finalists in the Writing for Literature contest, the Invention Convention with 16 students participating, four third graders attended the State Tech Expo with the students sharing their work by demonstrating their skills, and three or four times a year, our students create cards and letters for the troops. Mrs. Wilkison told the Board the school was presented with a plaque for their participation. Mr. Sandford

commented on happenings at the middle/high school including the grade 8 trip to Holiday Hills, the half-day sessions at the end of the year, grade 8 Class Night on June 16th at 6:00 p.m., the senior activity schedule, high school graduation on June 17th at 6:00 p.m., June 3rd is the Senior Project Presentations, and June 14th is the Flag Day ceremony from 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.. Mr. Sandford spoke of the amount owed to the lunch program and the progress made toward collecting that debt. He said June 6th is the band concert and art show and June 7th is the choral concert. He spoke of the underclassmen awards. There was discussion. Dr. Robert thanked the aquarium for their generosity. The awards ceremony is May 25th. Mr. Sandford said 350 awards are being given out that night. Mrs. Wilkison said the Grade 5 Promotion Ceremony is June 15th at 2:00 p.m.

5. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- March 9, 2011 Regular Meeting - Since this was a non-meeting, no action was taken on the minutes.

April 13, 2011 - Since this was a non-meeting, no action was taken on the minutes.

May 2, 2011 Special Meeting - Since this was a non-meeting, no action was taken on the minutes.

b. Correspondence – Nothing other than what was in the packet.

c. Personnel – Dr. Pukas spoke of the retirement of one of the district’s most dedicated employees. She read a letter from Veronica Mathewson announcing her retirement. Dr. Pukas accepted her resignation with thanks for all of her hard work and dedication. There was discussion. Dr. Pukas read a letter from Mike Baklik resigning from his position as physical education teacher at the elementary school. Dr. Pukas accepted his resignation with thanks for his work with the students.

6. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas told the Board she attended the Scholar Athlete Banquet. She spoke of the newsletter and thanked the administrators, Mrs. McCarthy, and especially Mrs. Gonzalez for the work on the newsletter. She spoke of the regional professional development committee and that North Stonington will be hosting visual arts, social work, and pre-school and listed the committee heads. She spoke of the packet she gave to the Student Success Committee on the Professional Development Plan. She had comment and explanation. She commended the committee for their hard work on the plan. She said the State has promised a revised teacher evaluation plan and we have been waiting for 2 ½ years. She told the Board the Teacher Evaluation Committee will be meeting for a full day with the administrators about what teacher evaluation will look like for the coming year. She had comment. She thanked Jeanne Dionne for heading up that committee. She thanked Jay Weitlauf from Hilltop Inn for everything they have done for the school and elaborated. Dr. Robert had comment about items the State cut but told us we still have to do it. There was further comment. Dr. Pukas commented on the hard work and dedication of the teachers and administrators.

- b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert said he was meeting with the representative from CREC on the feasibility study to answer some of the questions. There was discussion of allowing the Superintendent to authorize the transfer request and bring it to the Board at the next meeting.
 - c. Committee Chairs – Board members commented on the lack of invitations to school events such as the NHS induction. There was further comment.
 - d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. McCarthy said he has been in contact with Steve Aiello on the RFP for the phone system for the high school and explained. There were questions asked and answered.
7. Financial – a. April 2011 Financial Statements – No action was taken because there was not a quorum.
- b. Transfer Requests - No action was taken because there was not a quorum.
8. Old Business – a. 2009-2010 Strategic School Profiles – Dr. Pukas explained the question raised for grade 8 hours of instruction. She had further explanation.
- b. 2011-2012 Proposed Education Budget – Dr. Robert reviewed the proposed schedule from the Board of Finance and had comment.

Mrs. Banker had a question on an article in the newsletter. There was discussion.

9. New Business – a. Offer from CABA – Dr. Pukas said that Rob Rader, the Executive Director of CABA, called and said they would be happy to do a workshop for the Board on the process of looking for a superintendent. There was further explanation.
10. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – Dr. Pukas asked the Student Success Committee to meet before the next Board meeting. The Athletic Handbook has been revised and the Community Outreach Committee will need to meet on that. June 8th the Student Success Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. with the Community Involvement Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- b. Committee Action List – None.
11. Public Comment – None.
12. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

The non-meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to The Board of Education