

Board of Education Minutes
May 13, 2009

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, Mr. Testa, Mr. Briscoe, Mrs. Ricker, and Mrs. Banker. Mrs. Dame and Mr. Secchiaroli were absent. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Devine. Chairman Robert called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Dr. Robert said the meeting was being recorded and read a statement regarding the equipment.

2. Public Comment/Request to Comment on Agenda Item – None.
3. Community Relations – Dr. Pukas reviewed articles at their places.
4. Presentations – a. Performance Contracting – Dr. Robert introduced Mr. McCarthy who read a statement regarding performance contracting. The statement will become part of the minutes. (See Addendum) Chris Bleuher of Johnson Controls started his presentation. He reviewed the benefits of performance contracting. He explained the steps involved. Cost savings were illustrated. Mr. Bleuher suggested reviewing the energy services coalition web site for a neutral source of information. He explained the next steps needed for a feasibility study. He continued to explain the process and then summarized the presentation. He gave a listing of the utility incentives. There were questions asked and answered. The Board thanked Mr. Bleuher for his presentation.
5. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Wilkison told of happenings at the elementary school including Earth Day activities, Technology Week activities, Pfizer parents coming in and doing workshops with the children, Authors' Day, the Volunteer Breakfast, field trips, and that next week each grade level will be presenting a musical performance. Mr. Susi told of happenings at the middle and high school including a possible variety show, scheduling, field trips, the OxFam Basketball tournament, AP testing, Senior Project presentation days, the State Committee on Capstone met, health surveys were done, and exam schedules are set. He thanked the Board and Kristi Williams for the Earth Day presentations and the people that helped support the program. Mr. Susi also told the Board about the MADD presentation to juniors and seniors, Friday night was a middle school dance, Saturday night was the prom, and the choral and band concert was held. There were questions asked and answered. There was comment.
6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – April 22, 2009 – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2009, meeting.

April 29, 2009 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to accepting the minutes of the April 29, 2009, special meeting. Mr. Briscoe abstained.

- b. Correspondence – Nothing other than what was in the packets.
 - c. Personnel – None.
7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas told the Board she had attended the Ad Hoc Building Committee meeting and things are moving along very well. She elaborated. She highlighted items from the racial statistics information. She commented on the circular letter from Commissioner McQuillan regarding credit for private world language courses. She said the 2007-2008 report showed that we met the requirements of IDEA . Mrs. Costa commented that those were some of the areas she was referring to during last week’s meeting. Dr. Pukas gave a brief biography of Anthony “Tony” Biekert, a former Board of Education member who passed away recently, and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance.
- b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert asked how a review of an email account comes about and Mr. Devine explained. There were questions asked and answered. Dr. Pukas said a disclaimer has been added to the bottom of the emails and she elaborated. There were further questions asked and answered about items blocked. Dr. Robert said he wanted to review the minutes and the way they are written up and asked that to be put on the next agenda.
 - c. Committee Chairs – Mrs. Banker said the Curriculum Committee met and heard a project by Regina Hescok. She elaborated.
 - d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Testa said information regarding the flashing should be coming soon. Dr. Robert said he had talked to Mrs. Roohr about a joint meeting with the PSPBC, the Selectmen, and the Board of Education but hadn’t heard back. Mr. Testa said they were expecting that at the May 11th meeting. There was discussion. Mr. McCarthy asked about whether the information on the elementary school phone system came up and Mr. Testa said it did.
 - e. Committee Action List – None.
8. Financial – a. Financial Statements for April 2009 – Mr. McCarthy gave explanation and elaborated. On a motion by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted unanimously to accept expenditures of \$779,527.78, grant expenditures of \$24,340.99, for a total of \$803,868.77 for the month of April 2009.
9. Old Business – 2009-2010 Proposed Education Budget – Dr. Robert said the budget went forward. There were questions asked and answered.
10. New Business – a. North Stonington Public Schools Password Standards – Mr. Devine said he was proposing some password standards and he explained. There was comment. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to accept the proposed North Stonington Public Schools password standards dated April 17, 2009. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Selection of Food Service Company – Mr. McCarthy told the Board an RFP had been put out and he explained the process. He told the Board that the committee was recommending Aramark. He said any approval given tonight would be based upon an agreement between the Board and Aramark; the State Department of Education also has to approve it. Mr. McCarthy elaborated. There were questions asked and answered. Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker that starting with 2009-2010, providing the few legal terms can be worked out between the law firms and that the State Board of Education approves the contract, that we award the contract to Aramark per the recommendation of the committee that reviewed the alternatives. Mr. Briscoe had comment about the awarding of the contract. There was further comment and questions. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted unanimously to move the question. Dr. Robert read the motion. The motion to award the contract to Aramark passed with five voting in favor and one opposed. Mr. Testa was opposed.

c. Organizational Chart – Dr. Pukas explained the organizational chart revision. Mr. Briscoe made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to approve the revised organizational chart. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Student Activity Account Policy – Tabled.

e. End-of-Year Spending Priorities – Dr. Robert asked what was in the 2009-2010 budget that could be purchased early. Mr. McCarthy said the lab, chairs, math and spelling consumables, and musical instruments could be. There was discussion and questions asked. Dr. Pukas said she had concerns about legal bills and other costs associated with arbitration that may come forward. Mr. McCarthy had explanation. There were questions asked and answered. There was further explanation on items that may be pre-bought.

11. Calendar – The Policy/Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday the 27th at 7:00 p.m. to review the draft policy and the Policy Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on the 27th.

12. Public Comment – Mr. Murphy had comment on the pre-buying discussion and made a suggestion about asking the Board of Finance to set aside money in the capital non-recurring line to repair the flashing. He questioned on 13b. Dr. Robert said there was no Executive Session.

13. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Arbitration Update and b. Discussion of Benefits of a Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member – Tabled.

14. Possible Action Concerning Benefits of a Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member – None due to no Executive Session.

On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Briscoe, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education

Addendum

A few years ago I sat on a round table discussion about Performance Contracting. It didn't have much application then; however, with the economy and the boilers going south, it is time to look at it.

Basically, performance contracting is a way of introducing energy efficient products where the cost savings pay for the upgrades over a period of time. Similar to vendor financing.

To give you an overall view of Performance Contracting, Chris Bleuher of Johnson Controls has been invited to give a no-strings attached presentation of just what it is all about.

Should the Board decide this is the avenue to pursue, we would draft and issue an RFQ for competitive submissions of qualifications – I told Chris before he was invited. In an RFQ, there is a non-collusion clause stating that there was no collusion between vendors or between any vendor and the district.

The RFQ will also contain a clause that vendors deemed qualified will be permitted the opportunity to present their qualifications to the selection committee.