

Board of Education Minutes  
Special Meeting  
Joint Meeting with Ad Hoc Building Committee  
May 19, 2014

**DRAFT**

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education and the Ad Hoc Building Committee was held on Monday, May 19, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present for the Board of Education was Mr. McCord, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich (6:30 p.m.), Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner (6:03 p.m.), Dr. Robert, Mrs. Buzzee, and Mr. Mendolia (6:55 p.m.) Present for the Ad Hoc Building Committee was Mr. Mastroianni, Mr. Frenette, Mrs. Lanier, Mr. Doble, Mr. Carlson, and Mr. Mathwich. Also present was Mrs. Allen. Mr. Nero participated via telephone.

Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment with Students Speaking First – Mr. Brent Woodward, Board of Finance member, had questions. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Mastroianni answered his questions. Board members had questions regarding physical education time. There was further comment.
4. Discussion of the Proposed Building Project – Mr. McCord asked Mr. Mastroianni to review the changes. He explained the gym is being eliminated at the middle/high school. Mr. Nero explained the difference in square footage. Mr. Mastroianni said the music room will still move across the street to help minimize the kids going from one side of the street to the other. The square footage in the gym at the elementary school was also reduced. The existing Gymnasium would be renovated as new and he explained why. The science lab renderings are shown as well as the cafeteria in the middle/high school. He said it does leave room for expansion. Mr. Mastroianni said the plan still addresses the needs as the first plan did. Safety and security issues are being addressed. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had commented. Mechanical, electrical, and HVAC systems will also be updated. Mrs. Wagner explained that when you renovate as new, you get the largest state reimbursement. Mr. McCord said renovate as new is being encouraged by the state and he elaborated. Mr. McCord had further comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mastroianni had comment and explanation. Mr. Nero reviewed the new square footage for the gym spaces at the elementary school. Mr. Pavlovics, Board of Finance member, had suggestions as to presentation of the project. Board members had further comment on reimbursement. Janet Moore, citizen, had questions about the whether people were fully informed of the financial burden. She had further comment and questions. Mr. McCord answered her questions. Dr. Robert also had comment and answered her questions. Mr. McCord had further comment. Mr. Karpinski had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. Jay Peterson, citizen, had comment on voting to keep the school open and also the mill rate. Brett clarified and had comment. Mr. Peterson had further comment. Board members had further comment. Mr. Mastroianni had further

comment and explanation. Mr. McCord had further comment. Mr. Peterson had further comment. Mr. Mike Urgo, citizen, had comment on the mill rate and not speculating. He moved here because of the schools and many people he knows did so as well. He emphasized the need to take care of the buildings. He spoke of the financing and explained. He spoke of doing a better job of getting the word out and it being more user-friendly. There was comment from Ad Hoc Building Committee members and Board of Education members. Mrs. Moore had further comment. She also said people need to be informed. There was comment. Mr. Frenette had comment about getting the word out. He had further comment. Arthur Doble, commented about having information available at the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Gross, citizen, had comment. He said people will only be informed if they want to be informed. He had further comment. Mr. Peterson had further comment.

5. Ad Hoc Building Committee Vote on the Proposed Building Project – On a motion by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Frenette, the Ad Hoc Building Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed building project.

6. Board of Education Vote on the Proposed Building Project – Dr. Robert had to leave the meeting. Mr. McCord said the Board will vote on the resolution. He read the first paragraph. The entire resolution will be entered into record. Mr. Carlson made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Wagner to approve the resolution as follows: **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF NORTH STONINGTON APPROPRIATING FORTY MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,520,000) FOR COSTS WITH RESPECT TO THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPPING AND FURNISHING OF ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO WHEELER MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL AND NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF SUCH APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAYED FROM GRANTS**

**BE IT RESOLVED;**

(a) That the Town of North Stonington appropriate FORTY MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,520,000) for costs with respect to the design, construction, equipping, and furnishing of additions and renovations to Wheeler Middle and High School and North Stonington Elementary School.

The Wheeler Middle and High School project is contemplated to include: (1) approximately 12,058 square feet addition to accommodate, a science addition with science laboratory classrooms, lab preparatory and storage rooms, and an addition for the Kitchen and cafeteria; (2) improvements within the existing building including: fully renovated classrooms and science laboratories; renovating existing space for the music, CADD and graphics programs, updating of language laboratory and classrooms; integration of the art and technology program in a fully renovated space; renovation of all classrooms; renovations and improvements at the media center and special education programs; renovations associated with the nurse/health clinic, administrative and guidance offices; and expansion and renovation of the cafeteria and kitchen; (3) various building systems improvements including: replacement of all mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protections systems and infrastructure; security and

communication systems upgrades; energy conservation improvements including exterior wall, door, window, and roof replacement or updates; central air conditioning system installation throughout the building; and installation of an emergency generator and alternative energy systems; (4) various code and ADA compliance improvements and renovations; (5) various site improvements including: separation of the bus/parent/student/parking and circulation; and (6) related improvements and work.

The North Stonington Elementary School project is contemplated to include: (1) approximately 8,642 square feet of addition to accommodate the music program including a band room that will be located on the stage, a gymnasium including storage, and an office and a lobby/circulation space; (2) improvements within the existing building including: fully renovated classrooms including handicapped accessible toilets in the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms; public toilets adjacent to the new additions, relocation of the art, music, and technology program in a fully renovated space; relocations, renovations, and improvements at the media center and special education programs; renovations associated with the nurse/health clinic, administrative and guidance offices; and expansion and renovation of the cafeteria and kitchen; (3) various building systems improvements including: replacement of all mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protections systems and infrastructure; security and communication systems upgrades; energy conservation improvements including exterior wall, door, window, and roof replacement or updates; central air conditioning system installation throughout the building; and installation of an emergency generator and alternative energy systems; (4) various code and ADA compliance improvements and renovations; (5) various site improvements including separation of the bus/parent/student/parking and circulation; accessibility to all site facilities; pavement resurfacing; physical education and athletic fields; and building access improvements; updating the site utility and drainage infrastructure; and (6) related improvements and work.

The appropriation may be spent for design, construction, acquisition, and installation costs; site improvements; infrastructure improvements; equipment, furnishings, and materials; architectural, engineering, consultant, and other professional fees including legal fees; administrative costs, including costs related to the application for and acceptance of grants; the payment of net temporary interest and other financing costs; and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Building Committee, for the School Projects -- Wheeler Middle and High School and North Stonington Elementary School established by the Town Council for the project shall determine the final scope and particulars of the project. Said Building Committee may reduce or modify the scope of the project if funds are not sufficient to complete the entire project, and the appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified. The Town anticipates applying for and receiving a grant from the State Department of Education to defray in part eligible costs of the project.

(b) That the Town issue bonds or notes, in an amount not to exceed FORTY MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,520,000) to finance the aforesaid appropriation. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town and applied to defray the aforesaid appropriation. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Sections 7-369 and 10-289 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

(c) That the Town issue and renew its temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes and the receipt of grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed FORTY MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,520,000). The temporary notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, or any other enabling acts. The temporary notes shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes if the notes do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

(d) That the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign any bonds, notes or temporary notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds, notes or temporary notes. The First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds, notes, or temporary notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds, notes or temporary notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds, notes or temporary notes; to sell the bonds, notes or temporary notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds, notes or temporary notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds, notes or temporary notes.

(e) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the aforesaid project may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(f) That the First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds, notes, or temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds, notes or temporary notes.

(g) That the Building Committee for the Projects – Wheeler Middle and High School and North Stonington Elementary School shall act as the school building committee for the project and is authorized to approve design and construction expenditures for the project, and to exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the project. The records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon completion of the project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Board of

Selectmen and the Town. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to contract with architects, engineers, contractors, construction managers, and others in the name and on behalf of the Town as necessary or desirable to implement the project.

(h) That the Board of Education is authorized to apply for, and accept, state grants for the project. The Board of Education is authorized to file applications with the State Board of Education, to execute grant agreements for the project, and to file such documents as may be required by the State Board of Education to obtain grants for the costs of financing the project.

(i) That the First Selectman, the Treasurer, the Board of Education, the Building Committee for the project, and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to issue bonds or notes and temporary notes and obtain grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation. The motion to accept the resolution passed unanimously.

7. Public Comment – Tina Dubosc, citizen, was concerned about the Economic Development Commission and the mill rate issue. She suggested collaboration with the school board. Mrs. Wagner had to leave the meeting. Mr. Mastroianni commented on her remarks as Chair of the EDC. Mr. McCord had comment. Mr. Uργο had further comment. Mr. Gross had further comment. Mr. Mastroianni had further comment. Mr. Frenette had questions as a citizen and not a member of the Ad Hoc Committee. There was further comment. Questions were answered.

On a motion by Mrs. Buzzee, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Boards voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education