

Boards of Finance, Selectmen, and Education Minutes
May 26, 2010

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Finance was held and called a joint meeting of the Boards of Finance, Selectmen, and Education on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the North Stonington Elementary School Multi-purpose Room. Present for the Board of Finance were Mr. Donahue, Mr. Pavlovics, and Mr. Herbert. Present for the Board of Selectmen were Mr. Mullane and Mr. Briscoe. Present for the Board of Education were Mrs. Ricker and Mrs. Banker. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa and members of the Ad Hoc Building Committee. This was termed a non-meeting due to lack of a quorum. Mr. Donahue began the non-meeting at 7:07 p.m.

2. Ad Hoc Building Committee – Presentation of Recommendations – Mr. Donahue explained the presentation and said some people have seen it already and he elaborated. Mr. Bob Carlson introduced the Committee. He told those present that the Committee had been working on this for over a year and a half and was hoping to give their recommendation. He gave the background of the Committee formation and how members were chosen. He explained the process the Committee went through beginning with the Kaestle Boos plans. The 1994 building project was reviewed, committees were set up and liaisons assigned. He elaborated on the workshops that were held and attended as well as the staff interviews.

Mrs. Julie Lanier gave an overview of the various aspects of the presentation. Mr. Chris D'Angelo spoke of the objectives such as the NEASC deficiencies, State requirements, and building issues. He told those present items the Committee was not responsible for such as curriculum and changes to the educational charter such as regionalization. He reviewed the NEASC findings.

Mr. Walt Mathwich spoke on the methods of analysis used for determining recommendations including the Kaestle Boos study, interviews with teachers and administrators, tours of the schools and review of the NEASC letters and correspondence.

Mrs. Leslie Driscoll reviewed the high school recommendations. She gave an overview of the present high school structure, building dates, interior condition, and other deficiencies. She reviewed the Committee's recommendations for the high school.

Mr. D'Angelo spoke of the recommendations for the shared facilities and he elaborated. Mr. Mathwich spoke on the recommendations for administrative needs and other recommendations such as building an additional gym.

The recommendations were given for the elementary school including adding more classrooms and a new gym with and office and equipment storage.

Mr. Carlson gave the closing remarks. The buildings would be renovated as new to maximize the State's contribution. He spoke of maximum energy efficiency, making maximum use of existing buildings, and minimizing the disruption to the student body. He spoke of the presentation they saw on regionalization. Mr. Carlson also talked about an auditorium which is not in the plan and he elaborated on that. He spoke of the bid process and getting a price with an auditorium and without one. He said the next step would be acceptance of the recommendations. He reviewed the steps needed. Questions were asked and answered.

3. Board of Education – Dr. Pukas thanked the Committee for their hard work and dedication. Further questions were asked and answered.

4. Board of Selectmen – Mr. Mullane had comment on the presentation and the next steps to be taken.

5. Public Comments and Questions – Audience members had comments. Questions were asked and answered.

6. Mr. Donahue thanked the Committee and the non-meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education