

Board of Education Minutes  
May 27, 2015

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Buzzee, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain and Mr. Chaney. Vice Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero commented that the North Stonington Education Foundation held their road race and he elaborated. He commented that there were approximately 400 people involved. He had further comment. He had comment on events coming up in the next year.
5. Presentations – a. CAFE Student Leadership Awards – Mr. Carlson had comment. Mr. Nero read a letter that was received by him from CAFE, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. He had further comment. Mr. Carlson had comment. Mr. Chaney gave background information on high school students Sheldon Smith and Lauren Swanson. Mrs. St. Germain gave background information on middle school students Bryce Reck and Martha Brewster. Certificates and a letter from CAFE were presented to each student by Mr. Carlson and Mr. Nero. Mr. Nero had further comment on the students and spoke of their elementary education.
6. Administrators' Reports – None.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – May 13, 2015 – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2015, meeting.
  - b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said he had received a lengthy letter from Janet Allison of NEASC stating that Wheeler had been awarded continued accreditation. He said, however, the school remains on warning for curriculum and community resources. He gave the building project as an example of a needed accomplishment. Mr. Nero had comment on some of the needs of the students due to the facilities. He elaborated and had further comment. He spoke of continuing to make progress.
  - c. Personnel – Interviews are being conducted for the math interventionist at the middle/high school and the elementary position has been posted internally.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero spoke of the information that was brought back from an FOI workshop attended by Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. Allen regarding executive sessions not having to be put on the

agenda because it is considered part of regular Board business. He said Mr. Bing Bartick and Mr. Jim Patton will be speaking shortly. Mr. Nero spoke of students having to leave in time of war to serve and never receiving their diplomas. He had further comment. Mr. Bing Bartick spoke of Mrs. Anita Ames and Mrs. Ellie Banker. They are life-long residents and each has worked for the school district and served on the Board of Education. Both of them graduated from Stonington High School because at the time, there was no high school in North Stonington. He elaborated. Mr. Nero said there is no policy in the district on this and elaborated. There was discussion. On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to award Mrs. Ames and Mrs. Banker honorary diplomas. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept nominations for future honorary Wheeler graduates.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson said the Tri-Board meeting is tomorrow and the budget meeting was last night. Mr. Carlson spoke to Mr. Mullane about Preston. Mr. Karpinski asked about the Board Chairman and if there had been any communication with him. Mr. Carlson said he has not heard from him since his leave. There was discussion. This will be revisited after graduation.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee did not have a chance to review the financial statements ahead of time.

d. LEARN Board of Directors Liaison – Mrs. Wagner spoke of the last meeting they had which was at the Marine Science Magnet School. She had comment. She commented on the principal's comments to them and the students' lack of mention of the curriculum advantages in their comments to the attendees. There was further comment.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Carlson said the \$75,000 from the PSPBC was in the town budget. There is also \$25,000 in the Ad Hoc Committee budget. He had further comment.

9. Finance – a. April 2015 Financial Statements – Mrs. Wagner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to accept the financial statements for the period ending April 30, 2015. Questions were asked. Mrs. Wagner withdrew her motion and Mr. Mendolia withdrew his motion. This will be postponed to the first meeting in June.

b. Transfer Requests – Postponed to the next meeting.

10. Old Business – a. NEASC Report - Mr. Nero asked Mrs. St. Germain when the next report is due and she said in December. She elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment.

11. New Business – None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – June 10<sup>th</sup> is the next Board regular meeting and the following meeting is June 24<sup>th</sup>.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Mr. Joe Gross commented that the financial statements are no longer online. He was told that will be looked into. Mr. Gross commented on the band and the t-shirts that they were wearing. He spoke of accountability of all the Boards. He was irritated that the town is transporting the magnet school students. He feels the numbers in the audit are incorrect and he elaborated. He had further comment on the transportation. He didn't feel the Board of Education should be undermined. He had further comment on the audit report, his support of the Board of Education, and interference of other Boards. Mr. Nero had comment about the band outfits. There was discussion. Mr. Nero commented on magnet school transportation and the audit figures. There was further comment.

On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education