

Special Meeting/Workshop
May 6, 2009

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was to be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. There was not a quorum, so a workshop was held. Present were Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord (8:27 p.m.), Mr. Testa (left at 8:00 p.m.), Mrs. Ricker, and Mrs. Banker. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. Costa, Mr. Susi, and Mr. Sandford. Attorney Littlefield arrived later in the workshop. Dr. Robert called the workshop to order at 7:56 p.m. The Board moved to item 5.

2. Public Comment/Request to Comment on Agenda Item - None.
3. End-of-Year Spending Priorities – No action due to lack of a quorum.
4. Selection of Food Service Company – No action due to lack of a quorum.
5. Hiring of Positions Prior to Referendum – Dr. Robert said the topic of the workshop would be the discussion of the middle/high school guidance position, the elementary school psychologist position, and the .6 FTE French position. There were questions asked as to the status of the process. Mr. Susi told the Board the interviews for the guidance position were next week. He told the Board he would like to keep the current French teacher. Dr. Pukas explained shortage areas and elaborated. Mrs. Costa told the Board the school psychologist interviews were last Monday, today and one more day. She gave the history of the psychologist position. She explained what the psychologist position entails and costs associated with not having that position. She went into detail and explained the reasons she would not take this position out of her budget. The need to hire as soon as possible was explained by the administrators. There was comment and questions from the Board. There was discussion that there was never a formal vote taken about waiting until after the referendum to hire for these positions. There was a consensus among those Board members present to have the administration go forward with hiring these positions. Dr. Robert said we are letting our administrators do their jobs. Dr. Pukas had comment. She said the whole budget process has been this way and she appreciated that. She elaborated. There was further comment. Dr. Pukas clarified that the directive to not hire these positions until after the referendum was lifted. Dr. Robert said yes—that was the consensus.
6. Public Comment – None.
7. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Personnel Matter – No Executive Session due to lack of a quorum.
Out of Executive Session
8. Possible Action Concerning Personnel Matter – No action due to lack of a quorum.

The workshop ended at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to The Board of Education