

Board of Education Minutes  
November 14, 2012

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, Mr. Mendolia, Mr. Hundt, Dr. Robert, and Mrs. Dame. Mr. Mathwich was absent. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, and Mr. Sandford. Chairman Testa called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Testa led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Attorney/Client Privilege – Written Communication – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. for the Purpose of Attorney/Client Privilege – Written Communication.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items – Mr. Joe Gross, citizen, spoke of facilities and referred to minutes of various meetings. He had further comment on maintenance. He spoke of ad hoc committees. He commended Mrs. Wilkison on the Veterans' Day Program. Mr. Gross spoke of the petition and he elaborated. He spoke of the various dollar amounts of the Ad Hoc Committee's plans in relation to the dollar amount quoted in the petition. He had further comment. He spoke of changing the location of the flag in the room.

5. Community Relations – None.

6. Presentations – None.

7. Administrators Reports – Mrs. Costa explained about the parent survey that the State mailed to parents and received a 28% return. She reviewed the items listed in the survey. She commented on the "Skills the Students are Learning" section. She elaborated. She read some of the parents' comments. Board members had comment on the inclusion portion. Mrs. Wilkison also commented on the inclusion aspect. She went over happenings at the elementary school including the Harvest Festival and the professional development day that was held on November 6<sup>th</sup> including the information presented on the SEED Program for teacher evaluation. She elaborated on the SEED program. She spoke of the Veterans' Day event that was held and she thanked Mr. McCarthy for being the guest speaker. She also told of the drama club's play, Math Day, the first trimester closing on the 21<sup>st</sup> with report cards going home on December 5<sup>th</sup> and conferences on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sandford spoke of happenings at the middle/high school including the trip to Boston, the Senior Project Mentor breakfast, and the middle school renaissance event. Mr. Heughins spoke of the planned trip to the Inauguration and how it came about. He had further comment and explanation. Mr. Sandford spoke of teaming with Oxford Academy in order to be able to have enough participants. Mr. Sandford elaborated. There were questions asked and answered. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to add Inauguration Field Trip to Item 7a.

7a. Inauguration Field Trip - On a motion by Mr. Hundt seconded by Dr. Robert the Board voted unanimously to approve the field trip.

8. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- October 10, 2012 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2012 meeting.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2012 work session.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Testa explained the letter received by CASBO regarding Mr. McCarthy’s appointment as a liaison to the Board of Directors. He read the letter.

c. Personnel – None.

9. Reports - a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero congratulated Mrs. Costa on the survey results and he elaborated. He thanked Mrs. Wilkison for the Veterans’ Day program. He told the Board he participated in the Renaissance event and elaborated. He thanked the PTO and the ICONS group for getting the word out about the vote. He had further comment. He thanked the Town, the First Selectmen, Steve Holliday, and Mrs. McCarthy among others, for their efforts during the storm days. He had further comment and said it was never an easy decision. He spoke of the work session on health care. He spoke of the memorandum of agreement and elaborated on that and why we have not done that yet. The community grant committee has not met yet and he explained. Mr. Nero spoke of the meeting with the administrators regarding the SEED document. He elaborated. He said he was concerned about some items in the document and had further comment. He spoke of some of the requirements of the evaluation system and the problems. He said he has to pick a model by January 15<sup>th</sup> unless we write our own and had further comment.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Testa said he followed up again with the Board of Finance regarding the RISSA account. He had comment and said we will continue to pursue that. He had further comment.

c. Committee Chairs – Mrs. Dame said they will be going over policies tonight. Mr. McCord spoke of the Facilities and Finance Committee meeting and said action will be coming later in the agenda.

d. PSPBC Liaison –None.

10. Financial – a. October 2012 Financial Statements – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to approve the financial statements for October 2012. Dr. Robert had comment. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Old Business – a. Appointment of Board of Education Member – Mr. Testa had comment on feedback he had received about how to approach this. He said we had three terrific candidates that were presented and that we

are tasked with getting it to one. He elaborated. Mr. McCord commented said he respects all the candidates. Mr. McCord made a motion to appoint Mr. Bob Carlson. He gave his reasons for the nomination. There was no second to the motion. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. Mendolia the Board voted four in favor and two opposed to appointing Mr. Alex Karpinski to the Board. Mr. McCord and Dr. Robert were opposed.

12. New Business – a. Petition – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to add Public Hearing to the agenda for the November 28, 2012 meeting to start at 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school multipurpose room. Questions were asked and answered. It was clarified that the hearing would be an agenda item as part of the regular meeting.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next meeting is November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. There was discussion about the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was recommended that the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting be cancelled due to a conflict.

b. Committee Action List – None.

14. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to suspend the meeting to go into a work session at 8:32 p.m.

#### WORK SESSION

1. Student Public Comment Regarding Agenda/Non-Agenda Items – Mr. Nero recommended that when an agenda is created we ask that any students that want to speak go before the regular public comment section. There was discussion. It was agreed to make this change.

2. Administrator Attendance at Board of Education Meetings – Mr. Nero asked that unless an administrator is making a report later in the agenda that involves them that be allowed to go after their presentations. He explained.

3. Review of Policy 3301, Mileage and Travel Reimbursement – There was comment and questions.

4. Review of Policy 3326.3, Board of Education Credit Card – There was comment and questions.

5. Review of Policy 3542.32, Free or Reduced Price Lunches – Mrs. Dame said this had been reviewed previously and there was comment.

6. Request from Principal Regarding Class Dues – Mr. Sandford spoke of his proposal regarding class dues. He had further explanation. Board members had comment and questions. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment.

7. Request for Revision to Policy 3281, School Fund Raisers – There was comment and questions.

On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to return to the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education