

Board of Education Minutes
November 18, 2015
Special Meeting

DRAFT

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Karpinski, Dr. Robert, Mr. McCord, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Election of Officers – Mr. Nero took over the meeting. He explained the election of officers. Dr. Robert nominated Bob Carlson for Chairman and Mr. McCord seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations so Mr. Nero closed the nominations. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Bob Carlson as Chairman. Mr. Carlson took over the meeting. There was comment. Dr. Robert nominated Christine Wagner for Vice Chairman and Mr. Mendolia seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations so Mr. Carlson closed the nominations. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Christine Wagner as Vice Chairman. Dr. Robert nominated Walt Mathwich for Secretary and Mr. Mendolia seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations so Mr. Carlson closed the nominations. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Walt Mathwich as Secretary.

4. Committee Assignments – Committees were assigned as follows: Student Success – Mrs. Buzzee, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Mendolia, Dr. Robert, and Mrs. Wagner; Community Involvement – Mrs. Buzzee, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, and Mrs. Wagner; and Facilities and Finance – Mrs. Buzzee, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. McCord, Mr. Mendolia, and Dr. Robert. Those Board members that were absent at this meeting may make changes to their committee assignments.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.

6. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said that the North Stonington Education Foundation met last week. He had further comment. Greg Pont is a new member to the Board. Dan Spring will also be a member. He elaborated. Things are going well for the education foundation.

7. Presentations - a. Adventure Club Ski Trip Proposal – Marybeth Tavares spoke as advisor for the Adventure Club. She reviewed the tentative itinerary. She said they are staying in the same place they did last year. She had further explanation. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. There was comment. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the proposed ski trip. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain explained the progress on the greenhouse. The hydroponic equipment is being built. She had further explanation. The Farm and Garden Club has tripled in size. There was comment. She said the drama club production is about a month away and she elaborated. Mrs. St. Germain said they are working hard to use student data and she explained. This past fall they surveyed the past graduates and she explained what was on the survey. They had a decent amount of participation with a lot of positive response. Mrs. St. Germain explained that a lot of colleges are not accepting AP credits and are instead accepting ECE credits. She elaborated. Mr. Chaney said the school safety committee met. He said two things they continue to look at are evacuation procedures and fire drills. He elaborated. He reviewed the professional book club that has about 15 participants. Mrs. St. Germain said she is sending a letter to NEASC by December 1st on the progress of the building project. Mr. Nero had comment about what she will include in the letter. Mrs. Wilkison said last Tuesday on the 10th was their Veterans' Day Celebration with 62 Veterans taking part. Mr. Tom Dinoto, middle school math teacher, was the guest speaker this year. The drama club is practicing their play, *Lion King Kids*. Kerry Henderson, Sharon Thompson, and Mike Noonan are helping Kelly Gonzalez with the drama club. Report cards will be going home on the 2nd with conferences on the 3rd and 4th. November 3rd was a professional development day and she explained what the teachers reviewed that day. Rubrics are being created for the students to self-assess. The state has recommended universal screening assessments for all our students. They are starting the STAR assessment tomorrow. She elaborated.

9. Administrative – a. Minutes – October 29, 2015 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the October 29, 2015, meeting.

November 5, 2015 – Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2105, Tri-Board meeting. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero read an email received by Rebecca Schilke to make a presentation at a conference. He said this is an honor. He will ask Mrs. Schilke to make a presentation after the conference.

c. Personnel – None.

10. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said last Tuesday's ceremony at the elementary school was phenomenal. There was a luncheon at the high school and that was also phenomenal. He said there were both presentations and activities. He commended all involved for the great job planning these events. He thanked the Board for their time on Saturday with 100% attendance. Mr. Nero said tomorrow he is having a meeting with the athletic directors from each level along with the groundskeeper. He said we have grass growing. We may be able to get the organic treatment sooner. Questions were asked and answered. There was comment. There was comment about a second playing field. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had comment. The next regular meeting is December 9th but Mr. Nero will be at the NEASC conference. It was decided that December 16th will be the next meeting and will be termed a special meeting.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Carlson thanked the Board for their confidence in him as chairman. He and Mr. Nero are going to a conference on Friday and members from Preston will be there and he elaborated. They are still working with the group from Westerly. He read a thank you note from the Nero family.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance committee met and action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. PSPBC Liaison – Mr. Carlson said there is no official liaison. He said he was going to attend the meeting but there was no meeting. Mr. Lord will be attending Monday's Tri-Board meeting.

f. Ad Hoc Committee – Mr. Carlson said he has been attending every other meeting. He said they will be unveiling their project on Monday, November 23rd and it is an important meeting to attend. He gave a few highlights of the proposed project. Questions were asked and answered.

11. Finance – a. October 2015 Financial Statements – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2015. Dr. Robert and Mrs. Allen had comment. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Transfer Request – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the November 10, 2015, transfer request.

c. Equipment Purchases – Mr. Nero had explanation. Mrs. St. Germain had come to Mr. Nero about purchasing a new desk for the guidance secretary but it was not budgeted for and he explained. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. He spoke of budgeting. There was further comment. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the desk.

12. Old Business – Policy on Graduation Requirements –6146 - Mrs. St. Germain had explanation of the history of the policy. She explained the standards that were taken out of the policy are incorporated into the curriculum. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. Further questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Policy 6146.

13. New Business – a. 2016 Schedule of Meetings – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2016 meeting schedule.

b. 2016-2017 School Calendar – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the 2016-2017 school calendar. Mr. Nero explained we have to follow the RESC's regional calendar. He explained we

do not have much room at all for flexibility. He had further comment. The motion to accept the 2016-2017 school calendar passed unanimously.

14. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates - November 23rd is the Tri-Board meeting. December 9th's meeting will be moved to December 16th. Ian ??? thanked the Board for allowing him to achieve a boy scout requirement by sitting in on a Board of Education meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

15. Public Comment – None.

16. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education