

Board of Education Minutes
October 12, 2011

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Scarchilli, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa, Mrs. Dame, and Mr. McCord. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Apicelli. Dr. Robert called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Dr. Robert told those present the meeting was being recorded.

Dr. Robert asked for items to be moved or added to the agenda - Administrators Reports to 2.5, New Business item a to item 2.6a and New Business Item b to item 2.6b and Superintendent's Search under 8b. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda with the above changes.

2. Community Relations – Nothing other than what was in the packet. Dr. Robert said there were about 55 students vying for positions on the middle school student council.

2.5 Administrators' Reports – Mr. Sandford said they are going to try something different with the reports by having students involved in student government report on social happenings in the schools and the administrators will report on the academics. Mark Durham and Jacob Sylvestre spoke of happenings at the school including upcoming Spirit Week and a dodgeball tournament to raise funds. They spoke of PHIT and the mission of the group. Mr. Sandford handed out the updated school profile. He spoke of efforts to get an electronic sign for in front of the school. He explained. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Board voted unanimously to allow Mr. Sandford to go to the necessary town departments to get the approval needed for the sign. Mrs. Wilkison told of happenings in the elementary school including a "Walk to School" program, Connecticut Loves to Read Day is Friday, and clubs are being organized to be held after school. She spoke of the "Daily 5" program being used by the whole school, and the third and fourth grade students are involved in the Blue Ribbon assessments. Mrs. Wilkison thanked Mrs. Ricker and Mrs. Banker for their years of dedication to the schools and students. Mrs. Pat Ostrout spoke of the first middle school dance and explained it was to benefit the Renaissance program.

2.6 New Business – a. Textbook Adoptions – Mrs. Ricker put forth the committee's recommendation for the 11th grade English and the 10th grade English which are *Kaffir Boy*, *Master Harold and the Boys*, *The Bluest Eye*, and *Snitch*. Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept the committee's textbook recommendations. There was discussion. The motion passed with seven voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Testa abstained.

b. New Required Policy 3524.2(a) – Mrs. Ricker explained the policy having to do with “green” products being used in school. On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve new policy 3524.2(a).

Dr. Robert asked to move 5c to item 3 a.5

3. Presentations - a. Introduction of New Teachers – Mr. Sandford introduced the new teaching staff at the middle/high school.

3a.5 Administrative – Personnel – Dr. Pukas explained the salary items in the Board packet. On a motion by Mr. Scarchilli, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to grant the salary recommendation for Brandon Lorentz

b. Recognition of Board Members – Dr. Robert thanked Mrs. Ricker and Mrs. Banker for their years of service and he elaborated.

c. Board Article Discussion – “History of North Stonington Schools” – Mrs. Banker said she felt it was important to know the background of what led up to where we are today with the schools. Dr. Robert had comment. This information will be put on the website. Board members had comment.

d. AYP Report – Dr. Pukas spoke of the information in the packet. She explained the rules of NCLB. She spoke of how proud she is of our students and staff. She explained the higher goals. She had comment. She said our schools made AYP once again. Dr. Robert had comment. Dr. Pukas spoke of the professional development on Tuesday on the Connecticut Common Core of State Standards. She explained the new testing coming up in future years. She had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Sandford answered questions. Board members had comment.

e. Report of the 2010-11 District and School Goals – Dr. Pukas said each year the district and schools adopt goals and she explained. She said a lot of hard work goes in to these. She had further comment. She was not submitting new goals and information yet. She explained this is a year of transition and elaborated. They will be looking at writing all the goals as smart goals and explained. She elaborated. Dr. Robert asked the Board to get their goals in by next Wednesday, the 19th. She thanked the Board for taking the goals seriously and explained.

4. Administrators Reports – Covered above.

5. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- September 14, 2011 – Mrs. Dame made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to approve the September 14, 2011 minutes. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

September 27, 2011 Special Meeting – Mrs. Banker made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011 meeting. Dr. Robert had comment. The motion passed with seven voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Testa abstained.

b. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas told of correspondence sent out. A meeting will be held with the Ad Hoc Committee and Quisenberry architect firm. Mr. Mathwich explained.

c. Personnel – Covered above.

6. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas spoke of Regional Professional Development and the Board’s commitment to a regional calendar. She elaborated and told the Board that over 700 educators in southeastern Connecticut attended professional development yesterday. She told the Board we hosted pre-school with Roberta Curry facilitating and visual arts with Regina McGowan facilitating. She spoke of the positive feedback she had received. She explained the workshops held here. November 8th will be another regional professional development day. She had further comment. Mr. Mike Noonan spoke of his experience as a music educator with the regional professional development. Mrs. Jane Robert spoke of the experience she had with the integrated pre-school group. Dr. Pukas had further comment. She thanked the Board for giving them the opportunity to do this.

b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert reiterated the Board having their goals in by next Wednesday. He spoke of the Leo ad. He had further comment. On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted five in favor and two abstentions to do a full-page ad in the yearbook. Mrs. Ricker and Mrs. Banker abstained. There was discussion. Money is due by October 19th.

c. Committee Chairs – A number of committees met this evening. Dr. Pukas thanked all the committees for their work this past year and she elaborated.

d. PSPBC Liaison –Mrs. Ricker spoke of the chimney repairs and she relayed the conversation at the meeting. She said the PSPBC didn’t have much money left but the consensus was that they would pay for half of the expense and she elaborated. Mr. Hundt made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Testa to ask the building committee to fund \$8,000 of the chimney repair bill. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously. A letter will be written to the PSPBC.

7. Financial - a. June 2011 Financial Statements – Mr. Hundt put forth a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the subtotal general fund of \$2,206,902.72, grant expenditures of \$73,821.05 for a total of \$2,280,723.77 for the month of June 2011. There was discussion. Dr. Robert explained the statute regarding some of the returned funds from the Board of Education to be set aside for maintenance and he explained. He read the statute. There was discussion of Section 10-248a. The motion passed unanimously.

b. 2010-2011 Year-end Transfers – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve end-of-year transfers for a total for \$381,184.

c. September 2011 Financial Statements –Mr. Hundt put forward a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the September 2011 subtotal general fund of \$1,141,511.73, grant expenditures of \$32,101.91, for a total of \$1,173,613.64 which was unanimously approved.

d. Transfer Requests – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transfers in a memo dated October 5, 2011 from the Business Manager.

8. Old Business – a. Discussion on the Feasibility Study – Dr. Robert said there were a number of questions and concerns. This is on the website now. He said Dr. Townsley is willing to discuss this with the Board. He would like to meet on off Wednesdays to make sure we have the questions answered that need to be answered. Mr. Sarchilli had comment. There was further comment. Dr. Robert had comment. There were concerns about the report being on the website if the information is inaccurate. There was discussion. Dr. Robert proposed the Board meet for a workshop on the 19th at 6:00 p.m. Board members had comment. It was suggested that Dr. Townsley be invited to come back. A list of questions could be drawn up. There was further discussion. A list of questions will be due by the 19th and Dr. Robert will try to set up the workshop for the 26th. It was suggested a press release be prepared to explain why the report was done. Board members had comment.

b. Superintendent's Search – Dr. Robert said Rob Rader was here and gave good information on this item. He spoke of the need for an action plan with a timeline. He elaborated. There was discussion. The Student Success Committee will formulate a timeline and have it ready on the 26th.

9. New Business – a. Textbook Adoptions – Covered above.

b. New Required Policy 3524.2(a) – Covered above.

10. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – Tentatively October 26th if Dr. Townsley is available. Dr. Pukas reminded those up for re-election and new members will need to be sworn in by November 9th when the next meeting is. There was discussion.

b. Committee Action List – The Student Success Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on October 19th.

11. Public Comment – Mr. Jason Barrs asked for more information on the feasibility study and how it came about. Dr. Robert answered his question including items listed in the NEASC study. He elaborated. He had further questions that were answered. Mr. Robert Miner asked about the Wheeler Trust. Dr. Pukas answered his question. Mr. Barrs thanked Dr. Pukas for the way information was handled during the lockdown. There was discussion. There was further discussion on the lockdown. Dr. Pukas commended the students, teachers,

administrators, and parents for the way the lockdown was handled. A parent asked if communication could be available on the web regarding the status. There was further discussion. Another parent had questions on the lockdown procedure that were answered. There was discussion. Rebecca Schilke thanked Mrs. Banker and Mrs. Ricker for their service. She elaborated. There was further comment. Mike Noonan thanked Mr. McCord for his comments on the school system. He told of his children's further education and relayed the text from his daughter regarding other students not being prepared for college. He elaborated and said having the high school close would be devastating. He hoped the Board of Education would keep advocating to keep the schools open. He had further comment. Another parent had comment on the school closing and the perception of other residents in different towns. Board members had further comment. There was further public discussion. A press release or letter will be put together to get out to the public. Mrs. Jana Sullivan had questions that Dr. Robert answered. Mr. Steve Ostrout had comment. There was further discussion.

12. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m. Mrs. Dame was absent for the vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education