

Board of Education Minutes  
October 23, 2013

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, Mr. Mendolia, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Carlson, Dr. Robert and Mr. Mathwich. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mr. Sandford, and Mrs. St. Germain. Chairman Testa 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 – Mr. Mike Urgo, commented that many people are happy to hear that the building project is moving forward. There was comment.
4. Community Relations – None.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain updated happenings at the middle and high school. She spoke of Think Pink Day put together by two middle school students, students took the ASVAB, they are trying to find a person to come in to talk about physics, and some teachers took part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment and she elaborated. Mr. Sandford commented on the SBA as well. Mrs. Wilkison had comment. Mr. Nero commented as well. Mrs. St. Germain said teachers are attending professional development on this. There was discussion about the test. Mrs. Wilkison commented that the elementary teachers took the test at the beginning of school. Kindergarteners are being taught keyboarding, the first PBIS event was held, they participated in Connecticut Loves to Read Day, tomorrow is an anti-bullying assembly thanks to funding from the PTO, and next week the after-school enrichment programs begin. Mrs. Wilkison said the students in grades one through five took a math assessment and she handed out the results and gave explanation. Questions were asked and answered.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – September 25, 2013 – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to accept the minutes of the September 25, 2013 meeting. Comments were made. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Correspondence – None.
  - c. Personnel – None.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero had comment on the Interim Principal position. He elaborated. He said an interview committee has been set up. Mr. Nero will be on a NEASC visiting committee team for North Smithfield High School in November and he elaborated. Mr. Nero spoke of the annual report. He spoke of doing an RFP for food service. Questions were asked and answered.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Testa said he, Mr. Nero and Mrs. Allen have had a lot of communication with the town regarding finances. Mrs. Allen spoke of the audit that began today. She spoke of the year-end closeout. Mr. Testa commented on the bonfire situation and elaborated. He spoke to Chairman Spring about the RISSA account and he elaborated. The Board of Finance wants to do a presentation to the Board of Education about the different accounts that already exist. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Testa thanked the Board and said it was an honor and privilege to serve with them and he elaborated. He commended the Administrators. He had further comment.

c. Committee Chairperson – The Facilities and Finance Committee met and action will be taken later. There was talk of the Student Success Committee meeting. There was comment.

d. PSPBC Liaison – There is a meeting next Monday; Mr. Mathwich will try to attend. Mr. Testa said he spoke with the chairperson about a few issues and he elaborated.

9. Finance – September 2013 Financial Statements – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to approve the financial statements as presented for September 2013. Mr. McCord commented about the committee meeting beforehand to review the statements. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. Teacher Evaluation Amendment – Mr. Nero spoke of the memo received from the Commissioner of Education. He spoke of the NCLB waiver requested from the State. He spoke of the change to testing and elaborated. He said the Teacher Evaluation Committee met. He needs approval to amend the teacher evaluation instrument to exclude testing being counted in the evaluation for the 2013-14 school year. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to exclude testing as part of the teacher evaluation plan for the 2013-14 school year. Questions were asked and answered. Non-standardized measures will be used. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Educational Specifications – Mr. Nero would like to meet with the architect. He elaborated. There was comment. Board members had comment. Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Robert to agree in principal with the draft educational specification and proceed with further refinement of elementary school option D, middle/high school option C as identified in the Ad Hoc presentation and allow the Superintendent to develop a proposed contract with the architect firm. There was comment. The motion passed unanimously.

11. New Business – None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – There is a regular meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. There may be the need for an additional meeting as well. The meeting for November 27<sup>th</sup> is cancelled.

b. Committee Action List – Already covered.

13. Public Comment – Dr. Robert thanked Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, and Mrs. Dame for their service to the Board.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for the Purpose of Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member and Negotiations Update.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

15. Possible Action Concerning Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted to table this item.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education