

Board of Education Minutes
October 8, 2014

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. McCord, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner, Dr. Robert, Mrs. Buzzee, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairman McCord called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Lisa Mazzella, citizen, had comment on the Community Conversation that will be held on October 18th.
4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said tomorrow night is the North Stonington Education Foundation meeting. Their dinner dance is October 24th.
5. Presentations – a. Trip to Quebec – Mrs. St. Germain said Ledyard High School did not have enough students that were interested so the trip is not going to take place. There was discussion.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain said the NEASC visit had concluded. She said the visiting team took away a sense of community and she explained. She had further comment. Mrs. St. Germain said they will not be getting any type of word until Spring. Mr. Nero had comment on the verbal report. Mrs. St. Germain had further comment. Mrs. St. Germain handed out a curriculum cycle chart and explained it. The high school soccer players are at Dodd Stadium playing a game and she elaborated. She thanked Ellen Turner for her hard work in finding places for the teams to play. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of the Skype session with Senator Murphy. She elaborated. SAT's will be held in North Stonington on Wednesday. She explained. PSAT's and Ready Step Testing will be held the same day as well. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Chaney passed out the middle school and high school newsletters. He pointed out the CMT scores and explained. He spoke of the two Skype sessions with our former media specialist, Maureen Rust, and also with Senator Murphy. He spoke of our art program. Mr. Chaney spoke of the Block Island trip and the health classes. He spoke of the biology class and their Ebola discussion. Mr. Nero commented on the excellent science scores. Mr. McCord thanked Mrs. St. Germain and Mr. Chaney for the exemplary representation of our school. Mrs. Wilkison handed out the 5th graders' CMT scores and said 95% were above proficiency. The fall newsletter was handed out. She said each grade level will be using a half-day to revise their curriculum and she explained. This is Fire Safety Week and she thanked the fire department for visiting the school. Mrs. Wilkison said Walk to School Day is tomorrow and she explained. The first PBIS celebration will be held. There was a fundraiser at Mel's Creamery. October 15th is Connecticut Loves to Read Day. Mrs. Wilkison commented that many years ago Dr. Robert suggested after-school enrichment

programs and said those programs will be starting soon. The early dismissal days will be used to have Diana Burns talk to the teachers about reading. Mr. Nero spoke of the math specialist. He said we are investing a lot of Title II funds for training and it is working very well. There was comment.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – September 24, 2014 – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the September 24, 2014, meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero had comment on the NEASC visit. He said he will be attending a consortium meeting and he elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. McCord spoke of the issues with people requesting information. He suggested having all information being requested go through the Board Chair. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had comment. There were questions asked and answered. There was comment on the NEASC visit. Mr. Nero had further comment. The Board Chair will be the point of contact for contentious items.

c. Committee Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner will ask Mrs. Turner to attend the October 22nd meeting.

d. PSPBC Liaison – None.

9. Finance – None.

10. Old Business – a. School Delays and Cancellations – There was a re-cap of the last meeting's discussion. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Buzzee, the Board voted unanimously to either have school, a two-hour delay, or no school.

b. Class Dues – Mrs. St. Germain reviewed the changes they would like to have go into effect. There were questions asked and answered. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to revise the dues policy dated October 8, 2014.

c. Approval of Revised SEED Document – Mr. Nero thanked Mrs. Wilkison and Jeanne Dionne for their work on this. He explained the procedure. He had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment and explanation. He spoke of TEAM and the new process. He spoke of the administrator evaluation. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to approve the SEED document with the amendments incorporated into it.

Mr. Carlson spoke of looking into Wheeler being a school of choice. He had comment. There was discussion. The Student Success Committee will look this.

11. New Business – a. None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – October 22nd is the next regular Board meeting. We are still waiting for a tri-board date. The Wheeler All-Class Reunion is October 18th.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – A citizen asked if there was any information from the State on Ebola. Mr. Nero said we sent out information on D68 and Pertussis but we haven't heard anything from the State on Ebola. The citizen had further comment. Mr. Nero had further comment.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Strategy for Collective Bargaining – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. for the Purpose of Strategy for Collective Bargaining and to invite Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

15. Ratification of Tentative Bargaining Agreement between the North Stonington Federation of School Administrators and the North Stonington Board of Education – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted seven in favor and one opposed to ratify and authorize the chairman to sign the tentative agreement reached between the negotiating teams of the North Stonington Board of Education and the North Stonington Federation of School Administrators for a collective bargaining agreement in effect from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. Mr. Karpinski was opposed.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mrs. Wagner, the Board voted unanimously to return to Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. to continue the discussion of Strategy for Collective Bargaining and to invite Mrs. Allen into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education