

Board of Education Minutes
September 14, 2011

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Dr. Robert, Mrs. Ricker, Mrs. Banker, Mr. Hundt, Mr. Testa, Mrs. Dame, and Mr. McCord. Absent was Mr. Scarchilli. Also present were Dr. Pukas, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, and Mr. Apicelli. Dr. Robert called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Community Relations – Nothing other than what was in the packet.

3. Presentations - a. Board Article Discussion – Mrs. Dame explained why she chose this article and elaborated. She said this was a different take on charter schools than what was depicted in the movie, “Waiting for Superman” where charter schools are the answer. There was discussion. A link to this article will be put on the web site. There was further discussion. Charter schools were discussed.

b. Elementary School Data – Mrs. Wilkison said each year the faculty does a study on school data and she explained. She said many times they concentrate on things that are not up to par and never touch on the positives. She elaborated and gave a presentation to the Board. Items included in the presentation were CMT ranking results in the state, reading results and writing results. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.

4. Administrators Reports – Mr. Apicelli showed the clip from Channel 8 news on the billboard designed by the students. Mr. Apicelli gave the background of the billboard that was a contest in health class. Mr. Apicelli told of happenings at the middle/high school including the hiring of new staff members, two upcoming dances, 410 students are enrolled with 188 in the middle school and 222 at the high school, the fitness center will be open beginning tomorrow, and late busses will start next week on Tuesdays and Thursdays for homework club and the fitness center. There were questions asked and answered. There was discussion on the fitness room. Dr. Robert brought up having students report on happenings in the schools and having administrators report on the business aspects of the schools. Dr. Robert acknowledged the two students present, Samantha Epstein and Shannon Fauth who are working towards their leadership patch. Mr. Apicelli spoke further of the fitness room. Tuesday and Thursday the fitness room will be open for students and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday will be the days for teams and coaches to be in the room. Mrs. Wilkison said they got off to a really great start. 384 students are enrolled, open house is tomorrow from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the Governor’s Challenge Reading Breakfast will be on Friday. Mrs. Costa told the Board that the school nurse is resigning, the reading teacher that was hired resigned before the start of school and they have interviewed some candidates. There were questions asked and answered.

5. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes- August 24, 2011 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Banker, the Board voted four in favor and two abstentions to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2011 meeting. Mrs. Ricker and Mrs. Dame abstained.

b. Correspondence – Dr. Pukas read a letter from CTAHPERD congratulating Dr. Robert being named University Teacher of the Year. Dr. Pukas thanked the PTO for the staff luncheon.

c. Personnel – Dr. Pukas recommended appointing William LaFleur as hearing officer. She explained he has been our hearing officer for the past 8 years and she elaborated. Mr. Testa made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to appoint William LaFleur as hearing officer. Mr. Testa suggested having him come back when the new Board is seated to explain what he does. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports - a. Superintendent – A letter was sent to the PTO thanking them for the staff luncheon. Dr. Pukas spoke of the new education commissioner that has been appointed by Governor Malloy. Dr. Pukas congratulated everyone on the start of school and said it was a different start and she elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Dr. Robert explained the cost-savings by hiring an independent person to do the paraprofessional/custodian contract. He also spoke of the administrator contract being negotiated. He elaborated. Dr. Robert told the Board that Tom Cambrio did the training in the fitness room today for coaches and staff members.

c. Committee Chairs – Finance and Facilities met today and action will be taken later.

d. PSPBC Liaison – Nothing to report.

7. Financial – a. August 2011 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to approve total accounts payable of \$417,178.21, payroll of \$126,782.04, for a subtotal of \$543,960.25, and grant expenditures of \$10,081.91 for the period ending August 31, 2011 with the named correction.

8. Old Business – None.

9. New Business – Discussion of “Make-up Days” – 2011-2012 School Calendar – Dr. Pukas explained the students have already lost four days. She explained we are on the regional calendar and explained the regional professional development and the number of participants. She explained the draft calendar that was presented. She read from state statutes. She reviewed the dates she was proposing and explained contractual obligations. She spoke of taking the day after Presidents’ Day and Veterans’ Day. There was discussion. Dr. Pukas explained the reason she was bringing this forward now. There was further discussion. There were further questions asked and answered. Mr. Testa made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Banker to make Friday, November 11th and Tuesday, February 21st makeup days. Mr. Hundt had comment and questions. There was discussion. Mr. Testa and Mrs. Banker withdrew the motion. There was further discussion. Mr. Hundt made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ricker to make October 10th, November 11th, and February 21st school days. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously. It was asked that an explanation be sent with the revised calendar.

10. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates - Dr. Robert clarified that the Board received his emails about the upcoming meetings. He told the Board September 19th is the superintendent search workshop and September 27th is the Feasibility Study report. Before the October 12th meeting there will be new teacher reception and farewell to those board members that will not be returning.

b. Committee Action List – The Student Success Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. on October 12th and at 6:20 p.m. the Facilities and Finance Committee will meet.

11. Public Comment – Questions were asked and answered.

12. Executive Session – a. Salary of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member – On a motion by Mrs. Ricker, seconded by Mr. Hundt, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for the Purpose of Salary of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member at 8:45 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:04 p.m.

13. Possible Action Concerning Salary of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member – No action was taken. The Board wanted to say that they value the contributions all non-bargaining unit staff make to the North Stonington Education System and in the future, they invite all non-bargaining unit staff members to come before the Board during the budget process to state their case.

The Board took a recess at 9:08 p.m. to discuss Collective Bargaining Strategy.

The Board returned from recess at 10:04 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education