

Board of Education Minutes
September 25, 2013

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room. Present were Mr. Testa, Mr. McCord, Mr. Mendolia (7:08 p.m.), Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, and Mrs. Dame. 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 – None.
4. Community Relations – None.
5. Presentations – a. New Staff Introductions – Mr. Nero had comment. The new staff members introduced themselves. There was comment.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison said they have 378 students enrolled and Open House was held with 91% of the families attending. She had further comment. She spoke of the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge and the lockdown drill that was held. Mrs. Wilkison gave a brief presentation on the CMT results. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Sandford spoke of having to change the graduation policy and elaborated. Several handouts were distributed. Mr. Sandford explained how the bonfire rules have changed and he elaborated. Mrs. St. Germain passed out a newsletter for each school. A handout was distributed for the CMT and CAPT results. She gave a brief presentation on the testing results. She spoke of the move to Smarter Balanced Assessments and elaborated. Mr. Nero had comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment and questions. There was discussion. Further questions were asked and answered.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – August 28, 2013 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the August 28, 2013 meeting.
 - b. Correspondence – None.
 - c. Personnel – Mr. Nero told the Board that Jean Bradanini left for a quasi-administrative position in Stonington. He also told the Board that Mr. Sandford was leaving to be Headmaster at Woodstock Academy. He elaborated.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero spoke of the professional development that was held for the staff on SEED, the new teacher development program. He reviewed the schedule from those days and he elaborated.

Mr. Nero spoke of the building project and he elaborated. He spoke of the two meetings held previously on the Ed. Specs. He had further comment.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mr. Testa spoke of the request from LEARN about representation from the Board of Education to be on the Board of Directors. Mr. Testa questioned Mr. Sandford about the new requirements for the bonfire and there was further comment. Mr. Testa and Mr. Nero will follow up on this issue and get clarity.

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

d. PSPBC Liaison – Nothing to report.

9. Finance – a. August 2013 Financial Statements – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Carlson to approve the August 2013 Financial Statements. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Transfer Requests – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Robert to accept the transfer requests presented by the business manager dated September 18 2013. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. RISSA Update – Mr. Testa told the Board that he, Mr. Nero, and Mrs. Allen attended the Board of Finance meeting about the RISSA account. He explained that Mr. Spring will be writing a proposal on this and he elaborated. Mr. Nero had comment.

b. Building Project – Mr. Testa had comment. Mr. Mathwich said the Ad Hoc Building Committee met and they went through the Ed. Specs. with Mr. Nero explaining his changes to them. Mr. Mathwich explained how the Ed. Specs. were formulated and he elaborated. Mr. Carlson had comment about the amount of new Board members coming in. There was discussion. Mr. Nero voiced his concerns. There was comment and discussion. A suggestion was made to get the candidates the Ed. Specs, hold a workshop on October 9th, and vote at the following meeting. There was discussion of dates for the workshop. A workshop will be held on October 15th followed by a special meeting.

11. New Business – a. Superintendent Conferences – Mr. Nero reviewed the conferences that he would like to attend. There was comment. On a motion by Mrs. Dame, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to approve the requested conferences.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates - October 15th there will be a workshop and special meeting and October 23rd will be a regular meeting.

b. Committee Action List – The Student Success Committee will have to meet soon.

13. Public Comment – Mr. Urgo asked to confirm the dates that were discussed. October 9th is cancelled. Discussion ensued. October 15th is now cancelled. October 23rd will be a workshop at 6:30 immediately followed by the regular meeting.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member and b. Discussion of Principal Position – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for the Purpose of Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member and Discussion of Principal Position at 8:30 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

15. Possible Action concerning Benefits of Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Member – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to table this item.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mrs. Dame, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education