

Board of Education Minutes
September 8, 2010

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Music 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 7:13 p.m.

Dr. Robert said the meeting was being recorded. He welcomed Ed Scarchilli to the Board.

2. Community Relations – Nothing other than what was in the Board’s packet. There was discussion of the \$169,000 referred to in the article in the Board packet.

3. Presentations – None.

4. Administrators Reports – Mr. Sandford introduced Jay Apicelli to the Board. He thanked the custodians and maintenance staff for getting the schools ready. He also thanked the PTO for their support. Mr. Sandford told of happenings at the middle/high school including the senior trip to Block Island, grade 6 taking part in the ROPES course next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Back-to-School night on the 16th, The Ring Dance September 18th, the bonfire scheduled for October 14th which is during Spirit Week, the Homecoming Dance on the 16th, and students taking the PSAT’s. Mr. Sandford told the Board that Nizhoni Brown received an honorable mention in the 2010 Cornell Design Award competition and he explained. He handed out a sheet regarding a workshop to be held at Wheeler and he explained. Mrs. Wilkison said they had a wonderful beginning to school. She was grateful to the teachers, Mrs. Gonzalez, and the maintenance and custodial staff, especially Mr. Jim (Palmer). She told the Board they had 369 students registered. She told of happenings at the elementary school including the Open House on September 15th, the PBS program, a soldier some of the children have been writing to is coming to speak to the students, and on the 24th the Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge breakfast will be held. Mr. Sandford told the Board the total number of students at Wheeler is 429; the senior class has 61 students.

5. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – August 11, 2010 – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2010 meeting as written. Mrs. Banker abstained and Mr. Testa was absent for the vote.

August 16, 2010 Special meeting – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2010 meeting.

b. Correspondence – There was discussion with members of the Ad Hoc Committee as to where they would like to make comment. Mr. Mathwich had comment on the RFP and about setting up a committee of the Board to look at items parallel to the Ad Hoc Committee so there would be no questions from the public as to whether everything had been looked in to. There was discussion on the RFP. Dr. Pukas read a letter from CASBO

regarding Mr. McCarthy being appointed as a liaison to the board of directors of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials. The Board congratulated Mr. McCarthy. There was discussion of the CABA recognition award.

c. Personnel – i. Hearing Officer – Dr. Pukas recommended the Board approve once again William Lafleur as hearing officer. She gave an explanation of what the hearing officer does. She gave the background information. She had further comment on Mr. Lafleur as hearing officer. Mr. Hundt put forward Mr. Lafleur as hearing officer and Mrs. Dame seconded that. There were questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports - a. Superintendent – Dr. Pukas thanked the administration for the planning they did for the professional development at the beginning of the year as well as the Renaissance and PBS programs. She said staff members had commented it was the best opening they have had. She had further comment. Dr. Pukas said everyone worked very hard over the summer. The students came in and saw positive energy. She said it was very nice to sit with a full Board of Education. Dr. Robert thanked the Central Office staff for helping get things done during the summer such as moving the office.

b. BOE Chairperson – There was discussion of setting up committee meetings. Dr. Robert relayed a message from the attorney regarding Board Members checking their email at least once a day.

c. Committee Chairs – There was discussion of Fall Ball teams using the ball field and the reason they were told they couldn't. The situation will be reviewed by Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Coats to see if it can be arranged for the teams to use the field.

d. PSPBC Liaison – There was discussion of funding. There were questions asked about when the flashing project would start. There was further discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

e. Committee Action List – None.

7. Financial – a. June 2010 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the subtotal of the general fund of \$2,068,344.53, grant expenditures of \$52,008.35 for a total of \$2,120,352.88 for the month of June 2010.

b. End-of-Fiscal-Year Closeout – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the 2009-2010 end of year transfer request as put forward in the document by the business manager.

c. July 2010 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. McCord the Board voted unanimously to accept the subtotal of the general fund of \$286,660.93, grant expenditures of \$2,358.75 for a total of \$289,019.68 for the month of July 2010.

d. August 2010 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the subtotal of the general fund of \$889,464.60, grant expenditures of \$16,725.95 for a total of \$906,190.55 for the month of August 2010.

8. Old Business – None.

9. New Business – a. Wheeler Athletic Handbook – Dr. Robert explained. Mrs. Ricker made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Dame to approve the additions and substitutions as presented in the document. There was clarification that if a student got in trouble in the season of play, the punishment would be for just that season. There were questions asked and answered. There was further discussion. The Board moved the question. The motion passed with six in favor and two opposed. Dr. Robert and Mr. McCord were opposed.

b. Paraprofessional's Job Description and Evaluation Instrument – Dr. Pukas gave background information. She commended Mrs. Costa on her hard work on this for the past couple of years. They felt they needed some type of instrument to help them to help us. Dr. Pukas said the paraprofessionals are an integral part of our school system. She elaborated. Mrs. Costa had comment. She told the Board she tried to align the job description and the evaluation. Mrs. Costa told the Board the performance responsibilities, job description and evaluation tool were based upon items in the Connecticut State Department of Education's 2008 publication, *The Guidelines for Training and Support of Paraprofessionals Working with Students Birth to 21*. She had further comment. There were questions asked and answered. Holly McCord, ASFCME representative, had comment and questions about the job description and the contract. Dr. Pukas answered the question and explained job descriptions are not part of a contract and that it would be under management rights. She explained all documents such as this have to come before the Board and she elaborated. There were questions asked and answered. Dr. Pukas said this has been a four-year process and she explained. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted seven in favor and two abstentions to accept the document as presented. Dr. Robert and Mr. McCord abstained. Dr. Pukas told Ms. McCord that she and Mrs. Costa would make arrangements to meet with that section of the bargaining unit that will be affected.

c. 2010 School Building Study – Dr. Pukas explained. There was a suggestion to get the cost of adding an auditorium as part of the bid process. There was comment. Mr. Mathwich had comment on how the State would pay for it. Mr. Carlson had comment. There was discussion. Dr. Pukas had comment. She commended the Ad Hoc Committee for all their hard work on this. She said there was very little in their presentation that needed adjusting. There were further questions asked and answered. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the memo with the addition regarding the auditorium.

There was discussion regarding the RFP for a facilities study. Questions were asked and answered. Dr. Pukas said that her understanding was until the Selectmen got the okay from all parties it would not go forward. There was

discussion. The Board will have a special meeting on Tuesday the 21st at 6:00 to vote on the RFP. The vote was delayed due to pages missing from the copy of the RFP the Board had received.

d. Common Regional Calendar – Dr. Pukas gave background information on the superintendents’ group and their efforts to find cost-savings. She said they are trying to put together a common regional calendar and she elaborated. She said she is in full support of this calendar and had further comment. There were questions asked and answered. On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted seven in favor and one abstention to support the regional calendar. Mrs. Dame abstained.

10. Calendar – The Facilities Committee is meeting September 21st at 5:30 p.m.

11. Public Comment – Mrs. Dame commented on congratulatory notes to the students. Mrs. Regina McGowan had comment on the awards the students get and there was discussion. There was further comment.

12. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Hundt, seconded by Mrs. Ricker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education