

Board of Education Minutes  
August 15, 2018

**DRAFT**

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at Wheeler Library. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mendolia (7:06 p.m.). Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mr. Chaney. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 – Mr. Nero said the first meeting of the North Stonington Education Foundation will be on September 13<sup>th</sup>. He elaborated. He will have all the dates of their events after that first meeting. Mr. Nero attended the Westerly Rotary Club meeting in Westerly where Aaron Nyambe and Teddy Nosiku spoke. He had further comment.
5. Presentations – None.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain passed out a listing of schools in the ECC regarding security. She had explanation and comment. Mr. Nero had comment on Mr. Baron's presentation in May. A follow-up will be on the August 29<sup>th</sup> agenda. Mrs. St. Germain also passed out a listing from the CIAC regarding the eligibility list breakdowns. She had further comment. Mrs. Turner had explanation of a "team of one" versus a co-op sport. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Turner had comment. There was further comment. Mrs. St. Germain thanked Mr. Boucher and his crew and Mr. Pont for all their efforts to get school open. She spoke of testing. Mr. Chaney thanked the elementary school staff and Mrs. Gonzalez for a successful summer school. There were 50 students enrolled. Mr. Chaney spoke of the SAT scores. He said he had to remind the Board that this was the same group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders that scored low on the CMT tests. He had further comment. He said the amount of growth shown in that span of time was incredible. He said this class has a high number of students termed as "high needs." He elaborated. He said these were pretty good scores from this group. He said 16 have signed up to take it again. Mr. Nero said there are a high number of students wanting to get in at the Westerly Education Center and he elaborated. He had further comment. Mrs. St. Germain said we had our first student, Caleb Bogue, graduate from the program. Mr. Bogue will be asked to come to a Board meeting. Questions were asked and answered. The SBAC scores were brought up. Mrs. Wilkison thanked Mrs. Gonzalez for all she does and Mr. Palmer and the custodial staff and to Mr. Pont for getting everything ready. New family orientation was held and she explained. The numbers of people registering are low this year. The annual open house is August 30<sup>th</sup>. The SBAC scores came in and they are proud of their progress. She handed out an information sheet. She had explanation. Questions were asked and answered. There was further comment.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – July 23, 2018, Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the July 23, 2018, special meeting.
  - b. Correspondence – None.
  - c. Personnel – Mr. Nero spoke of the positions that have been filled. Mr. Karpinski had comment.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said we are getting ready for the opening of school. After the last meeting, he spoke to LEARN about a person to help with the strategic planning. Jack Cross has spoken to Mr. Nero. Mr. Nero had further comment on Mr. Cross’ background. Mr. Nero met with the bus drivers at their meeting last week. He reiterated the importance of spotting bullying on the busses. He elaborated and spoke of being mandated reporters.
  - b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said she went to the CABA summer conference and had comment.
  - c. Committee Chairperson – Ms. Welborn said the transportation committee will be working on two things, one of them being a later start time for the middle/high school and she elaborated. They will be working on a survey for parents. The committee will also look at bus consolidation. Mrs. Wagner had comment. She said it is really early to get excited about any bus changes at this point. A lot of investigating will be done. She had further comment.
  - d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – None.
  - e. PSPBC Liaison – Mrs. Wagner had a question on this committee. Mr. Nero had comment. He said Mr. Urgo is in the process of establishing a capital project committee. He elaborated. Ms. Welborn said the plan is to meet every month there is a fifth Monday which means the next meeting is in October. Mr. Nero had comment.
  - f. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri sent out an email to the Board. Mr. Nero spoke of the leaks during the rain storm. He elaborated.
9. Finance - None.
10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Mr. Nero said there are four rooms at the elementary school that have a higher reading and he elaborated. He said we test that building in the summer which is the worst time because the building is closed. He had further comment. We may not have to test the middle school anymore. Questions were asked and answered.
  - b. Policy Review – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to approve new Policy 2000.1. There was comment. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to discuss policy 5118. There was discussion. Language will be drafted. This will be on the agenda the first meeting in September. Policies 3240 and 5118 will be revisited in September.

c. Board of Education Goals – Mrs. Wagner explained where they are with the goals and strategic plan. She had comment and explanation for the administrators. She reviewed the areas of focus for immediate development. She had further comment.

d. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – None.

11. New Business – a. Hiring of Staff – Mrs. Wagner had comment. She explained what their goals for this were. The Board will be added to the distribution list for vacancies. Mr. Nero had comment on the process. Mrs. St. Germain had comment on the process. Mrs. Costa had comment. Mr. Chaney had comment. Board members had comment. Mrs. Wagner asked the Board about sitting in on teacher interviews. There was comment. Mr. Nero had comment.

b. Athletic Program – Mrs. Wagner said Mr. Nero is getting job descriptions from other districts and will get those to the Board when they come in. The posting process was explained. Questions were asked and answered. There was a question about an app for Wheeler athletics. Mrs. Turner had comment.

Superintendent's Report was revisited. Mr. Nero explained the financial handout that was distributed to the Board.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – August 29<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:38 p.m.

15. Superintendent's Contract and Benefits – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to give the Superintendent a 2.75% salary increase for the 2018-2019 year as budgeted. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted five in favor and one against to extend the Superintendent's contract by one year. Dr. Robert voted against the motion.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education