

Board of Education Minutes  
September 12, 2018

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia (7:18 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 North Stonington Education Foundation meeting is tomorrow. He will update the Board on the events' listing after that meeting.
5. Presentations – a. Class of 2019 Graduation Party Committee Project – Mrs. Emily Knowles and Mr. Jeff Banks gave a presentation on a fundraiser. The committee would like to sell brick pavers to be installed at the new building. They would like to kick this off during the NoSto Festival and she explained. Mr. Nero said he has had some conversations with Mrs. Knowles and also with Mr. Berardinelli and he elaborated. Mr. Mathwich had comment about the discussion that occurred at the School Modernization Committee meeting. Dr. Potemri had comment. The Board had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment.  
  
b. Senior Class Request – Gracie Anderson, Senior Class President of the Class of 2019, said they are requesting that they be allowed to decorate their graduation cap. She explained it would go through the same approval process as the senior blocks do. She had further explanation. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. Curioso, class advisor, had comment on the approval process. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mrs. St. Germain had comment.
6. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain passed out a sheet regarding the SBAC results. She said this past week they were able to see how everyone else in the state has done. She had comment on the testing results and some items that may skew the results. She had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. St. Germain had further explanation on the results. Questions were asked that Mr. Chaney answered. Board members had further questions and comment. There was further discussion. Mr. Nero had comment on the NEASC report that is due in March. Mrs. St. Germain told the Board she called NEASC and they told her that we will be off warning once we are in the new building. She had further explanation. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wilkison said they had a wonderful start to the school year. They have 366 students enrolled. The celebrations for those students that did work over the summer have begun and she elaborated. Mrs. Wilkison said the school goals are based on SBAC results and other surveys. She had comment. Mrs. Wilkison said there have

been a lot of changes due to the construction and she explained. She said the staff really pulled together to get things done. She elaborated. All the events for this year are being moved due to the upcoming move in March. Open House was held with about 80% of the families coming.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – August 15, 2018, Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2018, special meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero explained the scenario when we lost our network technician. He said the current situation is not working due to no fault of anyone. He explained the salary and benefits cost of the position. There was discussion. Mr. Nero explained the positions that will have to be put back in next year's budget. There was further comment on the technician position. Board members had further comment.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said on August 29<sup>th</sup> he and Dr. Potemri met with people at the State Department. He said they met with Bob Celmer and Michelle Dixon and he elaborated. They were going to start to finish the roof because some products were on backorder but the weather has not cooperated. He has been meeting with Mr. Berardinelli regularly and he had further comment. Tomorrow is the Ed. Foundation meeting. The good news is that Eagle came in over the weekend and tested; he found out that all the levels came in below the recommended level. We only have a couple of more tests to go. Questions were asked and answered. Last night the PTO meeting was held and he had comment. Both open houses were great. He went over the results with the elementary parents. He had further explanation.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said they are all very involved in the schools but they have to be aware of the chain of command and asked members to please run it by Mr. Nero first so they follow the proper procedure. She said they have to be cognizant when they go into the schools.

c. Committee Chairperson – Policies will be discussed later in the meeting. The Student Success Committee will meet on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – The first meeting is tomorrow.

e. PSPBC Liaison – It was explained that this committee will be dismantled.

f. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said they are working on classroom mock ups. She thanked Mr. Pont for all his input to make sure things are where they were supposed to be. The project is on schedule. At the State meeting they were able to shift some resources and she explained. They have also shifted

some monies into landscape, technology, etc. Questions were asked about the building project web site as to whether it is being updated. Dr. Potemri had comment.

9. Finance - Mr. Nero said both of our lawnmowers are not in running order anymore. Mr. Nero said Mr. Bruce is using his own mowers to cut the lawns and he elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero said we need to purchase one lawnmower. He reviewed the quote we received. The cost would be \$9,731.06. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was discussion. The Board gave their approval for purchasing the mower. There was further comment.

10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Covered above.

b. School Start Times – Ms. Welborn had comment. She met with Mr. Pont about adding tabs to the web site with information for parents on the school start times. There was more information presented on surveys. Work will continue on this and the survey.

c. Athletic Director Job Description – Mrs. Wagner said our description looks good. The feedback was that the middle school needed to be expanded a little more. There was discussion. Mrs. Wagner said she believes their concerns were heard and she felt it should be moved to Mr. Nero, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mrs. Turner. Mrs. St. Germain said Mrs. Turner attends many meetings throughout the year and elaborated. She attends some along with Mrs. Turner. She had further comment. Mrs. Turner had comment.

d. Policy Review – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to approve Policy 1110.4.

Policy 3231 was tabled for now.

Mr. Mendolia made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to accept Policy 3520.13. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Welborn to rescind policies 4131.3, 4131.5, 4131.51, and 6141.311. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Welborn reviewed the policies to be discussed at the next meeting.

e. Board of Education Goals – Mr. Nero had comment on the strategic plan. There was comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment on the procedure for establishing goals. There was further comment.

f. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – Mr. Karpinski had a question regarding the Board of Education emails. There was discussion.

11. New Business – School Culture/Climate Survey – There was discussion.
  - b. Professional Development – Mr. Nero said he has funds that he allocates to the schools and he elaborated. He will get a list from the administrators regarding their professional development. Questions were asked and answered.
  - c. School Resource Officers – This will be talked about at a future meeting.
12. Calendar –
  - a. Future Meeting Dates – The next meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Committee Action List – The Student Success Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Facilities and Finance Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
13. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to add Executive Session to the agenda to discuss the Superintendent's goals.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:53 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent's Evaluation.

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

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education