

Board of Education Minutes
September 26, 2018

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 26, 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 (7:07 p.m.), and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, and Mr. Pont. 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 North Stonington Education Foundation had their first meeting. November 9th the dinner dance will be held at Lake of Isles. No date had been set yet for the trivia contest. The road race will be May 25th, Memorial Day Saturday. The NoSto Festival was great and he elaborated. This Saturday is the town-wide tag sale. The yearbook ad will be \$22.92 per person and that includes the Board and Central Office.
5. Presentations – a. Interact/Giveback Club Trip Request – Rebecca Schilke, teacher and advisor of the Interact/Giveback Club spoke. She said the Rotary Club is supporting the club so the new name is Interact/Giveback Club. She gave the history of their work in Texas. Mrs. Schilke said the same organization has given the club an invitation to help with Hurricane Florence relief in North Carolina and she elaborated. She asked the Board to support the trip. She explained that not all the students in the club would be able to go because of the number of students. She explained the sheet she handed out and the options that were available. She explained about the airfare and why they would be flying versus driving. She explained the relief organization's background. Mrs. Wagner read an email from Mrs. St. Germain regarding her support of this project. Mrs. Schilke said her goal would be five school days as a max for students to miss but she would prefer them to miss only four days. She said students would have to be in good academic standing. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Dr. Potemri, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to allow the students of the Interact/Giveback Club to go on the relief trip.
6. Administrators' Reports – None.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – September 12, 2018 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2018, meeting.
 - b. Correspondence – None.
 - c. Personnel – None.
8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said there is a meeting coming up with the architect and he elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said Mr. Nero and Mrs. Martin have been working with the first selectman and the financial person on a budget timeline. She had comment on a memo going out to the staff. She wants to change the meeting format and she explained. The first meeting will be all the administrative items and the second meeting will be goal work. She said we ranked in the top 20 districts in the state and she elaborated.

c. Committee Chairperson – Student Success committee will meet at 6:15 on October 10th. The Facilities and Finance Committee met earlier and action will be taken later in the agenda.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – Dr. Potemri said the Board meeting was last Thursday. A presentation was held on school safety. She feels we are in a good position right now. She elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero said once they are able to get into the new building, they will develop new safety plans.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said she did the community update and said some concerns from the community have come forward. She explained what some of the concerns are. She explained how the approval process works before the project is signed off on. The project is on schedule and they are on budget for right now. She had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mathwich said they did discuss more of the brick program and possible locations. Dr. Potemri had further comment about the long-term maintenance of the brick program. Questions were asked and answered.

9. Finance - a. June 2018 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial statement for the period ending June 30, 2018.

Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to approve the 2017-2018 fiscal year transfers. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. July 2018 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to approve the July 31, 2018, financial statements.

c. August 2018 Financial Statements – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to approve the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2018. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Nothing further.

b. School Start Times – Mrs. Wagner said she and Ms. Welborn met yesterday and she had further comment. A survey will be online from October 1st to November 1st and she elaborated. She said at the committee meeting they will have assignments for each member. There was discussion.

c. Policy Review – On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to rescind policy 4211.1. On a motion by Mrs. Wagner, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to rescind policy 4211.

Ms. Welborn had comment. On a motion by Dr. Potemri, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the addition of the protected classes to policies 4111.1., 4211.1, 5000, and 7411.

Ms. Welborn had comment. On a motion by Dr. Potemri, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to replace policy 6121 with the CABE model, retain regulation 6121 but eliminate names in the regulation and retain the titles.

The policy concerning English Language Learners will be discussed at the next meeting.

d. Board of Education Goals – Nick Caruso and Jack Cross can attend the October 24th meeting to work on goals.

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

11. New Business – None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – October 9th will be a special meeting at Potemri Associates at 7:30 a.m. and on October 10th the Student Success Committee will meet at 6:15 p.m.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment – Colleen O’Connell Thompson, parent, spoke of the firing of one of the bus drivers. She had further comment. Alexandria Dube, resident and M&J bus driver, spoke about the company and the firing of the bus driver. She elaborated. Amber Broderick, parent and resident, spoke in favor of the bus driver that was fired. Mr. Nero had comment. Board members had comment. Mrs. Thompson had further comment. Catrina Altman spoke. Mrs. Dube had comment. Mrs. Mendolia had a question about being notified in the event there is a change of drivers. Mrs. Wagner had comment.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education