

Board of Education Minutes
November 14, 2018

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia. 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 7:03 p.m.

2. 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 dinner dance was held and was a great success. Carly Buehler was named as Wheeler’s Distinguished Alumni.
5. Humanitarian Trip – Ms. Paloma Autran, Spanish teacher, told the Board she would like to take a group of students to Guatemala and she elaborated. The students would be teaching and working in schools. The trip is being proposed for March 1st through 10th. Ms. Autran said the trip would be open to all high school students, not the Spanish students. She gave the background of the group they would be going with and said he worked in the Peace Corp. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,700 per student. There was discussion. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting in November.
6. Administrators’ Reports – Mrs. Wilkison said last week as part of their faculty meeting the staff came over to Wheeler to check out possible classrooms for the move. Mr. Nero, Mrs. Costa, Rusty Malik and Mrs. Wilkison met yesterday to further discuss the move. On November 9th they celebrated Veteran’s Day with a breakfast and assembly. She said they had over 70 veterans invited by our students had breakfast made by the staff with the assembly being held after. Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Morrison was the guest speaker. The first trimester closed on Nov. 9th. Due to starting early they had to move up the dates. Parent teacher conferences will be held on Nov. 29th and 30th. Mrs. Wilkison wished the Board a Happy Thanksgiving.
Mrs. St. Germain commented on the RISE Program; members are nominated by teachers and selected through criteria established by staff. The group participates in many extracurricular activities. Last week, teachers from Wheeler traveled to Old Saybrook High School to meet with head of their internship program. As part of our upcoming pathways project, students will be placed in internships in the areas of business and engineering. There was further discussion. Mr. Chaney spoke of the Rotary of the Stonington’s RYLA conference that three of our students participated in from Wheeler. Parent/teacher conferences were held last week with a great turnout of over 150 conferences. Administration commented on “Why Wheeler” programs being planned for 8th grade students. This initiative is to help keep students at Wheeler. This year already we have had 1 student return from Norwich Tech, 3 students from Ledyard, and 2 students from Grasso Tech. There was discussion on tuition

reimbursement/credit. There was discussion on the NEASC conference that Mrs. St. Germain will attend. The NEASC process is different this year and will require some Board of Education participation. Mrs. St. Germain will supply the Board with questions that will be a part of that first visit.

7. Administrative – a. Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2018 – On a motion by Dr. Potemri, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted seven in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2018, meeting. Dr. Robert abstained.

October 24, 2019 – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to accept the minutes of the October 24, 2018, meeting. There was discussion. Mrs. Turner will be asked to attend the first meeting in December to discuss the fields. The motion passed with seven voting in favor and one abstention. Dr. Robert abstained.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said he has met with the people in charge of the March move and he elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said that the Strategic Plan was assembling a design team and she elaborated. An Executive Session will be put on the agenda at the beginning and end of each meeting and she explained. All the volunteer town committees met at Lake of Isles.

c. Committee Chairs – Ms. Welborn said the Student Success Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. before the next meeting.

d. LEARN Board of Directors Liaison – Dr. Potemri said the next meeting is December 1st.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said they have been meeting on the March move and there was discussion. A calendar of events will be put together regarding the move. There was discussion of having two large dumpsters at each school, schematics, small walk-throughs of the building, and cafeteria tables. There was further discussion on the fields, and practices not being able to be held in the Gymnasium.

9. Finance – a. October 2018 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to accept the financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2018.

10. Old Business – a. Environmental Concerns – Mr. Nero reported that the PCB levels were fine. There was no detection of PCB's in the wipe tests at the elementary school. The air quality numbers were well below the EPA's recommended levels.

b. School Start Times – Mrs. Wagner discussed the meeting that was held with parents. Healthy start times, and the idea of K-12 on one bus was pulled with 2 runs still being needed. The Board of Education was on board with this concept.

c. Policy Review – Ms. Welborn had comment. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to replace current policy 3160 with CABE’s version one.

3313 - On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to add the veterans’ status and genetic information to the affirmative action section of Policy 3313.

3324.1 - On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to make regulation 3324.1 a policy.

3432 – On a motion by Dr. Potemri, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to replace the current policy with CABE’s version of policy 3432 but to change the “fiscal year ending June 30, 2014” to “June 30, 2019”.

3514 – Ms. Welborn made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to replace the current policy with the CABE model. There was discussion. The motion and second were withdrawn. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

d. Board of Education Goals – No discussion.

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

11. New Business – None.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next regular meeting is November 28th.

b. Committee Action List – The Student Success Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. before the next meeting.

13. Public Comment – None.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter L. Nero, Secretary Pro-Tem