

Board of Education Minutes  
March 13, 2019

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, and Dr. Robert. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, and Mr. Pont. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 next meeting of the NSEF is next week at the new school.
5. Presentations – a. Trip to Europe in 2020 – Mrs. Janet Devaux, teacher, spoke. She said not enough students signed up for the Quebec trip and she explained. She said they would like to take a group to Europe and open up the trip to the entire school and she explained. She said this would have been the year for a Europe trip with Ledyard but they decided to do it with just Wheeler. Mrs. Devaux explained the tentative cost of the trip. Ms. Paloma Autran, teacher, had comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Devaux and Ms. Autran had comment. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the trip to Europe and to have the group give a presentation to the Board upon their return.
6. Administrators' Reports – None.
7. Administrative – a. Minutes – January 23, 2019 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2019, meeting.  
  
January 28, 2019 Tri-Board – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 28, 2019, Tri-Board meeting.  
  
February 26, 2019 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2019, meeting.
- b. Correspondence – None.
- c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said we received a resignation from Sara Koppelman, the special services administrative assistant, and Mr. Nero explained. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero read a letter from Pat Ostrout, retiring from her position as grade seven math teacher. Mr. Nero had comment and said she will be sorely missed.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said they are doing a practice run on the server tomorrow and making lunch for everyone. He elaborated. Mr. Nero and Mr. Urgo were in the new school at the end of the day and it looks really good. He elaborated. He explained what Mr. Pont and his staff and others have accomplished. He said Mr. Boucher and his staff have been working hard. He thanked Mr. Urgo for having the town crew coming in and helping move. Mr. Nero had comment.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner thanked Mr. Nero for all his hard work and she elaborated.

c. Committee Chairperson – At the next meeting, a date will be discussed for policies. Mrs. Wagner wants to task the Facilities and Finance Committee to look into the budget and how they may want it presented in the future.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – None.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – None.

9. Finance – Mrs. Martin said she and Mr. Nero have talked about the van to transport the food. She and Mr. Nero had comment about purchasing a used van with food services funds. They have permission from the State to spend \$15,000 out of that fund. Mrs. Martin had further comment. Board members had comment and suggestions. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Urgo had questions. He said they may have the senior citizen van available or an ambulance. There was discussion. Mr. Nero clarified information presented at a previous meeting concerning special education funding and grants. Mrs. Martin had comment. Mr. Nero said our audited numbers are the final numbers.

10. Old Business – a. School Start Times – Mrs. Wagner said the state of the district meeting went well. She spoke of the next steps concerning the start times. A forum meeting will be scheduled and split into focus groups. Mrs. Wagner has seen other articles on this subject. Board members had comment. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had further comment. Board members had further comment. There was discussion.

b. Web Site – Mrs. Wagner had questions for Mr. Pont that he answered.

c. Budget Discussion – Mrs. Wagner said she has heard the Board of Finance wants our budget under 1%. She said we put up a new building and they want us to reduce our budget. There is no place to take this from. The only place to go is staff and programs. There was discussion. Board members had questions of the Board of Selectmen that were present. Board members had further questions. Mr. Nero had comment. There was further comment and discussion. The new figures for medical and dental and workers compensation and liability will be put in the budget. The administrators will come to the next meeting to give a presentation.

d. Board of Education Goals – None.

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

11. New Business – Calendar for 2019 – 2020 School Year – There was discussion. Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept the calendar as presented. There was further comment. The Board voted five in favor and one against the motion. Ms. Welborn voted against the motion.

12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – March 27<sup>th</sup> is the next regular meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

13. Public Comment –Mr. Urgo, First Selectman, spoke of the Open Gov. software for the Board of Education. Board members had comment.

14. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education