

Board of Education Minutes
April 10, 2019

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office/Elementary School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Potemri and Mr. Mendolia (7:07 p.m.) Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, and Mr. Chaney. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Nero led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Proposed for Executive Session – None.
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
5. Community Relations – Mr. Nero commented on the North Stonington Education Foundation meeting and the trivia contest which was a success. He had further comment.
6. Presentations – None.
7. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. Wilkison commented on the move and commended everyone that helped get the building ready. She had further comment. She commended Sue Starr on her artwork in the school. She had further comment on the staff and getting the building ready. April is the month of the Military Child and she elaborated. SBAC practice testing has begun. She commented. Mr. Chaney said they have settled in to the new building and it is perfect for their size and he elaborated. They will be meeting with Aramark to go over some snack options and he elaborated. He listed the latest awards presented to our students including Hailey Leach and Shelby Coombe as CAS Outstanding Arts Recipients, Gracie Anderson as *The Day's* Scholar of the Year, Lauren Rockwell receiving the Governor's Scholarship and Lauren Rockwell and Daniel Schroder qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship Program. He explained the numbers for the National Merit Scholarship Program and said we have two of them. Wheeler was also accepted into the National Arts Society. Mr. Chaney said we are in the spring athletic season. SAT day was yesterday with all the juniors taking it. SBAC starts at the end of the month. He commented on Norwich and Bozrah students going to Waterford. He had further comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment. There was discussion. Board members had further comment. There was further discussion.
8. Administrative – a. Minutes – March 27, 2019 – Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mathwich to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2019, meeting. There was comment on the punch list items and Board members wanting to see the list. Dr. Potemri had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. The motion passed with six voting in favor and one abstention. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

April 5, 2019, Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2019, special meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero commented on having the younger students in the building. He said both sides of the street worked very hard to get things done. Mr. Nero said the Design Team met on Monday. The next meeting is on April 18th and he had comment. A lot was accomplished. They will soon start with the focus groups. Dr. Potemri, Mr. Pont, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Chaney, and Mr. Berardinelli had a meeting to go over outstanding items. He had comment. The two outside storage bins are being cleared out. The landscaping company will be coming and he elaborated. He spoke of Emily's Reading Garden and said it will be moved across the street after the landscaping is done. He commented on the trailers at the elementary building site.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner asked the Board about taking out a full page spread to thank everyone who has gotten us this far. The Board gave their approval. The Town budget hearing is at 6:00 p.m. and she elaborated. She commented on the math interventionist being put back in the budget. The Facilities and Finance Committee will be meeting after the budget has passed and she elaborated. She went to the Selectmen's meeting about solar energy for our buildings and she elaborated. She is speaking to Preston schools on Friday.

c. Committee Chairperson – Financial statements will be later in the agenda.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – There is a meeting tomorrow.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said the electrical is being taken care of and the furniture is ordered for the cafeteria and the media center. There was comment on the climbing wall. Mrs. Albamonti, teacher, had comment. There were questions on the floor finishes. Mr. Nero had comment.

10. Finance - March 2019 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to approve the financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2019.

11. Old Business – a. Athletics - Mrs. Wagner had comment. She spoke to Mrs. St. Germain who provided her with helpful information. She elaborated. She handed out information regarding duties and coaching hiring practices. Mrs. St. Germain also told her about all the ECC meetings that she and Mrs. Turner attend. Mrs. Wagner had further comment. There was discussion. She commented they chose athletics as a goal but they need to be more precise on what they are looking for and she elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Chaney reviewed the process. Board members had further comment. Mr. Chaney had further comment. Board members had further comment. Mrs. Wagner had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Board

members were satisfied with the way the process of posting, hiring, and dismissing coaches is for the time being. There was further comment.

b. School Start Times - There is a meeting on April 27th and Mrs. Wagner had further comment. She spoke to Mrs. St. Germain on the block schedule.

c. Web Site – Mrs. Wagner said there is a policy on web page guidelines and she elaborated and said we need to look at that first. There was comment.

d. Budget Discussion – Mrs. Wagner said she had asked the administration for a listing of priorities and handed out lists. There was comment.

e. Board of Education Goals – Nothing to report.

f. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – Mr. Karpinski said he hoped we can live within our means.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to add Item 12c, Authorized VOYA Signers, to the agenda.

12. New Business – a. Graduation Date – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to set the graduation date as June 12, 2019.

b. Elementary School Snow Day – There was discussion. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to have the elementary school forego making up the snow day.

c. VOYA Authorized Signers - There was explanation. On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to name Peter L. Nero, Superintendent of Schools, and Deborah A. Martin, Business Manager, as authorized signers on account VT3487 with VOYA Retirement and Insurance and Annuity Company.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – April 18th is the Steering Committee meeting. The basket raffle is Friday. The next regular meeting is April 24th, April 27th is the school start time meeting and April 20th is the Chikumbuso road race.

b. Committee Action List – None.

14. Public Comment – Heidi Mehringer-Macina spoke as a parent and as president of music boosters. She read a letter from Mr. Thomas, band director, regarding the acoustics in the band room. Dr. Potemri asked to have Mr. Thomas reach out to her regarding this issue. Mrs. Mehringer-Macina had further comment. Mr. Nero had

comment. He asked for this information to be forwarded to them. Board members had comment. Mrs. Mehringer-Macina asked about the food service transportation. Mr. Nero said the vehicle was professionally cleaned and he elaborated.

15. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. for the Purpose of Legal Matter.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:28 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education