

Board of Education Minutes
August 7, 2019

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office/North Stonington Elementary School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. McCord (7:09 p.m.), Dr. Robert (7:10 p.m.), and Dr. Potemri. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Costa, and Mrs. Wilkison. Since there was not a quorum, Chairperson Wagner called the non-meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Proposed Executive Session – None.
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
5. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the North Stonington Education Foundation has booked the American Legion Hall in Pawcatuck for the trivia contest on January 24th with a snow date of January 31st. October 25th is the dinner dance. He elaborated and gave further information on the ed. foundation.

With the arrival of Mr. McCord, the non-meeting became a regular meeting.

6. Presentations – a. One-to-One Devices – Mr. Pont gave background information on the topic. Mr. Pont reviewed device options and explained them. He said Chromebooks is the logical choice and explained why. He reviewed what is included in the cost per student, which is \$350. He went over the Google Education Platform. He suggested autumn of 2020 for the launch with a recommendation of grades 9-12. He elaborated. He reviewed more items related to the launch. Mr. Pont had further comment and explanation. He suggested parental involvement early in the process. He said the National Honor Society approached him about fundraising for technology and he elaborated. He said there are meetings scheduled with the NSEF and PTO in the future. He said the NHS students that approached him with this idea won't be able to take part in any of the usage because they will have graduated. He reviewed the budgetary cost of the program. He said the total launch cost of the program is \$92,400. He reviewed other items that are important to the success of the program such as wireless and network infrastructure and he elaborated. He reviewed recommended ancillary services. He reviewed bandwidth and what that actually means and gave comparisons. Mr. Pont thanked the Board for their consideration. Board members had questions that Mr. Pont answered. Mrs. Cawley had comment regarding one of the questions. Further questions were asked and answered. Board members had further comment. Mrs. Wagner suggested Mr. Pont meet with Mr. Nero and the administrators as the next step.

7. Administrators' Reports – None.

8. Administrative – a. Minutes – May 22, 2019 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2019, meeting. Dr. Robert abstained.

May 29, 2019, Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the May 29, 2019, special meeting.

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

June 15, 2019, Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2019, special meeting. Mr. Mathwich abstained.

June 26, 2019 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted five in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the June 26, 2019, meeting. Mr. Mathwich abstained.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said we have hired Paola Batta Iona as the new JV volleyball coach. Mrs. Turner elaborated on her experience. Sarah Petersen has been hired as a speech pathologist. Mr. Nero read a letter from Zach Thomas resigning his position as Wheeler band director/instrumental music teacher. Mr. Nero said he saw him yesterday and wished him well. Mr. Nero said Jen Hauser, elementary nurse, has resigned. Mr. Nero read a letter from Ryan Chaney resigning as associate principal of Wheeler. Mr. Nero commented on our excellent SAT scores in response to part of Mr. Chaney’s letter. He said Julia Rockett resigned as a paraprofessional. Carolyn Bennett will be asked to give a presentation on her experience at the Library of Congress.

9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said a letter will be going to NEASC regarding the reorganization of grades in the district. He said everyone is very busy trying to get everything ready for the opening of school. He was pleased that the referendum passed. The OAC has been meeting regularly. There will be a meeting with Gary Baran, George Brennan, and the resident troopers regarding the safety plans and he elaborated.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said she has not much to report. They have met with M&J Bus a number of times and she elaborated. She had further comment on transportation and the addition of depot stops for buses two and nine.

c. Committee Chairperson – No committees have met.

d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – The next meeting is in September.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said they have gone over the punch list for the high school and those items should be done on Friday. She reviewed a few outstanding items. She said the

elementary school is being mitigated and she elaborated. She said it is impacting the contingency fund and she had further explanation. She said they should be done with remediation within the next two weeks. Mr. Nero said he has been in the building once and described it. He reviewed the timeline of the high school and said they were done by March. Dr. Potemri said the elementary will be done on schedule.

10. Finance - a. May 2019 Financial Statements – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept the financial statements for the period ending May 31, 2019. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Turner answered questions as did Mrs. Albamonti. Further questions were answered. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Old Business – a. Fall School Start Times – Nothing new to report. This will remain on the agenda into September.

b. Budget Process – Mrs. Wagner suggested putting a committee together with the administrators, Mr. Nero, and Mrs. Martin to envision what they want the budget to look like. Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert and Mrs. Wagner will be on the committee with Mr. McCord heading it up. Mrs. Martin said the bid has gone out for the new financial system and that will be awarded in October. The sooner they know what they want the budget to look like, it can be incorporated into the reports in the new system.

Mrs. Ellen Turner, athletic director, reviewed the history of the girls' cross country team and its reduction from the budget. She said she met with Mrs. Martin and was able to do some rearranging to get the girls cross country coach position back. She explained where the funding came from. She had further comment. Board members had questions that Mrs. Turner answered. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to add "Transfers" as item 11b1.

b1. Transfers – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to transfer \$3,000 from athletic trainer, \$500 from tournament fees, \$500 from high school medical, \$500 from tournament transportation, and \$500 from field and site supplies in order to reinstate the high school girls cross country coach. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Middle School Sports – Mrs. Wagner gave background information on the sixth graders participating in middle school sports. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. Wilkison had comment on the many changes to bring the grade six students back to the elementary school and the impact this would have on instructional time. She said the idea was to focus on academics. Dr. Robert had positive comment about letting grade six participate. There was discussion. Board members had comment. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to include sixth graders in middle school sports. There was discussion. Board members had further comment. Mr. Chuck Butremovic, parent and coach, had comment. A parent had comment. Board members had comment. Mr. Mike Urgo, First Selectman, had comment on Rec sports, signups, and offering programs for these students. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Urgo had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Butremovic had further

comment. There were questions asked and answered. Board members had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was further discussion. Parents had comment. Board members had comment. Parents had further comment. Mr. Urgo said he came to the meeting to congratulate the Board on the SAT scores and he elaborated. He had further comment. Mr. Nero suggested another meeting on August 14th to discuss this further before the next regular Board meeting. The meeting will be held on August 19th at 5:00 p.m. Dr. Robert withdrew the motion and Mr. McCord withdrew his second.

d. Board of Education Goals – Nothing new to report.

e. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – Mr. Karpinski asked about the Superintendent's evaluation and Mr. Nero said the process will begin the second meeting.

12. New Business – None.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – August 19th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss middle school athletics and August 21st at 7:00 p.m. for the next regular meeting.

b. Committee Action List – None.

14. Public Comment – Heidi Mehringer-Macina, parent, had comment. She spoke of the technology program and mentioned the lack of locker space. There was comment. Mr. Pont had comment and explanation. Mrs. Mehringer-Macina asked about the band room. Dr. Potemri said the readings came back and she did speak to Mr. Thomas. They are waiting for the evaluations to come back and they are also looking at tile samples. She had further comment. A meeting will be held with the parents.

15. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Strategy for Collective Bargaining – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:44 p.m. for the Purpose of Strategy for Collective Bargaining.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. On a motion by Dr. Potemri, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to extend the meeting beyond 10:00 p.m.

The Board returned to Executive Session for the purpose stated above.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:22 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to The Board of Education