

Board of Education Minutes  
September 25, 2019

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office/North Stonington Elementary School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Mathwich, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, Dr. Potemri (7:26 p.m.), and Mr. Mendolia (7:03 p.m.). Also present was Mr. Nero. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Dinner Dance is on October 25<sup>th</sup> and he elaborated. The NSEF Trivia contest will be January 24<sup>th</sup> with snow date of January 31<sup>st</sup>. The NoSto Fest was on Saturday and he elaborated.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to add “Strategic Plan Overview” as item 6b.

6. Presentations – a. Interact/Giveback Club – Mrs. Schilke explained the handouts and spoke of the projects that are done locally. She elaborated. She reviewed the listing of projects. Mrs. Schilke showed highlights of the club’s trip to Detroit to help the flood victims. She went over the community night that was held. She said we are giving our kids opportunities beyond our borders and had further comment. She thanked the Board for allowing them this opportunity. She reviewed the specifics of the proposed trip to Texas. Mr. Nero had comment. He recommended to the Board they approve the trip with four days out of school. He had further comment. Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the trip with the extra day. Dr. Robert had questions that were asked and answered and he had further comment. Mrs. Schilke had further comment and explanation. Further questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Schilke had comment about blanket approval and had explanation. Mr. Nero and Board members had comment.

b. Strategic Plan Overview – Mr. Jack Cross of LEARN reviewed the design team, steering committee and focus groups. He commented on the cycle. The steering committee had broad representation of the town and he elaborated. They identified the focus groups needed and he explained the online survey that was done. They met with staff at each level. There was 100% response from the middle school/high school. Two community-wide focus groups were held but were not well-attended. There were about 40 respondents to the online survey. He elaborated. Mr. Cross reviewed the data analysis process. He went over the highlights of the responses of how people felt about North Stonington Public Schools. He reviewed the current status of the different categories. They will narrow it down to four or five categories from eight. They want to make sure they are not working in opposite

directions with the NEASC site visit coming up in two years. They want to make sure they align the work Pre-K through 12 with the vision of the graduate and he elaborated. Mr. Cross went over what the next steps will be. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero said the design team will get together soon and then another steering committee meeting will be held. There was further comment. Mr. Cross was thanked for his work.

7. Administrators' Reports – None.

8. Administrative – a. Minutes – September 7, 2019, Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2019, special meeting.

September 11, 2019 – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2019, meeting.

September 16, 2019, Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2019, special meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said a music teacher has been hired. He gave background information on Ben Landrette and had further comment. Bitsy Carlson moved to a full time paraprofessional position from the cafeteria aid position.

9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said he has spent a lot of time talking to Gabe Bryant about the website. He said one of our teachers, Kim McKay, is a photographer and will be working on getting pictures online. He had further comment. There was discussion of athletic schedules being on the web site and there was further comment. Mr. Nero said we are working through some issues at the school. Mr. Nero spoke of the phone conference coming up about the SSAR (Say Something Anonymous Reporting) program. He spoke of the article in the Westerly Sun and how the incident was wrapped up in hours. He had further comment on the SSAR program. He spoke of the drill at the elementary school today. The Sandy Hook Promise link will be put on the web site.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner met with Mr. Urgo today. She wants to nail down a lease agreement with the town and she elaborated. She said it won't be a Board of Education building anymore. There was comment and discussion. Mr. Nero had comment. "Budget" will be placed under old business on future agendas.

c. Committee Chairperson – Ms. Welborn said the student success committee met. They will get a group together regarding transportation and she elaborated.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – Mr. Mendolia said he will be attending the next meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri wrote an article for the North Stonington Quarterly which will be coming out. Questions were asked and answered.

10. Finance - a. August 2019 Financial Statements – Mr. Nero had comment. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to accept the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2019.

11. Old Business – a. Fall School Start Times – Will remain on the agenda.

b. One-to-One Devices – Mrs. Wagner said we need to start to look into this further. Ms. Welborn had comment on the program in her district. The key component would be staff training in order for this to be successful.

c. Policy – Deferred to next meeting.

d. Board of Education Goals – Mrs. Wagner said they need to have another workshop to update these.

e. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – Mrs. Wagner spoke of parents being concerned about what is being published on the electronic sign. There was discussion. This will be looked into further. “Sign Content” will be put on the next agenda. Mrs. Wagner had further comment. Board members had further comment.

12. New Business – None.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – October 9<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting. Mr. Mendolia and Dr. Potemri are on the negotiating team. The attorney will be here at the next meeting. Earlier meeting start times will be considered.

b. Committee Action List – None.

14. Public Comment –None.

15. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Superintendent’s Goals and Evaluation – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent’s Goals and Evaluation.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:40 p.m.

16. Superintendent’s Contract – No action taken.

On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education