

Board of Education Minutes  
October 9, 2019

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office/North Stonington Elementary Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Mathwich, Dr. Robert, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mr. McCarthy, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mrs. Reyes. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations and Safety and Security and to invite Attorney Grello and Mr. McCarthy into such session for Contract Negotiations.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:46 p.m.

4. Public Comment with Students Speaking First – None.
5. Community Relations – Mr. Nero had comment.
6. Presentations – None
7. Administrators’ Reports – Mrs. Costa reviewed the steps she takes when preparing the special services budget. She told the Board how she comes up with the budget figures. Mr. McCarthy had an explanation of encumbrances. There was discussion on grant funds as well as transportation. Questions were asked and answered. Suggestions were made. Mrs. Wilkison praised her teachers as she told the Board the testing scores. She told of events at the elementary school including the play, “Alice in Wonderland,” the Walk your Can a Mile fundraiser, fire department members spoke to the children on fire safety, and there was a tour of the school. Mrs. Reyes spoke of the Sandy Hook Promise and the “Say Hello” initiative. She explained the programs. Climate and Culture were discussed. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of the SERAC survey. She spoke of an in-house survey on vaping. Mrs. Reyes spoke of the middle school SBAC data and explained the change in math. She said we outscored our neighboring towns and in the SATs, we were first in the area. She spoke of the grade 8 and grade 11 science results. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of the teachers’ getting together to make sure that their tests align with the expectations. Banners are up.
8. Administrative – a. Minutes – September 25, 2019 – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019, meeting. Questions were asked and answered. The motion passed with four in favor and one abstention. Mr. Karpinski abstained.

- b. Correspondence – None.
  - c. Personnel – An elementary school cafeteria aid was hired.
9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero spoke about progress with the elementary building project and tour that he had with Mrs. Wilkison. He spoke on the Teacher Evaluation/PD meeting that occurred that day. Ms. Kate Erickson, the new Executive Director of LEARN, and her staff visited the district to talk about services offered by LEARN. He spoke of the conference call with the Sandy Hook promise people. He spoke of having Mrs. Ellie Banker coming to see the dogwood tree planted and the granite seat by the tree. Mrs. Banker also toured the new school.
- b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner spoke of the protocol when asking for information. She asked that any request for information should go through her and the superintendent.
  - c. Committee Chairs – None.
  - d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – There is a meeting tomorrow.
  - e. School Modernization Building Committee – None.
10. Finance – a. September 2019 Financial Statements – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski, to accept the Financial Statements for the period ending September 30, 2019. Mr. McCarthy explained the insurance. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Transfer Requests – Mr. Mathwich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to approve the requested transfers. There was discussion on what the transfers were for and why they were needed. Mr. Mathwich withdrew his motion and Mr. Karpinski withdrew his second. No action taken.
11. Old Business – a. School Start Times – Mrs. Wagner said that this agenda item can now be removed from agenda going forward.
- b. One-to-One Devices – Two Board members will meet with Mr. Pont and the administrators to discuss this. Mrs. Wagner and Mr. Mendolia volunteered.
  - c. Budget – The BOE praised Ms. Costa on her presentation and requested that administrators and department heads each make a presentation on how they go about developing his/her budget.
  - d. Policy – None.

- e. Board of Education Goals – A meeting will be held on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to talk about the goals.
  - f. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – Mr. Karpinski mentioned that he had met a Wheeler alumni, Dan Milligan, at the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium in Newport, Rhode Island. He said it was nice to see an accomplished Wheeler Grad on the conference circuit. Dan is a mechanical engineer for Electric Boat.
- 12. New Business – a. Electronic Sign – This will be discussed at the Saturday meeting.
  - 13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – The next regular meeting is on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and a special meeting for goals will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Committee Action List – None.
  - 14. Public Comment – None.
  - 15. Proposed for Executive Session – None.

On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter L. Nero, Secretary Pro-Tem