

Board of Education Minutes
October 23, 2019

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 23, 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, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mr. Pont, and Mrs. Reyes. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 – Mr. Bernard Bartick spoke in support of Mr. Nero and renewing his contract.
5. Community Relations – Mr. Nero spoke of the upcoming North Stonington Education Foundation Dinner Dance on October 25th, the elementary school drama club fundraiser on November 1st, and the PTO Harlem Rockets fundraiser game on November 18th.
6. Presentations – a. Budget Building – Technology – Mr. Pont spoke of how he puts together his budget. He uses the three A's – Age, Absence and Attrition as one of his tools. He spoke of the age of our servers and the new one. Dr. Robert asked if the labs were the first focus. Mr. Pont said the newest lab is three years old and the elementary school lab is six years old. There was discussion of technology pre-buys. Dr. Robert commented that he is usually the one that cuts technology in anticipation of year-end spending and didn't realize that the funds were not always available at the end of the year. Mrs. Wagner asked Mr. Pont if he could prioritize when he builds his budget. Mrs. Wagner asked what his vision is of what we won't need if we go to a one-to-one program. Mr. Pont said you would still need the labs. He said with a one-to-one program, the students have a sense of ownership which would be a plus. Mr. Pont commented that some equipment is difficult to use because of its age. He said we have over 600 computers in use but if you asked the staff, they would tell you it is not enough. Mr. Pont talked about our servers and that, for the most part, they are robust for our needs. Ms. Welborn asked about the biggest gap and Mr. Pont replied that it is standardization. Dr. Robert asked if we had a one-to-one program if we needed the labs and Mr. Pont said we did. Dr. Potemri spoke of needing assessment of teachers and checking their technology skill level. There was discussion of an insurance policy sign-off for staff. Mrs. Reyes spoke of how teachers use technology. Dr. Potemri asked about being Google certified and Mr. Pont said he is working on that. She also asked that an inventory be developed and be included in his budget presentation. There was discussion.
7. Administrators' Reports – None.

8. Administrative – a. Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2019 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to accept the minutes of the October 9, 2019, meeting. Dr. Potemri abstained.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

9. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said he is meeting with Stephanie Mastroianni on Friday to talk about being a Board of Education member. They have met on the elementary school keys, phones, and plumbing. Mr. Nero said he and Mrs. Wilkison met with Carson Collier, the architect, to review the plans. Mr. Nero and Gary Baron, the town's emergency management director, had a phone conference with Neal Larkin with the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System. Mr. Nero said the Strategic Plan Design Team met. Mr. Nero and Mr. Cross met with Mrs. St. Germain and Mrs. Reyes to talk about NEASC. He said the Steering Committee has a meeting on October 29th.

b. BOE Chairperson – None.

c. Committee Chairs – Ms. Welborn said the transportation committee will be meeting on November 20th.

d. LEARN Board of Directors – Mr. Mendolia attended the last meeting. He said there was a lot of discussion on magnet schools.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said the PCB remediation is complete. The progress of the elementary school looks good.

10. Finance – a. Transfer Requests – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to move the transfer requests to the next meeting.

11. Old Business – a. One-to-One Devices – No discussion.

b. Budget – No discussion.

c. Policy – 6141.31 – On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to replace existing policy 6141.31 with the CAFE model policy 6141.31.

6141.311 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to accept CAFE model policy 6141.311 as a new policy.

6144.1 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to replace existing policy 6144.1 with the CAFE model policy 6144.1.

6161 – Will be acted on at the next meeting.

d. Board of Education Goals – Nothing new to report. There is a meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 16th.

e. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion

12. New Business – a. Development of Capital Project for Athletic Field Improvements – Ms. Welborn and Ms. Dias, town finance director, spoke on the improvement project. There was discussion. There was discussion of the town's capital budget and a timeline. There was discussion about the fields. It was brought up about having UCONN do a field study. There was discussion of redesigning the fields.

13. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – There was discussion of start times for meetings beginning next year.

b. Committee Action List – None.

14. Public Comment – None.

15. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. for the Purpose of Safety and Security, Contract Negotiations, and Superintendent's Goals and Evaluation.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:44 p.m.

16. Superintendent's Contract – On a motion by Mr. Mathwich, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted six in favor and one against to extend the current Superintendent's contract by one year. Dr. Robert voted against the motion.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mathwich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter L. Nero, Secretary Pro-Tem