

Board of Education Minutes
December 11, 2019

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office/Elementary School Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord (7:08 p.m.), Dr. Robert, Mrs. Mastroianni, and Dr. Potemri. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mrs. Reyes. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On a motion by Mrs. Mastroianni, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to add “New Agenda Structure” to the agenda under New Business.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.

4. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the North Stonington Education Foundation meeting is tomorrow. The trivia contest is January 24th with January 31st as the snow day.

5. Presentations – a. Professional Development Review – Mrs. St. Germain introduced April Christiansen and explained she is doing her internship with us. Dave Bradanini is at UCONN interning at an elementary school in Stonington. Mr. Bradanini reviewed the professional development that was held in November. It was presented by Jo Ann Freiberg, PhD. Mrs. Christiansen explained that everyone in attendance received a card of questions to use as a reference. She elaborated. Mr. Bradanini said the “Why Wheeler” presentation is going to be held soon. He explained the changes in the program over the years and that the students are getting involved in the presentation as well. Mrs. Christiansen explained another aspect of the presentation. Mrs. Christiansen explained what their next steps would be including reviewing the blue slips for office referrals, SERAC/School surveys on social/emotional status share out, Sandy Hook Promise-Start with Hello, Climate and Culture Committee, and the Connectedness survey of staff and students. Mr. Bradanini said it was nice to see this being utilized. Mrs. Christiansen said another awesome part of the day was meeting their colleagues from the elementary school. Mr. Nero said he has been in contact with Dr. Freiberg and he elaborated. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. Board members had comment and further questions. Mrs. Wilkison had comment. She said their whole school goal was to reduce school incident reports by 5% which was in place before this presentation. She had further comment. There was discussion. Dr. Potemri had comment. She said student engagement is the most promising practice and she elaborated. The Board thanked them. There was further comment.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to add “Budget Calendar” as Item 5 d.

b. Budget Building – Facilities – Mr. Boucher explained he is responsible for the custodial/maintenance supply account and reviewed the composition. He elaborated. General Building Services is another section and he gave examples such as mandatory testing, lighting, etc. He said a full list will be in the budget. He spoke of his relationships with vendors. Mr. Boucher explained the third part is facility repairs for inside and outside the buildings such as plumbing, refrigeration, equipment repairs, and gym floors to name a few. He has learned which vendors to use and which not to use. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Dr. Potemri said Mr. Boucher has been extremely helpful and instrumental in getting punch-list items completed and getting the project to completion and she thanked him. Questions were asked and answered. A calendar of contract expirations will be provided. There was further comment. Mr. Boucher thanked the Board and had a closing comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Mrs. St. Germain had comment about Mr. Boucher and his staff regarding The Commons and praised him.

c. Budget Building - High/Middle School – Mrs. St. Germain said the process has changed since she started and explained. She explained the initial steps taken with the staff to prepare the budget. Mrs. Reyes explained the second phase of preparation. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. She said adding the program supervisors has been a big help with this process. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. She said they are all fine-tuning their budgets. She had further comment. Mrs. Reyes reviewed the largest items in their budget. Mrs. St. Germain had further comment. She had comment on travel, conferences, and memberships. Mrs. Reyes had further comment and explanation. Mrs. Reyes and Mrs. St. Germain had further comment about Westerly Education Center. Mrs. St. Germain had comment on Naviance. Mrs. St. Germain and Mrs. Reyes had further comment. Mrs. Wagner said this was very helpful. Further questions were asked and answered. There was further comment. Questions were asked and answered. A breakdown of sub costs was requested. That will be obtained through Kelly Services. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Turner explained how the athletic budget is put together. She meets with the coaches at the end of the season about what their needs are to be successful and what the numbers are. She gave an example. They review them if there is decrease. They talk about the uniforms and she explained the replacement cycle. The next phase is the fixed costs, such as the stipends and the officials' costs and she explained. Transportation is also a fixed cost and explained how those costs are budgeted. She explained tournament fees. She spoke of the supplies line and explained. She had further comment. She spoke of uniforms and why she would have to increase the number. The next phase is the needs of the team and management. She spoke of the memberships' fees associated with athletics. Questions were asked and answered. She spoke of field and site prep and gave examples. Awards are also part of the budget. Co-op expenses, trainers' fees and medical expenses are also included. She explained what additional is needed for basketball games. There was discussion on gate receipts. Phase 4 is meeting with the principal so she understands the budget because it is part of the school's budget. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Turner explained the need for assistant coaches. She gave examples. Further questions were asked and answered.

d. Budget Calendar – Selectperson Nita Kincaid passed out budget calendars that she and Christine Dias put together and she reviewed it. There was comment that the Tri-Board meeting was the same night as our Board meeting and that the Board of Education still needed to meet. Mrs. Kincaid commented on the holiday potluck scheduled for December 20th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

6. Administrators' Reports – None.

7. Administrative – a. Minutes – November 13, 2019 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2019, meeting.

November 16, 2019, Special Meeting – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2019, Special Meeting.

b. Correspondence – Mr. Nero said the NEASC 5-year report is due and he elaborated. He had further comment.

c. Personnel – None.

8. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said the auditor said this was the best one yet. He had comment that they met with Aramark and the architect on equipment purchases for the new building. The Board of Finance is looking for our annual report and he elaborated. It is due January 15th. He spoke of the weather. He explained the yearbook ad to our new member.

b. BOE Chairperson – The agenda layout will be looked at later in the meeting.

c. Committee Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner spoke of looking at the committee makeup. Facilities and Finance is Mr. Karpinski, Mr. McCord, and Dr. Robert; Student Success is Ms. Welborn, Mrs. Wagner, and Mr. Mendolia; and Community Involvement is Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Mastroianni, Dr. Potemri, and Dr. Robert.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – Nothing to report.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said they are really moving along. They will be meeting at the beginning of February about the furniture. Mr. Nero had comment. She said she and Mr. Nero are working together to maximize the funding and she explained.

9. Finance – November 2019 Financial Statements – Dr. Robert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to approve the November 2019 Financial Statements. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business – a. Financial Software – Mrs. Wagner said she met with Mr. Urgo and Mr. Spring about an appropriation and they didn't think that was a good idea. She elaborated. In the course of their discussion, it was decided that was not the way to go. She had further comment. Mr. Nero said the auditor spoke highly of this program. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wagner said it was a good discussion but it was not the way to go. She wanted to make everyone aware of this. There was discussion.
 - b. One-to-One Program – Mrs. Wagner said they will meet with Mrs. St. Germain and Mrs. Reyes.
 - c. Policy – Nothing new.
 - d. Budget – The timeline was reviewed above. The first meetings in January will be devoted to the budget. There was discussion. Mrs. Wagner said there was no rush and referred to last year.
 - e. School of Choice – Mrs. Wagner said Mr. Nero has been working with Voluntown. Preston will be meeting soon. Mr. Nero had further comment. They spoke with Voluntown about transportation and he elaborated. He had further comment. Mr. Nero spoke with the Norwich superintendent as well. Mr. Carlson, Selectman, had comment and asked to be kept in the loop and he elaborated. Mrs. Wagner had comment as did Ms. Welborn. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had further comment.
 - f. Board of Education Goals – Nothing new to report.
 - g. Board Members' Concerns/Topics of Discussion – Ms. Welborn had comment on next year's calendar.
11. New Business – a. Agenda Structure – Mrs. Mastroianni had comment on making it more efficient. They may do a first meeting/second meeting agenda. Mrs. Wagner had comment and explanation. There was a suggestion about policy – reading it the first meeting and acting on it at the second meeting.
12. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – January 8th is the next meeting at 6:00 p.m. which is our new start time. The Facilities and Finance Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m.
 - b. Committee Action List – None.
13. Public Comment – A member of the public asked about the agenda online.
14. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Contract Negotiations – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:42 p.m.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education