

Board of Education Minutes  
November 13, 2019

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office/Elementary School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Mastroianni, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, Dr. Potemri (7:14 p.m.), and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero and Mrs. Martin. Mr. Nero called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Election of Officers – Mr. Nero explained the process for nominations. Mr. Karpinski nominated Mrs. Wagner for Chairperson. There were no more nominations. She was unanimously elected Chairperson. Dr. Robert nominated Mr. Karpinski for Vice Chairperson. There were no more nominations. He was unanimously elected Vice Chairperson. Mr. Karpinski nominated Ms. Welborn for Secretary. There were no more nominations. Ms. Welborn was unanimously elected secretary.
4. Board of Education Committees – Mrs. Wagner reviewed the committees. She introduced Stephanie Mastroianni as the newest Board member. She thanked Walt Mathwich for his many years of service. The Board members introduced themselves.
5. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
6. Community Relations – Mr. Nero said the NSEF meeting is tomorrow. The trivia contest is January 24<sup>th</sup> with a snow date on the 31<sup>st</sup>. He had further comment. The PTO is sponsoring the Harlem Rockets on November 18<sup>th</sup> and they will be performing in the gym. Mrs. Wagner spoke of upcoming events including the FOIA workshop for town boards and commissions.
7. Presentations – a. Budget-Building – Elementary School – Mrs. Wagner explained the background of this item. Mrs. Wilkison handed out sheets. She explained that many of the consumables come with a subscription and she explained. She reviewed items under the school wide consumable section. She reviewed the Unified Arts instructional resources. She reviewed the section of each grade levels' specific instructional needs. Questions were asked and answered. She reviewed the school-wide instructional supply purchases. She had further explanation. She reviewed professional development, memberships, and conferences. She had explanation on that section. Further questions were asked and answered. She reviewed the forms the teachers are given. She had further explanation. Questions were asked and answered. Board members had comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Board members had further comment.
8. Administrators' Reports – None.

9. Administrative – a. Minutes – October 23, 2019 – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted six in favor and two abstentions to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2019, meeting. Mr. Karpinski and Mrs. Mastroianni abstained.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said we have hired another paraprofessional and a physical education teacher has also been hired. He had further comment.

10. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said we submitted our all-hazard plan to the state. The plans have been revamped because of the new schools. They are in the middle of negotiations and that will be covered in executive session. Professional development was held and he elaborated. A presentation will be held in December. Mr. Nero will be presenting at the CABE/CAPSS convention.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said she met with Mr. Urgo, Mr. Donahue, and Mr. Nero to review some audit items and they will meet again to move forward. She touched base with Preston and elaborated. There is a workshop on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. She will be passing out forms for the Board’s goals. She had further comment.

c. Committee Chairperson – Facilities and Finance and Student Success will be meeting ahead of the meetings.

d. LEARN Board of Directors’ Liaison – Mr. Mendolia said the meeting is tomorrow.

It was discussed that Capital Improvement Work Group Liaison will be added as an agenda item.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said they met today. She said all the remediation is done and now it is the build-out. They are trying to make sure change-orders don’t sit for too long. They are working on buttoning-up the building. They had to replace a waste line which was not anticipated. She said you will start to see things put back together again. She had further comment. Mrs. Wilkison had questions that Dr. Potemri answered.

11. Finance - a. October 2019 Financial Statements – Dr. Potemri made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mendolia to accept the October 2019 Financial statements. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. St. Germain also had comment. There were further questions asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Transfer Request - Mrs. Wagner had comment. Mrs. St. Germain thanked the Board for the supply money reinstated during the budget year. It was just put in the instructional supply account line and never reallocated. Mrs. St. Germain passed out a break-down by sport put together by Mrs. Turner. She gave an example and said they were not taking away from math to buy athletic supplies. Mrs. St. Germain said if you look at these costs, there is nothing outrageous in the listing. She had further explanation. Mrs. Turner had comment. Mrs. Wagner

congratulated Mrs. Turner on her being named Athletic Director of the Year for the State of Connecticut. There was further comment and discussion. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the athletic transfers.

12. Old Business – a. Financial Software – Mr. Nero had comment on the information that was given to the Board. He explained the history behind the need to get new software. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had comment. Board members had comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was further discussion. This will be acted upon on Saturday.

b. One-to-One Program– Mrs. Wagner is going to meet with Mrs. St. Germain and Mrs. Reyes to see how this would be utilized.

c. Policy – Will be acted upon on Saturday.

d. Budget – None.

e. School of Choice – Discussed above during BOE Chairperson Report.

f. Board of Education Goals – This will be brought up at the meeting on Saturday.

g. Board Members Concerns/Topics of Discussion – Mr. Karpinski read an article that college is not a big choice anymore. He would like a presentation on this from the guidance department.

13. New Business – a. Schedule of Meetings for 2020 – Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni to accept the schedule of meetings for 2020. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Calendar – a. Future Meeting Dates – A special meeting will be held on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m. December 11<sup>th</sup> is the next regular meeting. The Board of Finance will be going over the audit report next week.

b. Committee Action List – None.

15. Public Comment – None.

16. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. for the Purpose of Safety and Security and Contract Negotiations.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:03 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Robert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education