

Board of Education Minutes  
November 16, 2019  
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Saturday, November 16, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. in the Central Office/Elementary School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord (8:22 p.m.), Dr. Robert, Mrs. Mastroianni, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero and Mrs. Martin. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mrs. Mastroianni led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Old Business – a. Financial Software – Mrs. Wagner asked for comment from the Board. Ms. Welborn suggested get the most reasonable-priced product that will do the job. Dr. Robert suggested the same. Mr. Karpinski said he appreciated the homework that was done and deferred to the administration to make the decision. Mrs. Mastroianni said she had sticker shock and was concerned there is no educational value. It will be difficult to pass budgets with a built-in increase. Mr. Mendolia agreed with Mr. Karpinski's comment and said whatever is the best. Mr. Karpinski said another option is to go to the town for an additional appropriation. Mr. Nero had comment on the financing costs and he explained the sheet from the finance company. Mrs. Wagner wants to be sure we need all those capabilities and asked if there were a more bare-bones program we can use. She had further comment. Mr. Nero explained that we had already pared down the programming to only what we needed. Mrs. Martin explained the handouts the Board received. The handouts were comments from other districts using different software programs, including eFinancePlus, which is Power School's replacement program. There was discussion on the handouts. Questions were asked and answered regarding the different programs. Mr. Nero had comment. There were further questions asked and answered. Mrs. Wagner had comment. There was a question on how to go about asking the town to pay for the programming. Mrs. Wagner would talk to Mr. Urgo about an additional appropriation. She explained how that that process would work. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of Infinite Visions for the sum of \$104,250. Mrs. Wagner said she appreciated all the work the group did. She asked if something came up like this in the future that the Board is made aware sooner, especially with a large cost associated.

b. Policy – Ms. Welborn had comment on the policy and regulation. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept revised policy 6161.

c. Board of Education Goals – Mrs. Wagner said she has a Board evaluation that she will hand out for members to go through. There was comment. She listed student success, climate and culture as part of the Board's

goals. She wants to get out of the weeds on some items. There was discussion. Agenda items could be trimmed. The Facilities and Finance Committee should meet prior to the meetings again. She had further explanation. There was discussion. Mrs. Wagner said we really need to push for the ERISA account again and she elaborated. There was discussion. She would also like a representative from the Board to go to the Board of Finance meetings again. Mr. McCord volunteered to be the liaison. This year she would like the Board to look at the budget. They will be familiar with how the budget is built so the Board will just be able to come up with a number they are comfortable with and leave it to the superintendent and administrators to reach that number. There was further discussion. She said the budget is always part of the goals. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wagner also commented that she would like to break down the communication barrier with the administration and keep an open door. There was comment. She suggested a possible monthly liaison meeting. Ms. Welborn would like to revise the meeting structure and she elaborated. There was discussion. The strategic plan is the direction of the district and will be the umbrella that we work under. They are hoping to present it in January. A lot of work has gone into that.

5. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education