

Board of Education Minutes
February 12, 2020

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office/North Stonington Elementary School Shaw Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia. 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 6:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Presentations – a. Give Back Club – Rebecca Costello, advisor, spoke on behalf of the Giveback Club. They have been asked to come back to help with the Vietnam Veterans’ Breakfast in Augusta, Maine. This is hosted by the Travis Mills Foundation and they have volunteered with them before. They are the only school that was asked to help with this event. They have a number of students interested in going to help. Mrs. Costello explained the cost of the trip. She said they were very flattered that they got called to help with the event. She had further comment. They would miss half a day on Thursday, March 26th, and all of Friday, March 27th. Mr. Nero had comment. Questions were asked and answered. On a motion by Dr. Potemri, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Giveback Club Trip.

5. Administrators’ Reports – Mrs. Wagner had comment about the administrators’ reports. Mrs. St. Germain gave some background information on the Focus School students. She said 13 of those students didn’t score high enough in math. She elaborated. She spoke of the way the state scores and how they (the school) looked at the students’ scores. She said they were not surprised by the data. She had further comment. She spoke of what the sixth graders pick up in classes when they start seventh grade. The index was truly a grades 9-12 and a grades 6-8 and a couple of years ago it was moved into one. She had further comment. She explained about trying to split out grades 7-8 again. She had further comment and explanation. She said there is nothing alarming to us and elaborated. Mr. Nero had comment. Questions were asked and answered. Board members had comment. Board members congratulated Mrs. Wilkison on the elementary school being a School of Distinction.

On a motion by Dr. Potemri, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to add “Budget” under Finances as Item 8b.

6. Administrative – a. Minutes – January 8, 2020 Tri-Board – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2020, Tri-Board meeting.

January 8, 2020 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2020, meeting.

January 22, 2020 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2020, meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – None.

7. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said the elementary school is nearing completion. The budget will be discussed tonight.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner spoke of the presentation at Preston. She said there were a lot of parents there that spoke in favor of being able to attend Wheeler. She had further comment. Mrs. Wagner commended Mrs. Turner on the cheering tournament. The middle school cheerleaders won first place. There was further comment. Mrs. Wagner said she has been meeting with Mr. Nero and Mr. Urgo on space use. There was a meeting yesterday at town hall. She handed out information from the architect. She said we can shift things around. She wanted the Board's feedback. She and Mr. Urgo spoke of the Board just paying a percentage of the utilities. They spoke of the roof above the server room. Questions were asked and answered. The space needs will still be looked at. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

c. Committee Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said she and Mr. Mendolia spoke a little about budget messaging and she explained. Mrs. Wagner had questions that Mr. Nero answered. There was discussion.

d. LEARN Board of Directors' Liaison – Mr. Mendolia said there is a meeting tomorrow.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said they are close to budget and will be having a walk-through for staff in the future. Questions were asked and answered.

8. Finance – a. January 2020 Financial Statements – Questions should be sent to Mr. Nero and Mrs. Martin. The financials will be voted on at the next meeting.

b. 2020-2021 Proposed Education Budget – Mr. Nero said a vote is needed. Dr. Potemri made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to move the 2020-2021 budget forward to Board of Finance in the amount of \$14,450,357. Mrs. Wagner said they discussed this in depth at the last meeting and felt they should move it forward to the Board of Finance. Mr. Pont handed out a sheet with the inventory and age of the technology equipment that was requested at the last meeting. He explained the handout. The Board will look at this and discuss it at the next meeting. Questions were asked and answered on the technology budget. Further questions were asked and answered on the budget. There was discussion. There was discussion of bringing in students from other districts and not wanting to cut programs. There was further discussion. Dr. Potemri said it is truly a town

effort to have good schools. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Mr. Nero said this is a really good budget and elaborated. Board members had comment. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Policy First Read – Ms. Welborn said some of these are in the audit and she will be going over that at the next meeting.

10. Old Business – a. 2020-2021 School Calendar – Mrs. Wagner had comment. She was asked if the Board would look at starting a week later. There was discussion. The calendar will stand as it is.

11. Calendar – The Board of Finance meeting is next Wednesday.

12. Public Comment – Mrs. Martin had comment on the square footage costs. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.

13. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session for the Purpose of School Safety.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Mendolia, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education