

Board of Education Minutes
January 22, 2020

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office/North Stonington Elementary School Media Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert (6:31 p.m.), Mrs. Mastroianni, 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 6:04 p.m.

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

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

4. Old Business – a. 2020-2021 Proposed Education Budget – Mrs. Wagner commented on how discussion would proceed. Mr. Pont spoke of the technology refresh. He showed a chart showing the age of many of the technology items in the district with many of them being 16 years old. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion of the age of the computers. Questions were asked and answered on printers. He reviewed the tech budget history going back to 2005-2006. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Pont reviewed the changes in the budget to software lines and had explanation. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Pont was asked to look at what is needed to get through testing. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Boucher, Maintenance Supervisor, asked the Board if there were certain areas they had questions on in the maintenance budget. The phone system cost was explained and how it was broken out between central office and maintenance. Questions were asked and answered regarding the phone systems. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion on the tunnel repairs. Questions were asked and answered on the elementary playground. There was discussion. Mrs. St. Germain reviewed the middle school/high school budget and said their budget is down in quite a few sections. She reviewed the categories with changes of either a larger decrease or increase. These included school-wide expenses, conference and travel, memberships and dues, testing, and some miscellaneous items. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wilkison reviewed instructional costs. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion on a part time paraprofessional to help the math interventionist. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion on more help for the office. There was discussion of putting report cards for more of the elementary grades on Power School. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Costa reviewed the special services budget. She reviewed items that were put back in the budget including dues and memberships and out-of-district workshops. She spoke of the tuition, transportation, nursing supplies, and new equipment lines. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion on tuition and transportation. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion. Dr. Robert left the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Mrs. Wagner had comment about getting a budget to pass. There was discussion. Mr. Nero will meet with administration to reduce the budget to under 5%. There was further discussion. Mr. Nero had comment.

Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was further comment and discussion. Mrs. Wilkison had comment. Board members had further comment. Mr. Nero will meet with the administration to review their budgets. He had further comment.

b. School of Choice – Mr. Nero will be getting information to the Board for the next meeting.

5. New Business – a. BoardDocs – Mrs. Wagner said we will not be looking at this tonight but we need to start looking at how we can go paperless. She had comment and suggestions. There was comment and discussion.

b. 2020-2021 Proposed School Calendar – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Potemri to accept the proposed 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented. There was discussion. The motion passed with six voting in favor and one opposed. Ms. Welborn was opposed.

6. Student Success – Ms. Welborn would like to form a team and start to look at the one-to-one device plan. She had further comment. There was discussion. Mr. Nero, Mr. Pont, Mr. Mendolia, and at least one administrator will be on the committee. Mr. Nero said he and Dr. Potemri met and came up with a hiring policy for administration. He had further comment.

7. Community Relations – A meeting will be held in the near future. Having a State-of-the District meeting will still be up-coming. There was comment. There will be further discussion on that. It will be put on next week's meeting. It will be held maybe in March when the elementary school is turned over.

8. Facilities and Finance – None.

9. Policy Votes – Bylaw 9322 – Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni to accept the CABE version. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously to accept the CABE version but without the smoking section.

Bylaw 9325 – On a motion by Mrs. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the CABE version.

Bylaw 9325.1 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to accept the CABE version and to delete current bylaw 9325.2.

There was discussion on suggested policy 9160. The Board felt it was not necessary at this time. Mrs. Wagner thanked the Board for their diligence.

10. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mrs. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education