

Board of Education Minutes  
April 27, 2020

**DRAFT**

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Monday, April 27, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM meeting platform meeting identification number 961 4379 5566. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Robert, Mrs. Mastroianni, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia (6:32 p.m.). Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mr. Pont, Mr. Boucher, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Wilkison, Mrs. St. Germain, and Mrs. Reyes. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Mike Pierce-parent, Aubrietta Gudbrandsen-student, and Michael Caster-student, spoke in favor of keeping middle school sports in the budget.
4. Finance – a. March 2020 Financial Statements – There was discussion of year-end surplus funds based on the financial statement and what the needs are. Ms. Welborn asked about the one-to-one program. Mr. McCord said the Board should take the administration’s recommendations. The non-lapsing account was brought up. Dr. Robert spoke in favor of that that. Mr. Karpinski asked where we were on transportation and he was told we are still in negotiations with the bus company. He was also in favor of keeping middle school sports. Mrs. Mastroianni wanted to wait for the administration. Dr. Potemri as well as Mrs. Costa spoke on special needs students. Title I was discussed. Mrs. Martin said this year we received approximately \$45,000 and next year is projected to be \$37,000. On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Financial Statements for the period ending March 2020.
  - b. 2020-2021 Proposed Education Budget – Mrs. Wagner spoke on the 2020-2021 education budget. Ms. Welborn asked about the second math support position that was in the original budget and she was told that was taken out; Mrs. Wilkison responded that it happened a while ago. Dr. Potemri spoke about “Go Guardian.” Mr. Pont discussed it with her. He was concerned because it is a per pupil cost when budgeting. It is free until July. The program can be put on the computers remotely. Ms. Welborn asked about the program. Dr. Potemri said it was a way to block sites and track students. Mr. Karpinski commented on the budget percentage left out of middle school sports. The budget would be at 3.27%. Mr. Mendolia asked which budget we were looking at and if it were the 2.1% or 2.85%. Mrs. Wagner said she wants the budget at 3.27%. Budget numbers were reviewed.
  - c. Year-end Purchasing Priorities – The Board will discuss this at the next regular meeting in May.
5. Old Business – a. One-to-One Device Program – Mr. Pont spoke again on the One-to-One Program. All the administrators were in favor of the one-to-one program. Mr. Pont said we are at a total of 83 laptops out on loan. Dr. Potemri said she supports the one-to-one program and she elaborated. Mr. Pont said he is looking for the best solution. Google Education was discussed.

6. New Business – a. Wheeler Grading Recommendations – Mrs. St. Germain and Mrs. Reyes spoke on grading recommendations. Ms. Welborn had questions on pass/fail. Dr. Robert stated that there was no incentive to work hard with that type of grading. Mrs. Reyes had further comment. Mr. Karpinski asked about the senior projects and he was told the students are completing them without a portfolio. On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to accept the administration’s recommendation on grading. Mr. Mendolia asked about special education students. Mrs. Costa said there is going to need to be some flexibility. Mr. McCord had comment.

7. Policy Review – Will be discussed at a later date.

8. Calendar – A special meeting will be held on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. for continued budget review. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Graduation will be discussed on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

9. Public Comment – Kylie Melia-student, Jon Anderson-student, Cameron Gouveia-student, Mya Comeau-student, and Steve Lenihan-parent, spoke in favor of keeping middle school sports in the budget.

On a motion by Dr. Robert, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter L. Nero, Secretary Pro-Tem