

Board of Education Minutes
June 4, 2020
Special Meeting

DRAFT

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting platform meeting ID 881 1635 2401. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, (6:12 p.m.), Mrs. Mastroianni, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia. 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 6:03 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. School Re-Opening Task Force – Mrs. Mastroianni said they had the first meeting of the task force with a nice makeup of members. They did a brief overview and broke up into their sub committees which will be meeting next week. They will be putting together a survey. Mrs. Wagner said Ms. Welborn will help put together a survey. Mrs. Wagner said it was a good meeting with more to come on that.

b. Year-end Purchasing – Mrs. Wagner said they have gotten lists together. Mrs. Wagner asked Mr. Pont about his technology figure. He explained where the dollar amount came from, the grade levels it incorporates, and the equipment it includes. Mrs. Wagner asked how long before we needed to order this and Mr. Pont answered. Ms. Welborn commented that the number was larger than they anticipated and she was glad to digest the information before making a decision. Mrs. Wagner asked questions that Mr. Pont answered. Ms. Welborn asked about items on Mr. Pont’s list. Mr. McCord had no questions at this point. Mr. Karpinski asked that all the items on the list at each school be ranked and gave an example. He wants the list prioritized. Mrs. Wilkison said what she gave was not a wish list-it was what is needed. Her list is in next year’s budget. Mr. Karpinski said we should break the list into what is budgeted for and what is not. Mrs. Wagner wondered if prior to next week’s meeting we should have a finance meeting and bring it back to the Board on Wednesday. The Finance committee will meet on Monday, June 8th at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Wagner asked if there was anything on that list would we lose out on if it were not ordered tomorrow. There was discussion on whether the non-lapsing account would be on the Board of Finance’s agenda. Mrs. Wagner asked about the tractor that was on the list and Mr. Boucher answered her questions. Mr. McCord had comment and said the last time we bought the tractor with end of year money, the townspeople went crazy. He said with this type of thing that you need some lead time. Many companies have municipal pricing. Mr. Boucher explained what items were included in that price and it was municipal pricing. There was further comment. Mrs. Mastroianni wanted to add something to the list—she said they have to consider some part of the playground. Asking a group of volunteers to raise that much money is not fair. She has talked to the person that is planning the playground and she commented. She said they are trying to put together something for the fall. Mrs. Mastroianni said they should seriously consider adding something. Mrs. Mastroianni will ask for

the list for the finance meeting on Monday. Mr. McCord said this wasn't discussed in our meetings but not put in as part of our budget. He said townspeople will go crazy over a large dollar amount. Mrs. Mastroianni had further comment. Mr. Nero said we did have the playground in the first round of the budget. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Mr. McCord said for the amount of time they have put into it, they have raised a lot of money. He wondered how the process would work because we can't just donate the money. He is all for it but we would have to buy it. There was discussion. Mrs. Wilkison said one of the options was to have parents purchase a piece of the equipment. Dr. Potemri said Mrs. Mastroianni raised a good point. She suggested allocating the money to replace a certain piece of equipment that we had in the budget. She said it would probably be purchased and if they are not ready it would have to be held. She said she didn't see the gym pads on the list. She spoke of looking at the outdoor space and they are working on a plan. They should allocate money for the fence for about \$15,000. Mr. Mendolia did not have any questions. The Finance and Facilities Committee will meet on Monday at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Welborn wanted clarification on special education items and middle/high school items. Mrs. Wagner said the high/middle list was very clear as to what was budgeted and what was not. Mrs. Costa said her list was broken out as well. Mrs. Wagner said they will need to know what is in the budget and what is not, and to prioritize their lists. She said the non-lapsing account will be critical. Dr. Potemri asked if money was allocated in for PPE. Mr. Nero said Mrs. Martin has a list going to Representative Rotella into CREC. Mr. Nero said she wants us to put in for more technology through the State. He said they met on PPE today and it is hard to get. There was discussion. Mrs. Wagner asked if we had an idea of a dollar amount and if we could get that dollar amount for Monday. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion on PPE and other associated items. Mr. McCord asked about taking temperatures. Mr. Nero spoke on that. The consortium is meeting tomorrow and he and Mrs. Martin explained. Mrs. Martin said the money for the contact-free devices would come from our wellness account with the consortium. Questions were asked and answered. There was further discussion on temperature taking. Mr. Nero said the capacity they were originally looked at was 10% on the busses but now they are looking at 50%. Mrs. Wagner said they are putting a survey together on bussing. She explained. Mr. Nero said it all depends on the plans too. She asked for any questions on the lists sooner than later.

c. 2020-2021 Proposed Education Budget – Mrs. Wagner said the budget was passed last night by the Board of Finance. We can move forward now. Ms. Welborn saw we had a retirement in staff and asked about savings. There was discussion on staffing. Mrs. Wilkison spoke of certification. Mrs. Wagner said we want to make sure we look at attrition. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. Wagner had further comment. Mr. Nero said we are not being trite with this. Mr. Nero said we can look at the special education position and he explained. Personnel and hiring will be on the next agenda. Mr. McCord asked about certifications and Mrs. St. Germain answered. Mr. Nero commented. Mrs. Mastroianni said one of the things that stuck out to her was members of the Board of Finance kept asking about staffing numbers. She said we don't have a regular practice of the Board of Education looking at positions and attrition. She doesn't know why we can't. Mrs. Wagner said we can't do that. She said it is not the Board of Education's position to do staffing. When you question the hiring ??? Mrs. Mastroianni wants a conversation about it. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Nero said he and Dr. Potemri came up

with a policy they want to bring to the Board on hiring and he explained. The policy will be on next week's agenda. Mrs. Wagner had comment on questions that were asked of them during the budget deliberations. Mrs. Mastroianni had further comment. Mr. Nero had further comment. There was further comment. Mrs. Wagner said we all need to do our homework for Monday.

5. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education