

Board of Education Minutes
November 18, 2020

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting platform meeting ID 86241250868. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mr. McCord, 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 6:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Administrators’ Reports – None.
5. Administrative – a. Minutes – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the following meetings as a consent agenda as amended: October 14, 2020, October 22, 2020, October 24, 2020, October 28, 2020, and November 10, 2020.
 - b. Correspondence – None.
 - c. Personnel – Mr. Nero said another per diem was hired for the middle/high school, Keyokah Mars-Garrick, a Wheeler graduate.
6. Reports – a. Superintendent – None.
 - b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said Ledge Light Health District is changing their reporting to be the same as the state so we have no updated information at this point. She explained. Mrs. Wagner asked questions regarding Chrome Books. There is a meeting on Monday regarding the budget process. She will be asking that the process to be more streamlined than last year. She had further comment. She said Mr. Nero has the form to turn the building over to the town. Mr. Nero had comment. She commented on a meeting coming up with Mr. Urgo regarding payment of utilities and other items. She elaborated. Questions were asked and answered about moving the IT equipment. Mrs. Wagner said a capital meeting is coming up and said she will ask that the wiring and a full survey of our fields be added to the list. She had further comment. Mr. McCord had comment on a possible field survey that was done. Mr. Nero had comment. He suggested having UCONN come in to do a study and he elaborated. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.
 - c. Committee Chairs - None. The sub-committee on the strategic plan will get together in December. The Facilities and Finance committee will meet after Monday’s meeting. They will meet a half hour before the next meeting on December 2nd.
 - d. LEARN Board of Directors Liaison – Nothing to report.

e. School Modernization Building Committee – Dr. Potemri said they are in the final reconciliation. The building project closeout will be on the agenda on December 2nd. Rusty Malik from QA&M Architecture and Steve Smith from Downes Construction will be invited to the meeting. Dr. Potemri thanked Mr. Nero and the administrators for working with her on that; it wasn't an easy haul. Mr. Nero had comment. He said we managed to get through it all. He had further comment. Mrs. Wagner thanked Dr. Potemri.

7. Facilities and Finance – There was comment. Mrs. Wagner asked questions that Mrs. Martin answered. Further questions were answered. Mr. Nero had comment and explanation.

8. Policy First Reads – The distance learning policy was reviewed. It was looked at during the October 24th workshop and passed to the administrators for their comments. Questions were asked and answered. This will be acted upon at the next meeting.

9. Old Business – a. School Re-Opening Plan – Mrs. Wagner said winter sports have been pushed back to January 19th. Wednesday has been deemed a shortened distance learning day and she explained. Teachers still work their full day and she explained. She explained the reasoning as to when a full virtual schedule would happen. Mrs. Wagner said she has received a lot of communication from parents voicing their disappointment in delaying a full return. She had further comment. She felt it important we revisit this all the time and not just in January. A lot of times people aren't comfortable speaking up at these meetings. She had further comment. It's important the Board recognize there are two sides to this. We'll talk about this at the next meeting and at the second meeting as well. Mr. Nero said he was interviewed by The Day today and he explained they are doing an article on what districts are doing around the holidays. He said he is comfortable staying with the hybrid plan. A lot of districts are shutting down for a period of time. Mrs. Wagner said we have to make decisions about our town and she elaborated. Board members had comment. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion. Mrs. Wagner said it is important that we continue to have these discussions. Mrs. St. Germain said they have kids that are coming back from being all-distance and she elaborated.

10. Calendar – Facilities and Finance will meet at 5:30 p.m. on December 2nd. There is also a regular meeting on December 16th. The budget meeting with the town is on the November 23rd, and elementary school principal interviews are on Saturday.

11. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. McCord, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to the
Board of Education