

Board of Education Minutes
December 16, 2020

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting platform meeting ID 891 8528 5274. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Mrs. Mastroianni, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero and Mrs. Martin. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:08 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 Plan – Mr. Nero said Jason from *The Westerly Sun* called and he commented. He said we will continue in this manner (hybrid) and revisit it after the break. Mrs. Wagner commented and said we really need to talk about our next step in January. It will be a focus of our meeting on January 13th. Mr. Nero had comment. He said the worst case scenario would be to have a 3/2 schedule and he explained how that would work. There was further comment. Mr. Nero answered questions and had further comment. He feels confident right now in our current situation. He had further comment. There was further discussion. Mrs. Wagner had comment on getting the kids back full time. There was further comment.
 - b. Hybrid Plan – Covered above.
5. New Business – None.
6. Student Success – Strategic Plan Discussion – Mrs. Wagner said the plan was pulled out and they looked at it again. Administration transition and community relations were two items that are of importance. She had further comment.
7. Community Relations – a. Public Communications Plan Discussion – Mrs. Mastroianni said they had made progress before COVID. She wanted the Board to commit to putting out factual and important information and had further comment. The committee would like to tweak the web site and she explained. They spoke of having a “State-of-the-District” twice a year to highlight great things. She had further comment. She spoke of social media events. She spoke of the population that doesn’t access social media. Mrs. Mastroianni spoke of having a more specific agenda. She said the Board needs to utilize social media to push out information. She had further comment. Board members had comment. A workshop will be held on January 9th to discuss the administration transition. There was further comment.
8. Finance and Facilities – a. November 2020 Financial Statements – Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Potemri to accept the November 2020 Financial Statements. Questions had been answered previously. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Budget Planning – Mrs. Wagner said some format changes were discussed and central office expenses will be broken out and she explained. An A, B, C list was asked to be given as a priority list. Mr. Nero had comment and said he asks for that every year. Mrs. Wagner said she has not heard from the Board of Finance about any specific items they want to see early on and she elaborated. Board members had comment. Questions were asked and answered. The non-lapsing account was discussed.

c. Committee Meeting Re-Cap – Mrs. Wagner said facilities were discussed and a maintenance plan was discussed for the new buildings. A software program will be looked at to facilitate the process and she explained. The groundskeeper hours will be looked at for the central office side. She had further comment on utility costs.

Mr. Nero said this is the last Board of Education regular meeting for the year and it's the last Board of Education meeting for Veronica Wilkison who is retiring. He elaborated. He said she deserved more than what she is getting now; she deserved a better send-off than what she is getting because of the current situation with COVID. He elaborated. He thanked Mrs. Wilkison for all her years of service and he wished her well moving forward. He had further comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment.

Mrs. Wagner reviewed the process of hiring the new principal and gave the makeup of the committees. She gave the breakdown of the numbers of candidates. She spoke of the questions that were asked and the amount of time spent interviewing. She spoke of the second round of interviews and the second interview team.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to move Public Comment ahead of Executive Session.

9. Public Comment – Mrs. Wilkison thanked Mr. Nero for his kind words. She said it's amazing what we have accomplished in the time she has been here. She listed off some of the accomplishments and said we have just done so much. She thanked everyone for their support and she elaborated. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mrs. Laura Mello, parent, wished Mrs. Wilkison a happy retirement. She had comment on the town web site to get the agenda. She had comment on students not having to be tested and she elaborated. She had further comment.

10. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Personnel – Principal Hiring Process to Date – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. for the Purpose of Personnel – Principal Hiring Process to Date.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:27 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to the Board of Education