

Board of Education Minutes  
January 9, 2021  
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Saturday, January 9, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom meeting platform meeting ID 848 8712 7529. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Mrs. Mastroianni, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present was Mr. Nero. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

3. Administration Transition – Mrs. Wagner said one of the goals was to get the administration team into place. Mr. Nero said the Wheeler administration had a Zoom meeting with Mr. Cillino. Mrs. Wilkison will be coming in Monday and Tuesday and she may need to come in a couple more times and he explained. Mr. Nero explained he had given Mr. Cillino a couple of books to read. Jack Cross is in this week. He will work with Mr. Cillino on Thursday and Friday and then he will be done. Monday is a transition day and he explained. Questions were asked about a mentor-ship. Mr. Nero explained the principals' roundtable at LEARN. Mr. Cillino will meet periodically with Joe Macrino (an elementary principal in Waterford) and keep logs. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero explained the roundtable was similar to his superintendent's group. Questions were asked about how often the administrators meet. Mr. Nero explained we meet regularly on each Board meeting day and he elaborated. Further questions were asked and answered about meeting with the faculty. Mr. Nero said he is in the buildings just about each day and he explained. Questions were asked and answered about how long before he would be "on his own." Mr. Nero said it is usually about three years and he explained. Ms. Welborn asked about a question and answer session with parents. Mr. Nero said he has already done that with teachers. Monday night is the first PTO meeting and he will be on the agenda. Mr. Nero said he would ask him to do that. Other questions that were asked concerned allowing Mr. Cillino to leverage changes in the hybrid and if he would be evaluating our current hybrid. Mr. Nero said the administrators are meeting on Wednesday and he explained it was their task from the last Board meeting. Mr. Nero had further comment. He said they would listen to any suggestions. Mrs. Wagner asked if the Board was looking for anything specific at the report out at the meetings. There was discussion and comment. Mrs. Wagner asked how we are transitioning the new position and are we going to start to transition. Mr. Cillino has to line out what his needs are and special services will have to re-align their department. Mr. Nero said we will be prepared for July 1<sup>st</sup>. There was further comment. That will be on the next meeting agenda for January 27<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of having the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> instead. Items for the agenda will be executive session, school reopening, and financials. A report on COVID numbers will be given again on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Wagner said Mr. Nero's letter to the parents was great. Mr. Nero had comment. Ms. Welborn asked what Mr. Nero's timeline is. Mr. Nero said in March he will be sending a letter to the Board stating he will be leaving in June of 2022. He had further comment. There was discussion on a search timeline.

4. Policy – Policy 0525 – Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents in School – There was discussion. We do have a similar policy, 0524. Ms. Welborn had comment regarding Policy 0524 and was going to recommend we keep the current policy. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion on adding “political affiliation.” It was decided to keep our current policy.

Policy 1328 – School Mascots and Other Identifications - Not needed because our mascot is a lion.

Policy 3281- School Fund Raisers – Online Fundraising Campaign-Crowdfunding – There was discussion. A phrase will be added about reaching out to our local resources first. The regulation will be acted upon as well.

Policy 4000.1 – Title IX – Ms. Welborn explained our current policy is outdated. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered about our coordinator and the appeal process. The attorney will be asked which regulation we should go with for our district. They will ask the reasoning on that as well.

Policy 4113.6 – Remote Work/Telecommuting – There was discussion. The optional language will remain.

5. Web Site – Mrs. Mastroianni said she concentrated on the Board of Education section. She reviewed the changes she would like to see including a tab at the top for the Board of Education page and updating the calendar page. There was discussion on the calendar page. Other items include possibly linking the agenda to the calendar page and indicating a special meeting in a different color font. The Board of Education members need to be update on the CABE policy page and Mrs. McCarthy will take care of that. The strategic plan page needs to be updated. The plan also needs to be approved. The draft plan will be put up on the web site. The strategic plan will be approved on January 20<sup>th</sup> at the special meeting. Other items suggested include changing the “Minutes” heading to “Minutes and Videos.” The other headings were looked at. “Studies and Projections” needs to be updated. An archive link for this section was suggested. A meeting will be set up with Mr. Pont and Mr. Bryant to review the suggestions. Mrs. Mastroianni said it’s nothing terrible.

6. Social Media – Mrs. Mastroianni was able to create a Face Book page. She can see it but it is not yet active. She wanted to just post agendas, meeting reminders, important dates and events. She gave examples of what should be posted. Suggestions were made. Mrs. Mastroianni said “Comments” have been disabled. She is putting a statement on the page. She wants people to be clear that we are only providing information. There was discussion. Mrs. Mastroianni spoke of our community relations project. She spoke of doing a mailing between April 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. There was discussion on the mailing. Mrs. Wagner said she is really proud of this Board and the hard work we have been doing.

On a motion by Mrs. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

The meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> will be at 6:30 p.m.

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