

Board of Education Minutes
March 10, 2021

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting platform meeting ID 849 0566 7183. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Mrs. Mastroianni, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mr. Boucher, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. St. Germain, Mrs. Reyes, and Mr. Cillino. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Administrative – a. Minutes – February 10, 2021 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2021, meeting.

February 24, 2021 – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2021, meeting.

5. Facilities and Finance – January 2021 Financial Statements – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to accept the Financial Statements for January 31, 2021. Mrs. Martin answered questions. Further questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. 2021 – 2022 Proposed Education Budget – Mrs. Wagner said they will be presenting to the Board of Finance tonight. They will be reviewing the reductions that were made. She is going to go over the successes we have had. She had further explanation on this evening’s budget presentation.

6. Old Business – a. School Re-Opening Plan- Mr. Nero said every Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. there is a meeting with the state department of education and the department of public health. Connecticut is really doing a great job right now. They want everyone back in. Mr. Nero spoke of spacing and said it is a suite of PPE and he explained. He spoke of a majority of our staff getting the vaccine this past weekend. He spoke of the potential to a reaction to the second dose. He is going to propose a virtual day for March 29th due to the potential staffing issues in case we have people out in each building. He had further comment. He said walking through the buildings people are “walking on air;” there is a good feeling in the buildings. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Cillino said overall the move back in has been going very well. He spoke of how happy the students are to be back. The full-in has required them to be flexible and he explained. A lot of students have come back from distance, hybrid and home schooling. They are at about 93% in. He had further comment. Drop off and pickup is getting smoother. He had further comment and said he appreciates everyone’s patience. They will be looking at the student data and he explained. Mrs. St. Germain said it is so nice for our kids to hang out with their friends not in their alphabet group. She had comment on the drop off and pickup and said they have had the same issues as the elementary school.

They are at 87% between hybrid and full-in. She is hoping more students will come back and she explained. They have relocated a couple more teachers when the classes have gotten larger and she explained. She spoke about quarantining at the beginning of full-in. The teachers are much more comfortable being back and vaccinated. There are no issues with lunches and she elaborated. They are so excited to be back. It has been smooth. She had further comment. Mrs. St. Germain said they are also looking at the data and the schedule. Mrs. Reyes said there are 43 full distance students down from over 60. They continue to talk to parents. On March 24th they will bring the juniors in and do the SAT. She explained they can do it like the PSAT was done in the fall. Mrs. St. Germain said they haven't lost that year of data since they brought the students in for the PSAT in the fall and will be able to see any loss. She elaborated. Mrs. Wagner said the administrators and teachers have done a fantastic job. She is proud of everyone for pulling it off. Mrs. Costa said it has been going so well. Everyone has been helping out. She is excited about the students coming back in five days a week. Mr. Boucher said he can't thank the kitchen staff and administration enough; lunches are working well. He explained how the cleaning schedule would work. Mrs. Wagner thanked Mr. Boucher and his team. Mr. Nero spoke of what next year may look like. He said we will probably still be wearing masks in the building and elaborated. He had further explanation. We have been talking about learning gaps but also social emotional gaps too. He explained we are doing our regular summer school this year and we are more than likely going to do an extended day program next school year and he explained. There will be further discussion on that. He said they had the liaison meeting with the NSEA yesterday and he elaborated.

7. Calendar – Mrs. Wagner said she is not available on the 24th. A meeting will be held on March 17th at 6:30 p.m.

8. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education