

Board of Education Minutes
April 28, 2021
Special Meeting

A special meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM meeting platform meeting ID 845 2043 8719. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mrs. Mastroianni, and Dr. Potemri. Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. St. Germain, Mrs. Reyes, and Mr. Cillino. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Personnel - Mr. Nero had comment. He read a letter from Linda Costanza stating her intention to retire as social worker at the end of the school year. He had further comment and congratulated her. He read a letter from Jessica Schultz resigning from her position as math teacher at the end of the school year. Mr. Nero had comment. Mr. Nero read a letter from Carolyn Bennett resigning from her position as chorus teacher at the end of the school year. Mr. Nero had comment and wished all three well in their future endeavors. Mr. Nero said all the positions have been posted.
5. Old Business – a. 2021-2022 Proposed Education Budget – Mrs. Wagner said the budget is still on the table with the Board of Finance and she had further comment. We are in a holding pattern until we hear from them. She had further comment.

b. School Re-Opening Plan – Mrs. Wagner said there have been a lot of changes and updates from the CDC and the state. She reviewed some of the changes including quarantine times. Mr. Nero said we all listen to the webinars on Tuesdays. He spoke of the deep cleaning not being necessary but we will continue through the end of the year. They also spoke of cleaning busses with it being a lot of over-kill. We will continue doing this until the end of the year but some of these things may change for next school year. Mr. Nero read a statement from the State Department of Education regarding virtual learning. Virtual learning will no longer be an option for next school year and he elaborated. He had further comment. We will be disbanding the notion of hybrid or virtual learning. Questions were asked and answered. He spoke of vaccinating the high school students. He had further comment and explanation. There was further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment on students coming back in full and end-of-year events. Mrs. St. Germain said when we created this plan it was not to punish anyone regarding end-of-year events. She explained their reasoning behind their scheduling of events. They are asking these students in full distance to come back in by May 17th (in order to participate in end-of-year activities). She explained how the events were scheduled. Thirty-four students are in full distance with 19 being in the junior and senior classes. She had further explanation. It is not to punish these students but to keep all our students safe. Mr. Nero had further comment. He wants to make

sure we are as transparent as possible and had further comment. Mrs. Wagner said graduation is on the 11th on the lawn as we always have. The only requirement to take part is to come back to school 14 days ahead of time. Mrs. St. Germain had further explanation. She said the ECC (Eastern Connecticut Conference) voted at the AD (Athletic Director) level to get rid of masks outside and she elaborated. Our plan states that people on the grounds at athletic events must wear masks so that may need to be changed in the plan. There was further comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Mr. Nero said we still need to be vigilant. He spoke of the elementary drama club and said we have not allowed so many other activities to take place. A moratorium will be in place for now on events.

6. Student Success – Policies will be reviewed at a couple of the next meetings as will the strategic plan. Policies will be at the next meeting and the strategic plan will be at the second meeting in May. Meetings will be held in person after the end of the school year. Saturday’s special meeting will be cancelled. Mrs. Wagner said teacher appreciation is coming up. The PTO is doing a lot of nice activities that week and she had further comment. The Board will piggy-back on those events.

7. Community Relations - None.

8. Facilities and Finance – a. March 2021 Financial Statements – Mrs. Wagner said a committee meeting was held prior that was recorded and will be available if anyone wants to listen. We had quite a bit of savings this year and she elaborated. Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Potemri to approve the March 31, 2021, financial statements. There was comment that Mr. Urgo will be getting back to us on the solar issue. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Nero mentioned that a committee needs to meet regarding the extra duty stipends with the union within the first two weeks in May. There was discussion.

9. Public Comment – Cynthia Lawton, parent, commented on year-end activities. She appreciated efforts by the entire team to keep the kids safe. She referred to her email regarding end-of-year activities and full distance students. She had further comment about fully vaccinated students. Mrs. Wagner said she would get back to her on this. Mr. Nero had comment.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Potemri, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education