

Board of Education Minutes  
August 25, 2021

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom meeting platform meeting ID 832 8046 9169. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mrs. Mastroianni, Dr. Potemri, and Mr. Mendolia. Also present were Mr. Nero and Mrs. Martin. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Mrs. Wagner said the first day of school is tomorrow and she is so excited that we are full-in five days a week. She had further comment.

3. Proposed Executive Session – On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:36 p.m. for the Purpose of Personnel and to invite Mr. Nero into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – Mike Costanza, grade 6 teacher, spoke of the explanation and clarification of the governor's executive order regarding vaccinations that was sent out by Superintendent Nero. He thanked Mr. Nero for sending it out and had further comment on teachers having to choose to be vaccinated or lose their job.

5. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero spoke of the situation we had at the beginning of the week regarding the weather and that professional development was moved to start a day later. Tomorrow will be the first day of school with an early dismissal. He had further comment. Mr. Nero had comment on the vaccination order and said the governor is looking at the document because it didn't reflect his original order. Mr. Nero said between the Board of education and administration we will work it out. Mr. Karpinski commented that our district opening a day later was on NPR. Mr. Nero commented on his meeting with the reporter. He spoke of the issue a number of years ago with having school being dismissed early due to heat.

- b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner thanked Ellen Turner for the athletic informational night she held and had further comment. She has been in touch with CABA about the superintendent search and she had further comment. She said she was still waiting for a few more of the evaluations from the Board. She would like to set up a workshop in October. She wants to gear up and get ready for our audit. She is going to a board of finance meeting in September. She wants to go over our year end. Christine Dias is looking for capital projects for the town to do. Mrs. Wagner had further comment. She brought up the playground mulch to be added to the list. Mr. Nero said next year, the Wheeler asphalt will be three years old. They had a plan to re-do the asphalt. He thought it would be a good idea to do both schools at the same time. Mr. Nero gave some history of the Chrome Books. He said there

are three other small districts like us and he had comment on technology. Mr. Nero said they started a discussion of doing a consortium with LEARN on technology. LEARN hires the people and they will provide the services for the districts. They are going to meet with them one more time with Mr. Pont to look at the services. He had further comment. Board members had comment. There was discussion.

6. Personnel – Mr. Nero said we had two resignations. He reviewed all the staff hires and staff re-assignments. He said we are in need of one more special education teacher. He gave Amy Tobin’s teaching history. He asked the Board to approve the hire since it is beyond 6<sup>th</sup> step. On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Mendolia, the Board voted unanimously to hire Amy Tobin.

7. Old Business – None.

8. New Business – None.

9. Student Success – Ms. Welborn suggested adding time at the October workshop for committee work.

10. Community Relations – Mrs. Mastroianni and Dr. Towle-Weicksel spoke of the tent for classrooms. An outdoor classroom would be the most feasible option. Mrs. Mastroianni explained some of the other items that may be needed. She had explanation of potential setups and initial layout costs. Tents would be more cost effective to purchase and she had further comment. Mrs. Wagner asked if we know how we would use them and if we had any ideas from the administrators as to how they would use them. Mrs. Mastroianni said it was talked about that the teachers would sign up to use them so there is an opportunity for all teachers. Questions were asked and answered on the outdoor classroom. There was discussion. Mr. Nero had comment. He said when we talked about this last spring they talked about using it for lunch waves. He had further comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment and asked Mr. Nero what he thought. He had comment and thought from now to November or so it would be a good idea. He had further comment. Ms. Welborn liked the idea of an outdoor classroom at the elementary school and to rent a tent for the high school to see how much it would be used. Board members had further comment and questions. Mrs. Wagner asked if we made a decision at our next meeting in September if that would be too late or not. There was discussion. Mr. Nero said he would talk with the administrators tomorrow to get their thoughts. There was further discussion. Ms. Welborn made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni to purchase the permanent black board and to spend no more than \$1,800. There was discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Facilities and Finance – a. June 2021 to Date – Mrs. Wagner told the Board this is not the closeout. Mrs. Martin said we are close; we have a small check run and she explained there may be some things that vendors cannot fulfill so the number may be increased slightly. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion.

b. July 2021 Financial Statements – Not covered at this meeting.

12. Policy Review – There was discussion. Mrs. Wagner spoke of bylaw 9221. She suggested changes and asked the Board’s thoughts. Ms. Welborn asked if the vacant spot would still belong to the “party.” There was discussion on the process. Mrs. Wagner will get clarification. Board members had further comment. This will be put on the next agenda.

Bylaw 9222 – No changes.

Bylaw 9230 – Orientation of Board Members – Mrs. Wagner said she did meet with Dr. Towle-Weicksel and felt we did tick most of the boxes on this. No changes.

Bylaw 9400 Self Evaluation – There was discussion. This will be talked about at the workshop.

Bylaw 9271 – Code of Ethics – No changes.

The rest of the policies will be reviewed after CABA does the policy review.

13. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent Search.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education