

Board of Education Minutes  
September 22, 2021

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom meeting platform, meeting ID 886 6444 2841. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski (6:39 p.m.), Ms. Welborn, Mr. McCord, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mrs. Mastroianni, and Dr. Potemri. Also present were Mr. Nero and Mrs. Martin. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mrs. Mastroianni made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Welborn to add Item 12b, Superintendent Hiring Process, to the agenda. Mrs. Wagner explained the hiring process. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Nero asked to add something to the agenda and he explained the professional development opportunity. On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel, the Board voted unanimously to add item 6b, Calendar, to the agenda.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.

4. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said the picnic tables have been distributed and he elaborated. He thanked Donnie Hill (Highway Foreman) for the help. He thanked Mr. Carocari from the Grange. Mr. Nero explained the Grange made any necessary repairs to the tables. Mr. Nero said they have been looking at irrigating the fields. A contractor had come in and Mr. Nero explained this would eventually go to bid. He elaborated on the conversation regarding the well and the tests that need to be done. We are making progress on technology and he elaborated. They also talked about the web site with LEARN. Mr. Nero thanked Mrs. McCarthy for setting up the flu vaccine clinic and he elaborated. He said last week was a tough week at the elementary school. He had spoken to Ledge Light regarding quarantine. He spoke of the spacing requirements and he explained. He spoke of the quarantine scenario at the high school and that it was different because many of the students traced had been vaccinated. He had further comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment and said they are doing a great job.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said a workshop with CAFE was held last night and she explained. She spoke of items to add to the capital list. She has been having conversations with other board chairs and elaborated. She asked about the parent pickup and drop-off at the elementary school and Mr. Nero explained.

5. Old Business – None.

6. New Business – a. Release of Space to Town – Mr. Nero explained last August we released the middle school space. He had explanation. He explained there were three different building projects and explained the roof project is part of the building project and is basically ours. He created a plan and explained. He reviewed the sketch he made. Mrs. Wagner read the resolution: Pursuant to CGS Section 10-239, the Board of Education hereby moves to permit the Town of North Stonington to lease a portion of the former high school, shown on

Exhibit “A” attached, for nonprofit educational purposes. This resolution excludes the areas of the completed building project, Contract # 18DASYC1020026RR, Project # 1020026RR and those areas leased by the North Stonington Board of Education. Mr. McCord seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve it.

b. Calendar – Mr. Nero explained we were able to get in touch with Joann Freiburg and gave the history of the last professional development she held for our staff. She is preparing to present professional development to both schools on November 1<sup>st</sup>. November 2<sup>nd</sup> was originally scheduled for professional development. Mr. Nero had further comment. Part of the day will include restorative practices. We are booking her for this year and trying to get her in for next year as well. He had further comment. He explained the workshops would be split by Pre-K to grade 6 and grades 7-12. He had further explanation. He asked for their approval. On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjust the school calendar to the professional development day will be moved from November 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> will now be a school day.

7. Student Success – The Board’s workshop date is October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Mrs. Wagner is working on the surveys and will send them to CABE.

8. Community Relations – Mrs. Mastroianni said there are 150 “likes” on the Face Book page. She is going to work hard to post more information. She had further comment. The North Stonington Education Foundation is donating \$1,500 towards the purchase of the tents and there was discussion. Questions were asked and answered about ordering. Mrs. Mastroianni explained the work being done to prepare. There was discussion.

9. Facilities and Finance – a. July 2021 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to approve the July 2021 financial statements. Questions were asked and answered on the non-lapsing account. There was further discussion and explanation. Mrs. Wagner will reach out to Mr. Spring about attending an October finance board meeting and she explained. Mrs. Martin said she sent a memo to Mr. Spring regarding the non-lapsing account and she explained. Mrs. Mastroianni had comment about the balance of the fund and she explained that we can deposit up to 2% of our budget and not a total of 2% in that account. Mrs. Wagner explained the purpose of the fund. Questions were asked and answered.

10. Policy Votes – Mrs. Wagner said we had talked at the last meeting about the bylaw. She read some verbiage as a suggestion to add to current bylaw 9221. There was discussion. On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted six in favor and one abstention to approve bylaw 9221 as amended and read by Mrs. Wagner. Dr. Potemri abstained.

Policy 4112 – Mrs. Wagner explained the state said we need a policy regarding vaccination and testing. Mr. Nero had comment. He said the state sent us a 21-page document including forms that the employees have to fill out. He gave examples of some of the forms. Our law firm came up with the policy and he elaborated. Ms. Welborn made a motion that was seconded by Mr. McCord to accept new policy 4112. Questions were asked and answered

regarding contractors. Mr. Nero explained the contractors that would need to be held to the same standards. Further questions were asked and answered about testing. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. Nero explained the time table regarding employees that are getting tested. There was further explanation. Further questions were asked and answered. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Public Comment – None.

12. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Ms. Welborn, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations and Superintendent Search and to invite Mrs. Martin into such session for the Contract Negotiations' portion.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.

13. Ratification of Tentative Bargaining Agreement between the North Stonington Board of Education and the North Stonington Association of Educational Secretaries – Mr. McCord made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Potemri to accept the bargaining agreement between the Board and the secretaries. Mrs. Wagner commented that she was disappointed it was only for a year because they will have to do this in another 12 months but she did understand. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. McCord, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education