

North Stonington Schools
Board of Education Minutes
October 14, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held in hybrid format on October 14, 2026, beginning at 6:30 PM. Present were Mr. Stefanowicz, Mrs. Main, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Ryan, and Mrs. Mello. Dr. Jeanine Rose, Superintendent of Schools was also in attendance. Mr. Burdick was present virtually.

Summary:

The Board reorganized following the seating of new member Mike Tavares, who was nominated to fill the vacancy left by Amy Friend. The Board elected Chet Stefanowicz as Chair, Judy Main as Vice Chair, and Dr. Jamie Towle-Weicksel as Secretary. The Board received correspondence recognizing Facilities Director Randy Rumrill for his work supporting a celebration of life for Torren O’Grady. Dr. Rose provided updates on professional development, school safety and security, technology improvements following a cybersecurity incident, budget planning, grant applications, and potential transitions to new human resources and registration platforms. The Board discussed its goals and retreat, the Superintendent’s evaluation process, the Business Manager search, policy review, and committee assignments. The Board approved moving the September financials to the Board of Finance and approved the September 23, 2026, meeting minutes. The Board entered executive session at 7:11 PM to discuss the administrators’ contract and special education tuition. Following the executive session, the Board approved the administrators’ contract.

1. Call to Order

- Mrs. Main called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Seat new Board Members

Motion to nominate Mike Tavares on behalf of the RTC to fill Amy Friend's vacancy . Motion made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Mrs. Main.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0

- Mike Tavares was sworn in as a member of the North Stonington Board of Education.

4. Reorganization: Election of Officers

Motion to nominate Chet Stefanowicz for Chair of the North Stonington Board of Education. Motion made by Dr. Towle-Weicksel and seconded by Mrs. Main.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0

Motion to nominate Judy Main for Vice Chair of the North Stonington Board of Education. Motion made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Ryan.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0

Motion to nominate Dr. Jamie Towle-Weicksel for Secretary of the North Stonington Board of Education. Motion made by Mrs. Main and seconded by Mrs. Mello.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0

5. Public Comment

Please be advised that our meeting structure does not allow for two-way dialogue during public Comment, but the Board uses this information to guide their decision-making. Depending on the topic, they may ask the Superintendent or another District employee to follow up with you. Likewise, public comments might lead to a topic being added to a future meeting agenda.

6. Correspondence

Communications to the Superintendent or Board of Education that are intended for inclusion on a meeting agenda or to be read publicly as correspondence should clearly indicate that intent in writing at the time of submission.

- There was correspondence.
 - Dr. Rose shared a commendation letter from Robert Cillino recognizing Facilities Director Randy Rumrill

7. Reports

a. Superintendent Report

- Dr. Rose provided updates on her professional development and ongoing learning for new superintendent, including support received from a CAPSS coach following the recent bus incident.
- The Superintendent provided updates on school safety and security, including review of the all-hazards plan and coordination with state police. The first administrative team meeting will focus on collaboration with state police, safety plan review, and preparedness efforts. The district will also work to schedule a state safety audit.
- A technology update was provided regarding improvements and follow-up completed by Michelle Cozzi from LEARN following the cybersecurity incident. The importance of maintaining strong districtwide security practices was emphasized. The Board discussed technology sustainability and the potential role of the existing technology committee in reviewing technology needs and long-term planning.
- Dr. Rose discussed efforts to maximize existing staff and utilize current personnel effectively. Budget planning is beginning and will be a priority at the next administrative team meeting.

- Updates were provided on Title I, the Seed Grant, and other grant applications. April Christiansen, Special Services Director, was recognized for securing several grants.
- The Superintendent discussed the district's current use of iVisions and Frontline and the potential transition to Red Rover. The proposed platform would support human resources functions, streamline processes, and provide additional functionality at a cost-neutral level.
- The Board discussed screen-time comparisons and the importance of considering context when interpreting the data. Members asked that student screen time may have been higher in the prior year if students had personal devices and that additional context is needed to make meaningful comparisons.
- Dr. Rose indicated that screen time levels in classes this year are generally lower than last year despite the use of some personal devices last year that did not have Securly to monitor screen time.
- The Superintendent recognized staff accomplishments, including Mr. Mendolia's work on Fright Night and Kaitlyn Neumann's receipt of the 2026 Connecticut ACDA Emerging Conductor Award.

8. Old Business

a. BoE Goals-Retreat

- The Board discussed scheduling a retreat to review and develop Board goals. November 7 and November 14 were considered, with November 14 identified as the preferred date.
- The Board discussed holding the retreat on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The retreat will be an open meeting, and the location will be confirmed and posted.

b. Superintendent's Evaluation Process

- The Board discussed the Superintendent's evaluation process and the possibility of including evaluation-related discussion during the Board retreat.
- The Board discussed consolidating elements of the existing evaluation forms into a single format.
- Dr. Rose will provide the Board with the three evaluation form formats and draft goals for review. Materials will be distributed to Board members, with a printed packet prepared for Judy Main. Mr. Tavares requested that the materials be emailed to him.

c. Business Manager Update

- The Superintendent reported that an interview with a Business Manager candidate was scheduled for the following day. The Board expressed hope that the process would result in a suitable candidate for the position.

9. New Business

- None

10. Policy

a. Policy Committee Process

- The Board discussed the policy review process and committee responsibilities. Committee assignments were reviewed and updated as follows:
 - Policy Committee: Mr. Ryan and Mr. Burdick. Mr. Stefanowicz offered assistance
 - Curriculum Committee: Dr. Towle-Weicksel and Mr. Tavares
 - Finance Committee: Mrs. Main, Mr. Tavares, and Mrs. Mello
 - Facilities Committee: Mrs. Main and Dr. Towle-Weicksel

11. Consent Agenda

a. Move September Financials to the Board of Finance

Motion to move the September financials to the Board of Finance.

Motion made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Mrs. Main.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:0

b. Approval of Minutes

i. September 23, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from 09/23/2026. Motion made by

Mrs. Main and seconded by Mr. Ryan.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:0

12. BOE Comments for Future Agenda Items

- There were no comments regarding future agenda items.

13. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

14. Executive Session

a. Admin Contract

b. Superintendent 90-Day Review

Motion to enter executive session. Motion made by Mrs. Main and seconded by Mr. Ryan.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:1, (Mr. Burdick)

- The Board entered executive session at 7:11 P.M.
- The Board exited executive session at 7:46 P.M.

15. Adjournment

Motion to add agenda item 15a, approval vote for administrators contract. Motion made by Mrs. Main and seconded by Mrs. Mello.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, (Mr. Burdick)

a. Admin Contract Vote

Motion to approve Administrator's contract as presented to the Board. Motion made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Mrs. Main.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, (Mr. Burdick)

Motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mrs. Main and seconded by Mr. Ryan.

This motion carries by unanimous decision.

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1 (Mr. Burdick)

- Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.