

Board of Education Minutes
May 11, 2022

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. via hybrid meeting format, Zoom meeting ID: 873 0644 1881. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mrs. Mazzella, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mrs. Mastroianni (7:24 p.m.), Mr. Stefanowicz, and Mr. Mendolia (6:31 p.m.). Also present were Mr. Nero, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. St. Germain, Mrs. Reyes, Mr. Cillino, and Ms. Mullane. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

On a motion by Mr. Stefanowicz, seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel, the Board voted unanimously to move Item 5, Administrators' Reports ahead of Item 4, Presentations.

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

4. Administrators' Reports – Mrs. St. Germain said there are a lot of upcoming year-end events happening and she elaborated. She listed the events. The graduation walk-through and senior project day are two they should try to attend. Mrs. Reyes gave a review of the testing that occurred the past couple of weeks. Next week is the NGSS for science. Mr. Cillino said they are in the middle of testing right now and they spread it out over three weeks. ELA and math performance tests have been finished. Tomorrow is the art show. June 3rd is the band concert. The sixth grade will be visiting the middle school. June 6th is field day. June 8 is grade 6 promotion. They are working on class lists for next year. They will be holding a step up day again. Questions were asked and answered. Ms. Welborn commented on the step-up day and thought it was a great idea. Mr. Cillino had comment. Ms. Mullane said the July 1st deadline is rapidly approaching to switch over to the new IEP program. They have had over 60 PPT or 504 meetings. The I.D.E.A. grant writing is in progress. They are working on summer school. Questions were asked and answered regarding summer school. Mrs. Wagner thanked the administrators for their work this year.

5. Presentations – a. CABA Scholar Leader Awards – Mrs. St. Germain explained the qualifications to be nominated for the CABA Scholar Leader Awards. Noah Whipple was presented the award. Mrs. St. Germain spoke of Noah's achievements and successes submitted for the award. She elaborated. Mrs. Reyes gave the background information on Liliana Vaillancourt. She spoke of Lily's achievements and successes. Lily also received the award in abstentia due to her being at her softball game.

6. Administrative - a. Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2022 – Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the April 13, 2022, special meeting.

April 27, 2022 – Mrs. Mazzella made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2022, meeting. There was discussion. The motion and second were rescinded. This will be reviewed at the next meeting when wording is received from Ms. Welborn.

April 30, 2022 Special Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Mazzella, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the April 30, 2022, special meeting.

b. Correspondence – None.

c. Personnel – Mr. Nero had comment. Brittney Hattoy is resigning from her position as grade 8 language arts teacher. Mr. Nero had comment on the vacancies. Mr. Nero said interviews were held for a reading specialist. Natasha Zannelli is the candidate of choice and Mr. Nero explained she would be on Step 13. He is highly recommending her for this position. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. Mr. Nero had further comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Cillino had comment. There was further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero said we are in good shape this year. Dr. Towle-Weicksel made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz to approve Natasha Zannelli as the reading teacher to be placed on the 13th step. Mrs. St. Germain had comment. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board went back to the CAFE Scholar Leader awards. Liliana Vaillancourt arrived following her softball game. Mrs. Germain and Mrs. Reyes reviewed Lily's achievements and successes and presented her with the award.

7. Reports - a. Superintendent – Mr. Nero said he meets with the administrators every Wednesday. He said they are looking at the end of the school year. The town is having a yard sale this Saturday for the items left over from our moves. He had further explanation. He is meeting with Mr. Carlson tomorrow. Summer school discussion has begun. He said Mr. Hopkins should be in a good place when he arrives. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. Nero said we were sitting on hundreds of COVID test kits and he elaborated. He said with all the end-of-the-year activities they wanted to get the kits out now and he explained. Questions were asked regarding the shop equipment. Mr. Nero had further comment on the sale. Questions were asked about the other lingering policies regarding COVID such as volunteers coming in. Mr. Nero explained that since they haven't been in the buildings for two years they would have to be fingerprinted again. There was further comment. Mr. Nero had comment. There was discussion on reviewing the items put into place for COVID.

b. BOE Chairperson – Mrs. Wagner said they met with Nick Caruso from CAFE to review their responsibilities. She had further comment and said they are working on their roles and responsibilities. Mrs. Wagner said they are looking at the stipend positions and asked for someone to do that with her. Ms. Welborn will help on that committee.

c. Committee Chairs – Committee work will be done on May 25th.

d. LEARN Board of Directors – Nothing new to report.

8. New Business – None.

9. Facilities and Finance – a. Non-Lapsing Account Priorities – Mrs. Martin handed out revised pricing on some items on the list. The administrators will weigh in on what their priorities are. Mrs. Wagner commented on the presentation Dr. Towel-Weicksel sent out on the playground equipment. They may come up with a designated dollar amount for the playground. Questions were asked and answered. The administrators will receive a copy of the list when more of the pricing is received.

10. Policy First Review – a. Policy 6141.51 – Advanced Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment and b. Policy 5141.213 – Opioid Overdose Prevention (Emergency Administration of Naloxone) – Mr. Nero said there are two policies in front of the Board. He said this AP policy is in alignment with what we do now. This has to be in place before the students come back next year. He spoke of the policy 5141.213 first regarding Narcan. He had comment. We want to be pro-active. He had further comment. He said we have a number of events and playgrounds open to the public. If someone comes in with fentanyl a student could be exposed. He elaborated. He said this is “just in case.” Mr. Nero said Jessica Kessler, high/middle school nurse, is here to help answer any questions. Mrs. Wagner said there is a lot of work that goes into this; it is something we don’t need to pass right this minute. Mr. Nero said this policy has been vetted by CABA and their legal department. Our town physician read the policy and he is fine with it. We are being pro-active rather than re-active. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero explained what happened to a student in East Hartford. A question was asked about how much time are we looking at to implement this and would it be the elementary school as well. Mr. Nero said this would be district-wide. The elementary nurse was consulted as well. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Kessler said if we can start it in the fall that would be the best. Board members had questions. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mrs. Wagner asked if we are addressing fentanyl with our students. Mrs. St. Germain said it is covered in the health classes. Mrs. Reyes said they brought in Community Speaks Out and they also spoke to our health classes. She explained officers have come in and done demonstrations with our students in grades 10 and 11. The administrators had further comment on the presentation. Mrs. St Germain said Narcan is just a safety precaution like the Epi-Pen. Questions were asked and answered. It was explained this is the first look at the policy and it is usually approved at the next meeting. Questions were asked of Mrs. Kessler. Questions were asked and answered about logistics of having Narcan on hand. This will be brought back to the Board for May 25th.

Mrs. St. Germain explained why the policy on AP courses is coming out now. She gave the background of the policy. She said this policy is to make sure students from all socio-economic situations have access. She had further comment and explanation. There was discussion on the policy. These policies will be discussed on May 25th.

11. Calendar – The June 8th meeting will be moved to June 15th. That will be the only meeting in June. It will be held at 6:30 p.m. The May 25th meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

12. Public Comment – Sally Timmons, parent, asked about having parents coming into the school next year and spoke of the process being cumbersome. It was decided the volunteer policy will be reviewed. Questions were asked and answered regarding upcoming field trips with volunteers. The administrators had comment.

13. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Mazzella, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. for the Purpose of Contract Negotiations – Secretaries and Personnel – Business Manager and to invite Mrs. Martin into such session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:58 p.m.

Mrs. Mastroianni made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Karpinski that as of July 1, 2022, to keep the Director of Finance's salary increase at 14.7% at a salary of \$104,262. There was discussion. The motion passed with six voting in favor and two abstentions. Those abstaining were Mr. Karpinski and Mr. Stefanowicz.

On a motion by Mrs. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to
The Board of Education