

## Board of Education Minutes

November 16, 2022

### DRAFT

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on November 16, 2022, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mr. Burdick, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Mastroianni, Mrs. Mazzella, Mr. Stefanowicz, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, and Mrs. Wagner. Also present were Mr. Hopkins, Student Ambassadors Jon Anderson and Madison Wagner

1. Call to Order - Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - The pledge of allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comments  
No public comments.

#### 4. Reports

##### 4.a. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Hopkins introduced two new student ambassadors, Jon Anderson and Madison Wagner class of 2024. Mr. Hopkins informed the Board that CIRMA had completed the Facilities and Physical Safety Report and had met with the District Leadership Team. Mr. Hopkins introduced the new Facilities Director, Mr. Randy Rumrill. Mr. Hopkins would like the Board to consider an increase in tuition to \$12,300.00. Mr. Hopkins had a few Points of Interest, regarding the Safe School Climate Committee. Also, he clarified the comparison between PBIS vs Restorative Practices. He also introduced the idea of therapy animals.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni the Board voted unanimously to add as 5b, the appointment of the Facilities Director. Motion Carried.

On a motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to add 5c for approval of the teachers' contract. Motion Carried.

#### 4.b. Student Reports

Mrs. St. Germain introduced the two student ambassadors, Jon Anderson and Madison Wagner. Both students reported on events and happenings at both Wheeler and the Elementary school.

#### 4.c. Subcommittees Reports

Mr. Stefanowicz is the chair for Subcommittee Goal #1. Focused on the idea of identifying the policies that will applied to this goal. Dr. Towle-Weicksel is the Chair for Goal #2 and followed along with first step is looking through the policies regarding Innovative Instruction. Mrs. Mastroianni is the chair for the Goal #3 and as it relates to transparencies and efficiencies because of the time of year, we will focus on short term goals as it relates to the budget. Some of the tools that are in place to communicate with the public might not be working. For example our minutes and the meeting videos have not updated on the website, and the meeting videos will be updated since May. The information has to be available. Tentative goal as January 1, 2023 has to be updated. The subcommittee revisited the idea of the YouTube Channel. The other items that the subcommittee talked about were regarding policies that relates to the budget.

#### 4.d. BOE Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Wagner informed us that the CABA conference is on Friday, November 18. We have the Tri-Board meeting on December 12. BOE will be running that meeting. Would like to move the December 7 scheduled meeting to December 14 at 6:30 p.m. There was a discussion regarding an assessment on the grounds and will put a plan in place in the future.

### 5. **New Business**

#### 5.a. Superintendent's Designee -

On a motion to appoint Kristen St. Germain as the Superintendent's Designee to be available when the Superintendent is absence. This motion, made by Mastroianni and seconded by Stefanowicz, Carried.

On a motion by Dr.Towle-Weicksel and second by Mr. Stefanowicz, the Board unanimously to add 6d as Non-Lapsing.

#### 5.b. Facilities Director Appointment

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski and second by Mr. Stefanowicz, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Randy Rumrill as the Facilities Director. Questions were asked and answered.

#### 5.c. Teacher Contract

On a motion by Mr. Stefanowicz and second by Mr. Burdick the Board voted unanimously to accept the Teacher's Contract for 2023-2026 as presented by the negotiations committee.

### 6. Facilities & Finance

#### 6.a. Budget Update

We are now in the second round of the audit. We have been able to provide everything they have asked for. We are currently comfortable with Infinite Vision to accomplish the day to day tasks. We are looking at ways to increase efficiency but that will take some time. Based on our current usage it looks like we will be able to offer free lunch to everyone through the end of December 2022. We received a \$5,000 grant to help students and parents fill out the FAFSA forms. The grant will pay for extra time in the evenings and offer incentives for filling out the forms. Special education, especially contracted student services is currently over budget. Last year most of this overage was covered by grants, but we won't be getting those grants every year in the future, so we will have to budget more for this account in the future. This is for BCBA services and RBT services for students who are on the autism spectrum. Account 0700-400 Purchased Property Services is currently over budget but that will be corrected as there are a couple of non-lapsing PO's being encumbered there. Currently this is the only way we can produce a purchase order and keep track of the orders. In the future we will be setting up a new fund to track non-lapsing funds. In projecting out the current year's budget there looks to be savings in the health insurance and HAS contributions. We will be over budget in school supplies as not funds were budgeted for building wide school supplies in either school. Special education cost

will also be higher than expected and grant funds will not be able to cover all of the overages. Payroll should be on budget with no significant savings or overages to budget. We will start the budget soon and the goal will be to try to tie each budget line to a goal that has been established by the Board of Education. We have 80% of the school year left and 76% of the budget left. This is a good sign as there are many things in the budget that are bought at the beginning of the school year than at the end. Questions were asked and answered.

6.b. Approve September Finance Report

Accept the September 2022 Financials. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mrs. Mazzella. Carried.

6.c. October Finance Report

BOE will review the October 2022 financials and will vote during the December 2022 meeting.

6.d. Non-Lapsing Report

Non-Lapsing report was distributed to the Board. Mrs. Mastroianni said she is grateful for the new format of the report which makes it easier to read. Mr. Hopkins went through the report with updated information on this list of items. On a motion by Mr. Karpinski and second by Mr. Burdick, the Board voted unanimously to approve expenditures of the non-lapsing account in the amount of \$73,723. After discussion, Mr. Karpinski amended the motion on the expenditures from the non-lapsing from \$73,723 to \$56,000 excluding the concrete slab and storage shed, seconded by Mr. Burdick. Questions were asked and answered.

**7. Calendar**

7.a. 2023-2024 School Calendar

A draft of the 2023-2024 school calendar was presented. A suggestion was made to make 12/22/23 as a half day. Will review and discuss during the December meeting.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjournment

On a motion, made by Mrs. Mastroianni and seconded by Mr. Karpinski the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Irma Wilhelm  
Recording Secretary to  
The Board of Education