

Board of Education Minutes  
April 27, 2022

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held in-person on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the North Stonington Education Center media center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Mrs. Mazzella, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mrs. Mastroianni, and Mr. Stefanowicz. 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.
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First – None.
4. Old Business – a. Business Manager Position Review – Mrs. Wagner had comment. She explained where they left off with the discussion. Mr. Karpinski had questions regarding job duties that Mrs. Martin answered. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. Wagner had explanation. There was comment. Questions were asked regarding sharing bookkeeping services with the town. Mrs. Martin and Mr. Nero had explained that it was looked at to take on part of the town's payroll but it never went anywhere. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Karpinski spoke a salary of \$100,000 in mind. Further questions were asked and answered. Board members had further comment. There was discussion. Mrs. Martin had comment. Mr. Nero had comment on salaries. Mrs. Wagner wants to position our new superintendent in a place where he can succeed with the staff in place. She had further comment. Mrs. Martin had comment. She asked to be brought in to alignment with the rest of the team and she explained. She had further comment. There was comment on the title of the position. There was discussion and clarification of supervisory duties. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. Wagner read the item from the state of Connecticut regarding the duties of a business official. There was further discussion. Ms. Welborn asked how we got to this point and asked about whether there are goals and objectives for the position. Mrs. Martin and Mr. Nero had explanation. Mr. Nero said the position is evaluated every year. Mr. Nero said unless there is a raise in alignment with others, this is how we ended up here. Mr. Nero had further explanation and gave examples of the years with zero salary increases. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Mr. Nero had further explanation. Board members had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion of when the salary would start. Mrs. Mazzella said she thought this would be more of bringing the position to where it should be rather than a raise. She had further comment. She had comment about keeping a constant during the transition and had further comment. Mrs. Wagner made a motion to increase the business manager position salary by \$15,000 and to change the title to business director to start May 1<sup>st</sup>. That motion was withdrawn. On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni, the Board voted unanimously to change the title of business manager to director of finance. Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Mazzella to increase the salary from \$89,262 to \$104,262 effective May 1, 2022. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Mrs. Martin had comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment. Board members had comment. There was further discussion. Ms. Welborn asked if it would be to our advantage to be pro-active with the other staff members. It was determined to leave that to the new

superintendent. Mrs. Martin had comment and there was discussion. Board members had further comment and suggestions. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Martin thanked the Board. Mrs. Wagner thanked the Board for the good discussion.

5. New Business – Pension Plan Amendment – Mrs. Martin explained that in the third year of the custodial contract, the pension plan contribution is reduced. Ms. Welborn read Amendment Number 1 as follows: Employer Pension Contribution, Plan 2119MP – Each year, your Employer will make the plan a contribution equal to 7% of the compensation of all Participants eligible to share in allocations. This is a reduction from 8%. On a motion by Ms. Welborn, seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution a follows: Resolved, the Amendment Number 1, presented to this meeting is hereby approved and adopted and that an authorized representative of the Employer is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the Administrator the amendment.

6. Facilities and Finance – a. January 2022 Financial Statements – Mrs. Wagner said the committee met and reviewed the statements and had questions answered. Mr. Karpinski made a motion that seconded by Mrs. Mazzella to accept the Financial Statements for the month of January 2022. Mr. Karpinski said the questions were answered. The motion passed unanimously.

b. February 2022 Financial Statements – Mr. Karpinski made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Mazzella to accept the financial statements for the month of February 2022. Questions were answered in the finance meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

c. March 2022 Financial Statements – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Mazzella, the Board voted unanimously to accept the financial statements for the month of March 2022 as amended.

d. Non-Lapsing Account Priorities – Mrs. Wagner said Board members got the list. Questions were asked that Mrs. Martin answered regarding copiers. There was discussion on copiers. Mrs. Wagner suggested that the Board set their priorities for the list and come back with them in May. Mrs. Wagner reviewed the list. Questions were asked and answered. There was discussion. Mrs. Wagner said we want to leave a balance and not spend the entire thing down. There is about \$200,000 in the account. AppliTrack will be added to that for just one year. There was discussion. Questions were asked about the need for playground enrichment that Dr. Towle-Weicksel answered. There was further discussion. The Board will look at this list and prioritize the list leaving about \$50,000 in the account. Mrs. Wagner asked the Board to come back with a number in mind to designate for the playground. There was discussion of field irrigation. This will go on the agenda for the first meeting in May.

7. Calendar – Upcoming Meetings – Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. is a special meeting. Sub-committee meetings will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup>. A regular meeting will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

8. Public Comment – Mr. Mastroianni, citizen, was disappointed in the business manager position decision. It sets a precedent for others; it should have been a priority and discussions held ahead of the budget. He had further comment. Mrs. Wagner had comment on the budget timeline. Mr. Mastroianni didn't think their item slated for executive session was an executive session item. Mrs. Wagner talked to CAFE and she said it was allowed. There was discussion. Mr. Mastroianni asked about the elementary school stage lighting; it is not great and he elaborated. Mrs. Wagner said she would add it to the list. Mr. Mastroianni had comment on AV equipment that was part of the building project. He had further explanation on the lighting.

9. Proposed for Executive Session – a. Superintendent Goals/Evaluation Process for 2022-2023 School Year-  
On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Towle Weicksel, the Board voted to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for the Purpose of Superintendent Goals/Evaluation Process for the 2022-2023 School Year.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mrs. Mazzella, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education