

Board of Education Minutes

March 1, 2023

DRAFT

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on March 1, 2023, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mr. Bryan Burdick, Mrs. Stephanie Mastroianni, Mrs. Lisa Mazzella, Mr. Phil Mendolia, Mr. Chet Stefanowicz, Dr. Jamie Towle-Weicksel and Chair Christine Wagner. Also present via Zoom was Mr. Alex Karpinski. Also present were Superintendent Troy Hopkins and Director of Finance Mr. Bill Merrill.

1. **Call to Order**

Mrs. Wagner called the Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. **Public Comments with Students Speaking First ***

None.

4. **Presentations**

4.a. **Presentation of Technology Integration with Woodshop**

Mr. Dave Bradanini presented to the Board regarding Technology and Engineering Education Program. He presented on the current course offerings that are being offered at Wheeler. Mr. Bradanini expressed the need for space to expand the program to be able to provide Materials and Processes and Computer Integrated Manufacturing courses. The program also receives funding from the Carl. D. Perkins Grant V. This funding provides for supplies, professional development and transportation to events. Questions were asked and answered.

5. **Reports**

5.a. **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Hopkins reported on the Invention Convention at the Elementary School. Mrs. Servidio, 4th grade teacher, had seven students who participated in this event and one student, James Olock, was the winner for this contest. Mr. Hopkins thanked the

facilities department for the exceptional clean up from the storm yesterday and preparing the walkways for today. The district had an anonymous person whose generosity paid off \$2,500.00 for the lunch balance. In terms of safety, we will participate with State Troop E, to allow State Trooper access of North Stonington Public School building in the event of an emergency along with four surrounding towns. There was a survey that was sent out to all the staff of the central office and the superintendent's office. This will allow us to collect data. Mr. Hopkins share a video regarding School Board Member Appreciation Month by Miguel Cardona.

5.b. BOE Chairman's Report

Mrs. Wagner shared that she spoke with Mr. Carlson to determine where the building improvements come in. They will meet to discuss the process. She also met with Mr. Fabian, the Director at the Rec Department and discussed the challenges and will meet with Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Turner to develop a centralize calendaring.

6. **Facilities and Finance**

6.a. January Financials approval

Motion to accept the January Financials. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Burdick, Carried.

6.b. Non-Lapsing

There was some discussion regarding Non-Lapsing balance and the items that are being considered to be funded from non-lapsing. The estimated balance on non-lapsing to keep in mind is \$441,514.00.

6.c. 2023-2024 Budget Discussion

Motion to put forward the budget of \$15,288,275.00 approximate increase of 5.2%. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Mendolia, Carried.

Mr. Hopkins shared a presentation regarding the 2023-2024 budget with potential changes. Mrs. Wagner recapped that there is a scheduled Special Meeting on March 8, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. as a hybrid format to go over the non-lapsing and solidify some numbers that will go in that account. Questions were asked and answered.

7. **Policy Votes**

7.a. Policy 5144.4

Motion to approve policy 5144.4 as distributed. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick, Carried.

8. Public Comments*

None.

9. Proposed for Executive Session

- Superintendent's Evaluation Process

Motion to move into Executive Session to review Superintendent's Evaluation Process.

This motion, made by Karpinski and seconded by Stefanowicz, Carried.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Board of Education Special Meeting at 8:12 p.m. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz, Carried.

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