

## Board of Education Minutes

November 8, 2023

### DRAFT

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on November 8, 2023, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Burdick: Present, Karpinski: Present, Main: Present, Mastroianni: Present, Mazzella: Present, Stefanowicz: Present, Towle-Weicksel: Present, Wagner: Present

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Mr. Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **Election of Officers**

Mrs. Wagner thanked the Board for their support during her last term and informed the Board she was not running for an officer position.

Mr. Hopkins explained the process for the election of officers.

3.a. Chairperson - Mrs. Wagner had comments. Mrs. Wagner nominated Mrs.

Mastroianni for the position of Board Chairperson. The Board voted four in favor of appointing Mrs. Mastroianni as Board Chairperson. Those voting in favor were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Main, and Mrs. Mastroianni.

Dr. Towle-Weicksel nominated Mr. Stefanowicz for the position of Board Chairperson. The Board voted in favor of appointing Mr. Stefanowicz for the position of Board Chairperson. Those voting in favor were Mr. Stefanowicz, Mrs. Mazzella, Mr. Burdick, and Dr. Towle-Weicksel. The First round of voting resulted in a tie. Comments were made. Mr. Stefanowicz rescinded his nomination. In the second round of votes, the Board voted five in favor of appointing Mrs. Mastroianni as Board Chairperson. Those voting in favor were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Main, Mrs. Mastroianni and Mrs. Mazzella.

3.b. Vice Chair - Mrs. Wagner nominated Mr. Karpinski for the position of Vice Chairperson. Mr. Karpinski nominated Mr. Stefanowicz for the position of Vice Chairperson. Mr. Stefanowicz declined to accept the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Board voted seven in favor of appointing Mr. Karpinski as Vice Chairperson. Those voting in favor were Mr. Stefanowicz, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Mazzella, Mrs. Mastroianni, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Burdick and Mrs. Main. Mr. Karpinski did not vote.

3.c. Secretary - Mr. Stefanowicz nominated Dr. Towle-Weicksel for the position of Board Secretary. There were no other nominations. The Board voted seven in favor of appointing Dr. Towle-Weicksel as Board Secretary. Those voting in favor were Mr. Stefanowicz, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Mazzella, Mrs. Mastroianni, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Burdick and Mrs. Main. Dr. Towle-Weicksel did not vote.

4. Public Comment

Mrs. Kristen St. Germain thanked Mrs. Wagner for her years of service.

Mr. Brett Mastroianni thanked Mrs. Wagner for her time on the Board.

Mr. Carlson thanked Mrs. Wagner for her service on the Board.

5. Welcome New Member (s)

Mrs. Mastroianni, the Board Chair, welcomed Mrs. Main as a new Board Member.

6. **Presentations**

6.a. Curriculum Updates - Kimberly Haggerty, Curriculum Coordinator presented the Curriculum Updates. The presentation is attached to the original minutes.

7. **Reports**

7.a. Superintendent's Report - Mr. Troy Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools reported. The report is attached to the original minutes.

7.b. BOE Chair's Report - Mrs. Christine Wagner, the immediate past Chairperson, reported meeting with the Board of Finance and discussing several topics.

7.c. Student Ambassador's Report - None.

8. Consent Agenda - None

9. **Old Business**

9.a. 5132 - Dress Code Policy - Motion to approve policy 5132 of the CABA version that was emailed out and as presented at the last meeting packet. This motion, made by

Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Burdick, Carried.

Yea: 8, Nay: 0

9.b. Playground - Mr. Hopkins reported on the playground equipment installed. Questions were asked and answered.

9.c. Before & After Care - Dr. Towle-Weicksel reported on the Before & After Care program is moving forward.

9.d. Field Updates – None

**10. New Business**

10.a. Discussion of Tri-Board topics - Mrs. Mazzella indicated the main focus of the December meeting should be budget discussion. Mr. Burdick agreed, that Budget discussion should be a focus.

**11. Facility and Finance Discussion**

11.a. Review the October Monthly Report - Mr. Alex Karpinski, chairperson of the Finance Committee, reported. The Report is attached to the minutes.

11.b. Non-lapsing Report – The report is attached to the original minutes.

**12. Policy and Advocacy Discussion** - Mr. Stefanowicz, Policy Committee Member, reported that the policies to review are 5111, 5112, and the next ten by-laws.

**13. BOE Comments for Future Agenda Items** - Mr. Burdick, requested consideration of the parent/teacher conference days not conflict with Board meeting dates. Mrs. Mastroianni thanked Christine Wagner for her years of dedication on the Board.

**14. Public Comments** - Mrs. Nicole Porter, North Stonington Selectman, had comments and would like to know about the Eversource issue. She echoed everyone's sentiments about the Board Chair Position. Expressed how proud she is to serve the town of North Stonington with everyone else.

**15. Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Burdick, Carried. Yea: 8, Nay: 0

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