

Board of Education Minutes
September 14, 2022

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the North Stonington Education Center media center.

Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Mazzella, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mrs. Mastroianni, Mr. Stefanowicz and Mr. Burdick. Also present was Mr. Hopkins.

Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

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

On a motion by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Karpinski, the Board voted unanimously to add 10 b. Teacher Negotiation to the agenda.

4. Administrative - On a motion by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mrs. Mazzella the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 10, 2022, as amended regarding the spelling of Bryan Burdick's name.

Correspondence – Mr. Hopkins read a Thank You card from the music teacher to the Board regarding the purchase of xylophones for the music program.

5. Reports – a. Superintendent – Mr. Hopkins reported a successful opening of the school year. A flyer was sent in backpacks and posted on the website regarding the Safe Return to School Plan. A reminder to the board regarding the reading of the Innovator's Mindset, as well as a discussion at the BOE retreat on October 15, 2022. Mr. Hopkins wanted the Board to have a discussion regarding the tuition fees for students who attend from other districts. This topic will be discussed at the Tri-Board meeting on September 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Hopkins additionally reported that there is a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Forum scheduled for September 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the BOE Media Center. Mr. Hopkins proposed to the Board to add a second maintenance position. There was further discussion. Mr. Hopkins additionally proposed to the Board to consider thinking about adding a student BOE member. Further discussion and will develop a process for student selection.

BOE Chairperson Report – Great open House, Mrs. Wagner encourages the board and parents to take advantage of the open houses when they are available. Wheeler High School Class of 2023 has a benefit auction on November 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Calabrese Club. The class of 2024 is having a pancake breakfast at Groton Applebee's for \$10.00. The Tri-Board meeting will be on September 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. There was further discussion. The

STEAP Grant is out and hopefully will hear back at the end of September. Mrs. Wagner will be attending a CABE meeting on parliament procedure. On September 28th the meeting will be a workshop-style meeting – the school admins will be there. Talk about the measurements use and will go over State reports and measurable items. It is worth taking this opportunity to point out that our 8th-grade scores are #1 in the state.

6. New Business – a. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Forum discussion will be held on September 21 at 5:30 p.m.
b. Policy Update – Mr. Stefanowicz reported that all the redundant policies have been removed. A quarterly meeting, at minimum, needs to be set up to go over the recommendations of CABE and to develop a process for updating the policies and the policy book. Further discussion.

7. Facilities and Finance - a. End of Year Budget 2021-2022 – Review of last year’s budget. This year is an off year and we will be able to give some funds back to the town. Mr. Karpinski and Mr. Merrill are looking to streamline the reporting directly from Infinite Vision, if possible, as opposed to the current process of entering data manually. Mr. Karpinski stated that normal operating expenses should not come out of non-lapsing.

On a motion made by Mrs. Mazzella, seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of Chromebooks up to \$25,000 to replace the 9th grade for the one-to-one program.to include being purchased out of the non-lapsing account.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel, the board unanimously voted to approve the financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

b. ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program – On a motion by Mr. Stefanowicz, seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni to approve Mr. Merrill and Mr. Hopkins to be signers of the ED099 for Child Nutrition Program.

8. Calendar – Next BOE meeting as a workshop on September 28th @ 6:30 and on September 19th the Tri-Board meeting; on September 21st @ 5:30 p.m. the Board of Finance meeting; the BOE retreat on October 15th from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

9. Public Comment* - None

10. Proposed for Executive Session – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel, the Board voted unanimously to move into Executive Session.

- a. Contracted benefits for Superintendent
 - b. Teacher Negotiation
- Out of Executive Session

11. Adjournment – On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Irma Wilhelm, Secretary to
The Board of Education