

Board of Education Minutes  
March 23, 2022

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting (in-person) of the North Stonington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the media center of the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Karpinski, Ms. Welborn, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mrs. Mastroianni, and Mr. Stefanowicz. Also present was Mr. Nero (virtual attendance) and Mrs. Martin. Chairperson Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:05 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. 2022-2023 Proposed Education Budget – Mrs. Wagner said we met on Monday and made cuts that were asked of by the Board of Finance. Mr. Karpinski reviewed the items that were reduced from the budget. The reductions totaled \$106,000. Mrs. Wagner explained the reasoning for the reductions made. She said the Board of Finance has received this revised budget.
  - b. Non-Lapsing Account – Mrs. Wagner said we wanted to meet this evening to discuss the non-lapsing account. She explained the history of the non-lapsing account. She said there has been some misunderstanding by the Board of Finance on the non-lapsing account. She had further explanation. Mrs. Martin explained the additional requests for the non-lapsing account. Questions were asked and answered regarding installation of the safety net. There was discussion. Mr. Nero provided further information on the safety net and the backstop. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wagner will reach out to Mr. Carlson about the resources for installation of the safety net. She had further comment. The gate can go on the list. Questions were asked and answered on other items on the list. The curtains at the middle school high school were discussed. The hardware is \$7,500. The playground mulch is in. Dr. Towle-Weicksel spoke of the rubber chips for the playground and the cost. She talked of other items needed to be installed for the playground. If we are installing this netting, we could lump it in with the playground and she explained. Mrs. Wagner clarified that they are looking at \$10,000. There was discussion. Dr. Towle-Weicksel said there are items that we have purchased that have not been installed yet. Mrs. Mastroianni said the permanent blackboard needs to be installed. Mr. Stefanowicz said the teachers have concern about the location and he elaborated. Mrs. Wagner will reach out as well as Mr. Nero and Dr. Towle-Weicksel to see what we can do to remedy the install situation. There was further comment. Mr. Nero gave some history of the condition of those grounds. He said it is a lot better than it was a few years ago. There was further discussion. Dr. Towle-Weicksel wondered if we could tie-in the resurfacing of the parking lot with resurfacing of the basketball court. There was further comment. Dr. Towle-Weicksel asked how many functional printer/copiers are at the elementary school. She commented that there is only one working copier. Mr. Nero said he will check with Mr. Cillino. We have not heard anything on that until this evening. There was further comment. Mr. Karpinski asked if we need to do anything on safety and security. Mr. Nero said the only places we don't have the safety glass are the windows at the Gymnasium where the guidance office is and he elaborated. Mr. Nero had commented on the

number of cameras in the buildings. He had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mrs. Wagner said we have been talking about the irrigation of the fields; it would be approximately \$50,000-\$55,000 for the soccer field and approximately \$90,000 for the baseball field. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Stefanowicz clarified how much we want to bring down the non-lapsing account. Mr. Nero had comment. Mrs. Mastroianni had comment on the non-lapsing account. She commented on the town's undesignated fund line. She doesn't see this as our emergency fund and she elaborated. Mrs. Wagner said we need to prioritize our list, we need to see where we will be at the end of this year's budget, and we need to have an open dialogue with the Board of Finance on our list. She said we need to ask what their interpretation is of this fund. It's not to have them cut the budget and tell us to use that fund. She had further comment. Mr. Karpinski said it was laid out when we went to them and he didn't see the need to go back to them for their interpretation. Board members agreed. Ms. Welborn said she would like to set a target for the fields and had further comment. Mrs. Wagner would like to see an RFP on the soccer field and the baseball field. Mr. Nero had comment on having a pre-bid conference and he explained what that was. An RFP is still being done on the grounds for July 1<sup>st</sup>. There was further discussion. Questions were asked and answered regarding the access gate. Further questions were asked and answered on the safety net and backstop. Mr. Nero had comment on the access gate and how it was not installed as part of the building project. There was discussion on the cost of the safety net. Mrs. Wagner had further comment. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had comment on fencing. Ms. Welborn had comment on the fencing and didn't want it to hinder access to others. There was further comment. Ms. Welborn wanted to do something with the curtains because that is important and said we need to put the list together and what is the lead time and the need time. There was discussion on adding the blacktop to the list. Mr. Nero said it should be a capital expense. Mr. Nero said the elementary school backdrop curtains need to be addressed. That would be a priority. Mr. Nero said at the high school the flame resistance wasn't put on and he elaborated. There was further discussion. Mrs. Wagner reviewed the items on the list. Questions were asked and answered on AppliTrack. There was discussion. The Board agreed that the items Mrs. Wagner listed were okay. There was discussion on prioritizing. She said it's good to put our needs on paper and see where we are. She had further comment. Mrs. Martin clarified the amount for AppliTrack.

5. Calendar – Mrs. Wagner said we need to have a meeting with the new superintendent to set goals. She thought a 60-day and a 12-month set of goals. They were looking at April 30<sup>th</sup> which is a Saturday. Mr. Nero had explanation. The date is tentative. She will let the Board know if the Board of Finance is meeting again. There was comment. Mrs. Martin said she heard from Mrs. St. Germain about the net and had updated cost information.

6. Public Comment – None.

On a motion by Mr. Karpinski, seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to the Board of Education