

NORTH STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

North Stonington Education Center  
298 Norwich-Westerly Road  
North Stonington, CT 06359

*Our Goals: Safe, Valued, Sense of Belonging - Innovative Instruction – Efficient and Transparent Processes*

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

6:30 PM

**Regular Meeting - Hybrid Format**

Via Hybrid Meeting Platform

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86482283156?pwd=enM1eHlUckhRaU83SXJ6eXM1TjByUT09>

Via Telephone: 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 864 8228 3156 - Passcode: 995187

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Public Comment**

*Please be advised that our meeting structure does not allow for two-way dialogue during public comment but the Board uses this information to guide their decision making. Depending on the topic, they may ask the Superintendent or another District employee to follow up with you. Likewise, public comment might lead to a topic being added to a future meeting agenda.*
5. **Presentations**
6. **Administrative**
  - a. Approval of Minutes
    - i. August 9, 2023, Regular Meeting
    - ii. August 23, 2023, Regular Meeting
  - b. Correspondence
7. **Reports**
  - a. Superintendent's Report
  - b. BOE Chairman's Report
  - c. Student Ambassador's Report
8. **Consent Agenda**
9. **Old Business**
  - a. 5132 - Discussion of Dress Code Policy
  - b. 1100 – Communications with the Public
  - c. 1110 – Distribution of Printed Material
  - d. 1110.1 – Communications with the Public – Parent Involvement
  - e. Playground
  - f. Before and After Care
10. **New Business**
11. **Facilities & Finance**
  - a. Accept the September Monthly Report
  - b. Non-lapsing Report
12. **Policy First Read**
  - a. 5111 - Admission / Placement
  - 5112 - Ages of Attendance

13. **Policy Approval**
14. **Calendar**
  - a. 2024 Schedule of Meetings
15. **BOE Comments for Future Agendas**
16. **Public Comment**
17. **Adjournment**

**Board of Education Minutes**  
August 9, 2023

**DRAFT**

A Regular Meeting - Hybrid Format of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on August 9, 2023, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mr. Burdick, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Mastroianni, Mrs. Mazzella, Mr. Stefanowicz, Dr. Towle-Weicksel and Mrs. Wagner. Also present was Superintendent Hopkins.

1. Call to Order

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\*

Motion to add as 5.e. the RFP Proposal made by Mrs. Mazzella and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

Motion to add as 5.d. STEAP Grant update made by Mrs. Mastroianni and seconded by Mrs. Wagner. Carried.

4. Proposed for Executive Meeting

- Recommendation of Director of Student Services Candidate  
Out of Executive Session

5. **Administrative**

5.a. BOE Agendas Structure

Mrs. Wagner indicated that this item had already been discussed during the Special Meeting held prior to this meeting. Mr. Stefanowicz wanted it for the record that what was discussed was that the First Meeting of the month will be a combination focused on policy and advocacy and facilities and finance. The second meeting of the month be the general agenda meeting however both will still be considered regular Board of Ed meetings.

5.b. Follow up on Special Presentation Topics

Mrs. Wagner inquired if everyone had received the information she sent after her meeting with Mr. Hopkins and if it was the information they were looking for.

5.c. BOE Retreat Fall

There was some discussion on having a Fall workshop meeting. Perhaps a November time frame. There was a suggestion to hold off on scheduling until further notice.

5.d. STEAP Grant

Motion to approve up to \$60,000 as a copay to the reimbursement for the STEAP grant for the irrigation project pending STEAP Grant approval made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

There was a discussion regarding the process for the STEAP grant.

5.e. RFP Proposal

Had a proposal that did not approve all three fields and it did not have all the information that the Board wanted therefore, had Tom Irwin revise it. This is to create the RFP for the bidding process. We don't have the expertise to write the specs. This is the proposed contract.

There was a discussion on the writing of the RFP Proposal.

**6. Policy First Review**

6.a. 6153 - Field Trips and Off-Campus Travel - Mr. Stefanowicz indicated that this policy should be looked at by the administration for them to review the alternative language. Suggested eliminating the reference regarding field trips must first be cleared using the Board of Education approved field trip manual from policy 4118.2 policy to avoid confusion, particularly because there is no field trip manual. Further discussion regarding the field trip policy and regulation will need to continue to work on this for Board approval.

6.b. 5132 - Dress and Appearance Policy - There was a discussion of the policy that was provided by Mr. Hopkins to the Board. This policy will be brought back for approval after the admin team has had an opportunity to review it.

6.c. 9000 - BOE Bylaws -Mrs. Wagner indicated that the Bylaws need to be reviewed. Will take a look at them at the first meeting in September.

**7. Committees**

7.a. Before and After School Care -

Motion to approve up to \$1,200.00 from the non-lapsing to be used for the before and after school care program through the rec department. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mrs. Wagner, Carried.

Dr. Towle-Weicksel reported the progress of the work that the Before & After School Committee has been doing to design the program in collaboration with the Parks & Rec Department. Questions were asked and answered.

7.b. Committee Structure

No discussion on this.

8. Public Comment\*

None. Mrs. Wagner wanted to publicly thank the Before and After School Care Committee for all their hard work in putting together the prospective program.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

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

**Board of Education Minutes**  
August 23, 2023

**DRAFT**

A Regular Meeting - Hybrid Format of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on August 23, 2023, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Mastroianni, Mrs. Mazzella, Mrs. Wagner, and Mr. Karpinski. Mr. Burdick joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:47 p.m. Also present, were Mr. Hopkins, Superintendent, Mr. Merrill, Business Manager.

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Dr. Jaime Towle-Weicksel, Stephanie Mastroianni, Lisa Mazzella, Christine Wagner, And Alex Karpinski. Absent: Chet Stefanowicz and Phil Mendolia. Joined via Zoom at 6:47 pm Bryan Burdick

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Public Comment

As a reminder, all BOE members and Central Office staff are not allowed to respond to public comments during the scheduled BOE meeting time. In order to protect privacy, public comments are not to mention the names of any students or staff members or specific issues regarding students or staff members. Comments are limited to 3 minutes and each person can only speak once during each public comment session.

Motion to add 9.a. Before and After Care Review; 9.b. Playground update; 9.c.

Discussion on Agenda Format and 10.a. Board Member Comment. This motion, made by Mrs. Wagner and seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni, Carried.

5. **Presentations**

5.a. Facilities

Presentation by Facilities Director, Randy Rumrill. Will review some items that Facilities has been working on. The soccer field will be ready for the Fall. We are

maintaining the lawns and will start mowing the field twice a week. The lawn is looking rather good. As far as other landscape equipment, we have the storage container and it's working rather well to our benefit so we don't have to go to the bus yard to get the equipment. After we are done with the mowing season, we will swap equipment and bring over the snow equipment and keep it on this side of the building. In the Spring we will swap the equipment once more. Playground, pre-k area, the border near the swings is four feet and they should be six feet. We will be putting new borders approximately six to seven feet away. Spoke to Playground Medic who did the preventive maintenance and check of all the playground equipment and they informed us that everything looks good. Started to lay out woodchips along the cross-country track in the back and on the soccer field. Spoke with the fire Marshall and will be doing the inspection of the schools on Monday, August 28th. Will also inspect the woodshop area and will be open for the first day of school. The guard for the woodshop has been ordered and we also have been doing repairs to get that back up and running. Questions were asked and answered.

**6. Administrative**

6.a. Approval of Minutes - none

6.b. Correspondence - none

**7. Reports**

**7.a. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Hopkins submitted his report ahead of time. Reported on the faculty that has been hired for this coming Fall. We had a donation from Christopher & Sarah Nelson, that has allowed us to add the Anonymous Alert App. In addition, an App can be downloaded. Currently, all administrators are receiving alerts as a safety net. We have now developed a Community Support Hallway and worked with Mr. Bob Carlson, which is housing the Food Pantry and the Giving Closet. This can also be accessed from the outside of the building. We will have a Therapy Dog, Molly. Molly will join the Alternative Ed Program. I will be holding Coffee Chats for the Community. The first one has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 26 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. The convocation will be on August 28th. The Board is welcome, we

will serve breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. and Convocation will start at 8:00 a.m. A draft BOE meeting dates were distributed.

7.a.i. Staffing – included in the Superintendents report

7.a.ii. Goals – reference Superintendent’s report.

**7.b. BOE Chairman's Report**

Mrs. Wagner reported that received the STEAP and got the information in, just in time. We are currently working on the administrators contract which is due for next school year.

9/9 Community conversation @ 9:00 a.m.

CABE Conference on November 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.

**7.c. Student Ambassador's Report** – none.

**8. Consent Agenda** - none

**9. Old Business**

9.a. Before & After Report presented by Dr. Towle- Weicksel gave an update. Met with the Rec Commission. Good discussion and looked into what we wanted to propose. Lot of discussion about how to pay for this director so that we could go ahead and hire one. \$800/per week position. We have received fifteen applicants and we have some great candidates. The committee is asking for an appropriation of \$13K to start the program. Questions were asked and answered.

9.b. Playground Update – Items have been ordered but the items have not arrived yet. Will call and check on the status of the playground equipment.

9.c. Discussion on Agenda Format – It was suggested to add language for public comments. Will help guide the public as to the process. Mrs. Mastroianni had a bit of a reaction to the current language. Proposed to revise the language to reflect a more welcoming language.

**10. New Business**

10.a. Board Member Comment – There was discussion on this item. This will be added as an item prior to Public Comment at every meeting. Mrs. Wagner asked if the Board felt they are receiving enough information. Mrs. Mastroianni thanked that the BOE packet was emailed and posted ahead of time.

**11. Facilities and Finance**



Motion to accept the July financial report. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mrs. Mazzella, Carried.

11.a. Accept monthly report

Mr. Merrill would like to see the Board review and discuss the monthly reports during the first meeting and to have a Committee Meeting, to review it ahead of time and to have enough time to answer questions, ahead of time. More detail at each month. In general, over the summer, the accounting office was busy in the summer. State Report due on September 1st which we report to the State the prior fiscal year. Changes in Payroll, for every teacher, deductions, checking and verifying and making sure that when we get to the first teacher's payroll it is correct. July are all the memberships that happen every year, annual expenses. Quarterly expenses, such as the Worker's Comp Insurance. The school and the Town are on the same insurance policy it's the whole town policy we are on the same liability policy. On the lunch program we still need to keep track of who qualifies, everyone no matter what the status gets a free breakfast, and for lunch, if a student qualifies as free or reduced they receive a free lunch. A family still needs to fill out the application form. Some of the things we have been working on, HR the new handbook has gone out to all employees, when school starts we will do a benefits fair, to update the beneficiary on life insurance, change the beneficiary to their TRB, and personnel files are being updated to look what it is supposed to be. For any major expense, we had one rooftop HVAC unit to fix over the summer. School secretaries had no issues with the ordering to be ready for the school year. Questions were asked and answered.

12. Policy First Read

It was suggested to reword Policy First Read to Policy Handout. The Policy Handout at the second meeting, then discussion at the workshop meeting at the first meeting, and then Policy Approval.

6153 – Policy 6153 will be reviewed in September.

5132 - The dress code policy will also be reviewed in September.

Will also review the bylaws.

13. Policy Approval

14. Calendar

September 11 - Triboard Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

15. Public Comment

My name is John Gatson and I have a question about your statement discussed earlier.

When will you give an answer to a public comment? Mrs. Wagner responded that depends on the basis of the question. The Board will not react to public comment but will address the issue as quickly as possible.

Judy Main – would like to know if the new policy for kindergarten cutoff date, is the exception only for next year or is it for any year moving forward? Mr. Hopkins responded that it seems it's moving forward but it's a process that is yet to be developed.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. This motion, made by Karpinski and seconded by Mastroianni, Carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Irma Wilhelm  
Recording Clerk

## NORTH STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

298 Norwich-Westerly Rd.  
North Stonington, Connecticut  
Board of Education Meeting - October 25, 2023

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Presented by Troy C. Hopkins

*Our Goals: Safe, Valued, Sense of Belonging - Innovative Instruction - Efficient and Transparent Processes*

#### **Staffing**

In the absence of our school counselors, we are utilizing other staff to meet student needs. We are in the process of possibly hiring a long-term substitute and one of our counselors returns mid-November.

Recently a paraprofessional resigned.

#### **Safe, Valued, Sense of Belonging**

I participated in an emergency drill that was required by the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (CT DEMHS) which directed all regional EMD's and municipalities to focus upon a "HAZMAT theme". We identified a need to more clearly describe evacuation routes and procedures from the school buildings in various situations.

Installation of the ticket windows in the vestibules has been scheduled.

We will be refinishing the gym floor at the beginning of November.

#### **Innovative Instruction**

***Please listen!*** - Podcast with Kristen St. Germain, High School Principal of the Year:  
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2258196/13729419>

Principal St. Germain was in Washington D.C., October 19-21, representing Connecticut!

STEAM Career Day at ES! Parents and community members presented STEAM concepts aligned to various careers.

Two Teachers at National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Conference (October 25-28) in Baltimore

LEARN/EASTCONN Superintendent Discussion on Leaders Leading Innovation - I attended a second meeting

Our PDEC Committee will be meeting soon on the guidelines for the new evaluation system

Developing a classroom walkthrough feedback form on innovative instruction for informal classroom visits.

#### **Efficient and Transparent Processes**

We scheduled the infield work on our baseball and softball fields.

Installation of the playground equipment is scheduled.

We are scheduled to meet with Downes Construction, the company who led the building project. We are getting closer to clarifying what warranties are still active. We also touched base with the two previous facilities directors and the architecture company.

We scheduled the upgrade of HVAC software

## DRAFT - BOE Meeting Dates - All Wednesdays

In order to increase efficiency and predictability, the first monthly BOE meeting will focus on a common, set agenda including a presentation on a predetermined special topic. Committees meet between BOE meetings and report out at BOE meetings.

<b>1st meeting - Committee Discussions (Facilities and Finance, Policy and Advocacy)</b>	<b>2nd meeting - Business and Presentations</b>	<b>Topic Presentation for 2nd meeting</b>
	August 23th	Facilities
September 13	September 27	Technology
October 11	October 25	Student Testing Data
Combined with November 8	November 8	Curriculum Updates
Combined with December 13	December 13	Student Activities - Fall
January 10, 2024*	January 24, 2024*	Superintendent's Budget
February 14*	February 28*	Curriculum Proposals/Updates
March 13*	March 27*	Student Activities - Winter
April 3*	April 24*	Special Services
May 8*	May 22*	School Climate/Discipline
June 12*	June 26*	Student Activities - Spring
July 10*	July 24*	Goals Review
August 14*	August 28*	Facilities
September 11*	September 25*	Student Testing Data
October 9*	October 23*	Technology
November 6*	November 20*	Curriculum Updates
Combined with December 11	December 11*	Student Activities - Fall

\*unapproved dates

## **Community Relations**

### **Communications with the Public**

#### **General**

The Board of Education believes it is important to inform the public about school curriculum, programs, and activities so citizens can participate in these programs. Concurrently, the school staff, administration, and Board of Education should be aware of the community's goals and concerns for its children so they may be given consideration in curriculum, program, and activity revisions.

To this end, the Board supports and encourages various means such as publications, press releases, open houses, and other public events to disseminate school district information and to hear from the community.

#### **Administration of the Community Relations Program**

The community relations program shall be a concurrent responsibility of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools shall work with members of the Board of Education to conduct an active and comprehensive informational program throughout the school district.

Staff members shall be kept informed of community relations efforts, and their support and participation in such efforts shall be sought.

#### **News of Board of Education Meetings and Activities**

The Board of Education believes in the widest possible dissemination of news concerning the school and shall cooperate fully with the press, radio, and television to assure that news coverage is complete, balanced, and accurate.

Board minutes shall be available in unapproved form, within 72 hours of a Board meeting excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays; a written record of Board votes shall be available for public inspection in the Superintendent's office within 48 hours of a Board meeting excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. (In determining the time herein, any day on which the Board office is closed shall also be excluded.)

It should be made clear to anyone wishing to review the minutes that they are unofficial until approved by the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[1-13](#) Making of reproductions

[1-14](#) "Certified copy" defined. Evidence.

[1-16](#) Reproductions

[1-17](#) Reproductions to serve purposes of originals

[1-212](#) Copies of public records, fees.

[1-225](#) Meetings of government agencies to be public. Recording of votes. Schedule and agenda of meetings to be filed. Notice of special meetings. Executive sessions.

[10-220](#) Duties of boards of education.

**Policy adopted: June 6, 2007**

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

North Stonington, Connecticut

**1100**

## **Community Relations**

### **Communications with the Public**

The following guidelines shall apply in order to provide official communications to the public:

1. The Superintendent of Schools is to be the prime spokesperson to the public on all matters pertaining to the school system.
2. The Board Chairperson is to be the prime spokesperson to the public on all matters pertaining to the Board. On Board issues that have a minority opinion, Board members are always permitted to express their position publicly to the extent permitted by law. A Board spokesperson will be determined at the biennial election of officers.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[1-13](#) Making of reproductions

[1-14](#) "Certified copy" defined. Evidence.

[1-16](#) Reproductions

[1-17](#) Reproductions to serve purposes of originals

[1-212](#) Copies of public records, fees.

[1-225](#) Meetings of government agencies to be public. Recording of votes. Schedule and agenda of meetings to be filed. Notice of special meetings. Executive sessions.

[10-220](#) Duties of boards of education.

**Regulation approved: June 6, 2007**

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

North Stonington, Connecticut

## **Community Relations**

### **Communications with the Public**

#### **Distribution of Printed Material**

The Board of Education believes it is important to inform the public about school curriculum, programs, and activities so citizens can participate in these programs. Concurrently, the school staff administration, and Board of Education should be aware of the community's goals and concerns for its children so they may be given consideration in curriculum, program, and activity revisions.

The Board encourages public input into the decision making process. To this end, the Board supports and encourages various means such as publications, press releases, open houses, websites and public events to disseminate school district information and to hear from the community.

Community members are encouraged to visit the District's website for information about the district including Board of Education and staff e-mail addresses. This will also provide an opportunity for citizens to offer input into District activities or plans.

The community relations program shall be a concurrent responsibility of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools shall work with members of the Board of Education to conduct an active and comprehensive informational program throughout the school district.

Staff members shall be kept informed of community relations efforts, and their support and participation in such efforts shall be sought.

The Board of Education believes in the widest possible dissemination of news concerning the schools and shall cooperate fully with the press, radio, and television to assure that news coverage is complete, balanced, and accurate.

The Board of Education will place on its agenda any properly signed written communication from a citizen or organization. Appropriate action will then be taken.

Board minutes shall be available in unapproved form, within 7 days of a Board meeting excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays; a written record of Board votes shall be available for public inspection in the Superintendent office within 48 hours of a Board meeting excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. (In determining the time herein, any day on which the Board office is closed shall also be excluded.)

It should be made clear to anyone wishing to review minutes that they are unofficial until approved by the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-220](#) Duties of boards of education

Policy adopted:



## **Community Relations**

### **Communication with the Public**

#### **Parent Involvement**

The Board of Education believes that the education of children is a cooperative effort among the parents, school and community. In this policy the word “parent” also includes guardians and other family members involved in supervising the child’s schooling.

We believe, and research demonstrates, that increased parent involvement improves student achievement. Parent involvement initiatives in the school system will be flexible and creative, promote effective two-way communication, and offer opportunities for all parents to participate. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all district staff.

Further, the Board of Education believes that the administration must take whatever steps are necessary to facilitate a broad variety of opportunities for parents to connect frequently with the school in which their children are enrolled, and with the overall system. Each option should:

1. Encourage strong home-based partnerships;
2. Provide for consistent and effective communication between the parents and school officials;
3. Offer parents ways to assist and encourage their children to do their best;
4. Offer ways parents can support classroom learning activities; and
5. Provide opportunities for parents to have a voice in the planning and decision-making at both the school and district level.

In order to afford all parents opportunities for involvement in the educational process; activities and the scheduling of those activities must take into account the needs of working parents.

The Board endorses the “National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Program” developed by the National PTA as essential for the district’s program to involve parents and families in their child’s education.

The standards, designed to help educators incorporate parents, broadly defined to include all adults who play an important role in a child’s family life, in their child’s learning process are:

#### **Communicating**

1. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.

#### **2. Parenting**

Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

#### **3. Student Learning**

Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.

#### **4. Volunteering**

Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.

#### **5. School Decision Making and Advocacy**

Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

#### **6. Collaboration with Community**

Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families and student learning.

These standards will be used as guidelines to develop meaningful programs at the school and district level as one means to improve student achievement through parent involvement. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop appropriate regulations conducive to achieving a high level of parental involvement in the educational process.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-221\(f\)](#) Boards of Education to prescribe rule(s), policies, and procedures as amended by PA 97-290

**Policy adopted: June 6, 2007**

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

North Stonington, Connecticut

North Stonington Board of Education							
Non-Lapsing Account							
Financial Statement							
Oct-23							
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024							
						Balance Forward	\$281,345.24
Inv Date	Vendor	Description		Invoice #	Debit	Credit	Balance
				FY 23 Total	\$ 127,893.39		\$439,026.27
	Playground Medic	Install Playground equipment	Finished		\$ 6,990.00		\$432,036.27
8/31/2023	Hampden Engineering Corporation	ShotClock and upgrade scoreboard (deposit sent)	Installed	723425	\$ 4,114.50		\$427,921.77
	Rockler Woodworking and Hardware	Equipment for woodshop	Ordered Place with Rockler		\$ 4,783.92		\$423,137.85
	Marucci Contracting	Install New Playground equipment	Equipment delivered being installed		\$ 11,700.00		\$411,437.85
8/29/2023	GameTime	Playground Equipment	Equipment delivered GameTime	PJI-0216813	\$ 33,453.23		\$377,984.62
8/29/2023	GameTime	STEAM Program supplies	Ordered Placed with LEGO Education		\$ 4,312.05		\$373,672.57
	MRF Fence	Install gate for NSES Septic access	Installed after paving project		\$ 1,900.00		\$371,772.57
	New England Stage & Shade	Stage Curtains	Order placed - Install 11/1		\$ 12,000.00		\$359,772.57
Facility Needs	2 BOE match	Pave NSES playground (STEAP grant match)	Repave playground - B&W Paving	AR0001529	\$ 35,600.00		\$324,172.57
							\$324,172.57
							\$324,172.57
				Goal #1: Safe, Valued, and Sense of Belonging			
				Goal #2: Innovative Instruction			
				Goal #3: Transparent and Effective Processes			
Needs	Comments	Item	Description	Goal Alignment	Cost	Approved	Spent/Encumbered
Instructional Needs	1 Reallocated from budget	Innovative Instruction professional development	programs that support Goal #2: Innovative Instruction	2	\$ 28,000.00	Yes	
Instructional Needs	1 Reallocated from budget	Alternative Education Center	renovations, equipment, supplies	1,2,3	\$ 10,000.00	Yes	
Instructional Needs	1 Reallocated from budget	Woodshop	renovations, equipment, supplies to offer course in 2023-24	2	\$ 3,216.08	Yes	\$ 4,783.92
Instructional Needs	1 Reallocated from budget	Equipment for COOP sports	Supplies for COOP sports	1,2	\$ 8,000.00	Yes	
Instructional Needs	1	Playground Upgrades	add addition equipment	1,2	\$ 17,856.77	Yes	\$ 52,143.23
Instructional Needs	1 Reallocated from Town Capital Budget	Field improvements - Soccer/Lax field	Based on Field Study	3	\$ 115,000.00		
Instructional Needs	1 Reallocated from Town Capital Budget	Irrigation System for all WHS fields	Quote from Irwin - waiting for RFP	3	\$ 46,000.00	Yes	
Instructional Needs	1 Reallocated from Town Capital Budget	Field improvements - Baseball/Softball fields	Quote from Diamond Landscapes	3	\$ 37,580.00	Yes	
Facility Needs	2 Quote - Anchor Installation	Roof Repair	Bird damage to NSES	3	\$ 9,366.30		
Safety Needs	4 Applied for state grant	Security Cameras and wiring	add cameras to stairwells and blindspots	1	\$ 38,978.18		
Safety Needs	4 Applied for state grant	Reception windows in vestibules	Replace stationary windows with sliding windows	1,3	\$ 1,500.00	Yes	
Safety Needs	4 Applied for state grant	Bollards (protective barriers)	Place bollards between back parking lot and HS/MS building	1			
					\$ 315,497.33	Page Total	
					\$ 152,152.85	Approved	
					\$ 163,344.48	Estimated	
					\$8,675.24	Combined Total	
		Balance					

## Students

### Admission/Placement

#### Admission

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes the statutory right of children residing in the District to be enrolled in school if residency and age are confirmed. However, homeless students shall not be required to show residency.

District schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of January of any school year. Each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the program and activities of the school system without discrimination on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Students who are classified as homeless under federal law, or an unaccompanied youth, as described in 42 USC 11434a, and therefore do not have a fixed residence, will be admitted pursuant to federal law and policy [5118.1](#).

The parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of age. The parent or person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age.

The parent or person shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The district shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

All resident children under the age of twenty-one who have not obtained a high school diploma are entitled to attend a District school. The parent/guardian of any child who is denied admission to the district's schools, or an unaccompanied minor, a student eighteen years of age or older, a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth who is denied schooling on the basis of residency, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of the laws concerning attendance at school may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Education.

According to Connecticut General Statute [10-76d](#) (b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education. If a special education student is being considered for an exception, the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) will make a recommendation to the administrator in charge of special education.

Each child entering the District schools for the first time must present a birth certificate or offer legal evidence of birth data, as well as proof of a recent physical examination and required immunizations. Other documents that may be accepted as proof of a child's age include, but are not limited to, a photocopy of a birth certificate, earlier school records, state-issued identification document, driver's license or passport, parent's affidavit or unsworn statement as to a child's age, physician's certificate verifying a child's age, or immunization records.

Completion of immunization and health assessment requirements are required prior to a child's attendance in school, but are not considered as pre-requisites for enrolling a child who resides in the District and is of appropriate age to attend school. If the parents or guardians of any children are unable to pay for such immunizations, the expense of such immunizations shall on the recommendation of the Board, be paid by the town. Proof of domicile may also be requested by the Building Principal.

The enrollment process shall be focused on obtaining only the information deemed necessary to establish residency and age. The District shall not request other information as a condition of enrollment or state in its policies or on its websites or otherwise, that other information is required to enroll children. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless child and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. Additional data collection may occur, but it must be completed in such a manner that does not interfere with the enrollment of a child in school.

The District, when determining residency, shall not request documentation of citizenship or immigration status of a child or the child's parents/guardians. The Board believes such documentation is not relevant to establishing residency.

In the establishment of residency, the Board will accept such documentation as, but not limited to, a lease agreement, mortgage document, property tax record, rent receipt, home owners insurance, current utility bill, current proof of government benefits, CT driver's license, automobile registration or insurance. An Affidavit of Residence, properly executed, shall also be acceptable.

In order to determine a child's eligibility for ESL or bilingual programs, parents/guardians of all new students enrolling for the first time and all re-enrolling students who have not previously attended a Connecticut public school must complete a Home Language Survey (HLS) at the time of enrollment. A student may also take a screening exam. The student must be enrolled first before the administration of the assessment. Neither the survey nor the exam are conditions of enrollment.

Any child entering or returning to the District from placement in a juvenile detention school, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement, shall have the educational records of such child provided to the Superintendent of Schools by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Judicial Department. Such information will be shared with the Principal of the school to which the student is assigned. The Principal can disclose them to the staff who teach or care for the child.

The District will immediately enroll any student who transfers from Unified District No. 1 or Unified District No 2. A student transferring from the Unified School Districts who had previously attended school in the local District shall be enrolled in the school such student previously attended, provided such school has the appropriate grade level for the student.

The parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of the school that the district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community.

Children who have attained the age of seventeen and who have terminated enrollment in the district's schools with parental permission as described previously and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless such child seeks readmission to a District school not later than ten days after such termination. In such case the child will be provided school accommodations not later than three days after the requested readmission.

***Note: When a student is enrolling in a new school district or new state charter school, written notification of such enrollment shall be provided to the previous school district or charter school not later than two business days after the student enrolls.***

Children who apply for initial admission to the District's schools by transfer from nonpublic schools or from schools outside the District will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the school Principal. After such observations and evaluations have been completed, the Principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

Children who have attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if they cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

***Note: A school District may not deny enrollment of a child if his/her parent/guardian refuses to provide a social security number. If a District chooses to request such number, the District must inform the individual that the disclosure is voluntary. Further, the District must provide the statutory or other basis for requesting the number and the District must explain how it will use the number.***

(cf. [0521](#) - Nondiscrimination)

(cf. 5112 - Ages of Attendance)

(cf. [5118.1](#) - Homeless Students)

(cf. [5141](#) - Student Health Services)

(cf. [6171](#) - Special Education)

(cf. [6146](#) - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[4-176e](#) to [4-180a](#) Agency hearings

[4-181a](#) Contested cases. Reconsideration. Modifications.

[10-15](#) Towns to maintain schools

[10-15c](#) Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year olds, as amended by PA 97-247

[10-76a](#) - [10-76g](#) re special education

[10-184](#) Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) - as amended by PA 98-243, PA 00-157 and PA 09-6 (September Special Session) and PA 18-15.

[10-186](#) Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board. Readmission, (as amended by PA 19-179)

[10-220h](#) Transfer of student records, as amended.

P.A. [11-115](#) An Act Concerning Juvenile Reentry and Education

P.A. 19-179 An Act Concerning Homeless Students' Access to Education

[10-233a](#) - [10-233f](#) Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils

[10-233c](#) Suspension of pupils

[10-233d](#) Expulsion of pupils

[10-233k](#) Notification of school officials of potentially dangerous students. (as amended by PA 01-176)

[10-261](#) Definitions

State Board of Education Regulations

[10-76a-1](#) General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)

[10-76d-7](#) Admission of student requiring special education (referral)

[10-204a](#) Required immunizations (as amended by PA 98-243)

“Guidance for Connecticut School Districts: Enrollment Process and Practice,” State Department of Education, December 2019.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.

*Plyler vs. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)

**Policy adopted: June 6, 2007**

**Policy replaced: October 28, 2020**

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

North Stonington, Connecticut

## **Students**

### **Ages of Attendance**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute [10-186](#), the Board of Education shall provide education for all persons five years of age and older, having attained age five on or before the first day of January of any school year, and under twenty-two years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school, except as provided in Connecticut General Statutes [10-233c](#) and [10-233d](#). For purposes of establishing the residency of a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in C.G.S. [27-103](#), and who is seeking enrollment in a district school, in which such child is not yet a resident, the Board shall accept the military orders directing such member to Connecticut or any other documents from the armed forces indicating the transfer of such member to Connecticut as proof of residency in the District.

Additionally, according to Connecticut General Statute [10-76d](#) (b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education.

Parents and those who have the control of children five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age, are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the district in which such child resides, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. Students under age eighteen are subject to mandatory attendance laws unless they are at least seventeen and their parent/guardian, or other person having control of the child, consents to such child's removal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor, or school administrator of the school that this district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities options available in the school system and in the community.

The parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of age. The parent or person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age.

The above requirements are not to serve as barriers to immediate enrollment of students, designated as homeless or foster children as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the ESSA. The District shall work with the local child welfare agency, the school last attended, or other relevant agencies to obtain necessary enrollment documentation.

The parent/guardian of any child who is denied admission to the district's schools, or an unaccompanied minor, a student eighteen years of age or older, a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth who is denied schooling on the basis of residency, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of the laws concerning attendance at school may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Education.



The parent or person shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The district shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

A child who has attained the age of seventeen and who has voluntarily terminated enrollment with parental consent in the district's schools and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless such child seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) schooldays after such termination in which case the Board shall provide school accommodations to such child not later than three school days after such child seeks readmission.

A child who has attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if he/she cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

(cf. [5111](#) - Admission/Placement)

(cf. [5118.1](#) - Homeless Students)

(cf. 5118.3 - Children in Foster Care)

(cf. [5112](#) - Ages of Attendance)

(cf. [6146](#) - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[4-176e](#) to [4-180a](#) Agency hearings

[4-181a](#) Contested cases. Reconsideration. Modifications.

[10-15](#) Towns to maintain schools

[10-15c](#) Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds

[10-76a](#) - [10-76g](#) re special education

[10-184](#) Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) as amended by PA-98-243, PA 00-157, PA 09-6 (September Special Session) and PA 18-15

[10-186](#) Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. (as amended by P.A. 19-179)

Appeals to State Board. Establishment of hearing board

[10-233a](#) - [10-233f](#) Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of students

[10-233c](#) Suspension of students

[10-233d](#) Expulsion of pupils

State Board of Education Regulations

[10-76a-1](#) General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)

P.A. 19-179 An Act Concerning Homeless Students' Access to Education

P.A. 21-86 An Act Concerning the Enrollment of Children of Members of the Armed Forces in Public Schools and the Establishment of a Purple Star School Program

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (PL 107-110 Sec. 1032) 42 U.S.C. §11431-11435, as amended by the ESSA, P.L. 114-95

Federal Register: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children & Youths Program, Vol. 81 No. 52, 3/17/2016

**Policy adopted:**

2024 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

TO: NORTH STONINGTON TOWN CLERK

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, SECTION 1-21, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

(Name of Board of Commission)

DURING 2023, MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

JANUARY 10, 24 6:30 p.m. JULY 10, 24 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14, 28 6:30 p.m. AUGUST 14, 28 6:30 p.m.

MARCH 13, 27 6:30 p.m. SEPTEMBER 11, 25 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 3, 24 6:30 p.m. OCTOBER 9, 23 6:30 p.m.

MAY 8, 22 6:30 p.m. NOVEMBER 6, 20 6:30 p.m.

JUNE 12, 26 6:30 p.m. DECEMBER 11 6:30 p.m.

ABOVE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT see above for times AT THE

North Stonington Education Center Media Center, 298 Norwich-Westerly Rd. IN NORTH STONINGTON.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_ SEC'Y

NOTICE:

Chairman and Secretary of all administrative and executive boards, commissions, agencies, bureaus, or other bodies must file with the Town Clerk not later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year a schedule of the Regular Meetings of such bodies for the ensuing year, and no such meeting may be held sooner than thirty (30) days after the schedule has been filed. Thus, it is imperative that the Chairman and Secretary of these respective bodies file with the Town Clerk not later than thirty (30) days before the first regularly scheduled meeting in 2024.