

Board of Education Minutes

April 26, 2023

DRAFT

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on April 26, 2023, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mr. Burdick, Mr. Karpinski at 7:38 p.m. Alex lost connection, Mrs. Mastroianni, Mrs. Mazzella, Mr. Stefanowicz, Dr. Towle-Weicksel and Mrs. Wagner. Also present were Superintendent Hopkins, Jon Anderson, and Maddison Wagner Student Ambassadors.

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Wagner called the meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to add a vote for CBA Paraprofessional/Custodian contract as agenda item number 10. Motion made by Mrs. Mastroianni and seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel. Carried.

Motion to add Non-Lapsing account discussion to the agenda as 5. b. Motion made by Dr. Towle-Weicksel and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz. Carried

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First*

None.

4. **Reports**

4.a. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Hopkins reported that he and Mrs. Allison Reyes, Assistant Principal at Wheeler attended a School Security Workshop event. He is pleased that we are headed in the right direction by hiring a Social Worker and creating an alternative program. He also reported that the NEASC district accreditation application was submitted. At the beginning of the year, Mr. Hopkins gave all staff a basketball and has scheduled a couple of Zoom meetings to follow up on this. There is a scheduled event on May 17th at 3:30 p.m. called "I took this throw". This is an opportunity to share what the staff

did differently this year. The second one is on May 31st @ 3:30 called “My Next Throw” to brainstorm and share ideas on Innovative Instruction for next year. An RFP for a maintenance shed was posted today. We submitted the Security Grant which is a reimbursable grant to request funding for ballistic film for windows, cameras, and fencing for the elementary school playground, reception windows, and bollards. The last item is that Mrs. St. Germain has been nominated as the Principal of the Year for 2023 and will have some recognition in the fall. Questions were asked and answered.

4.b. BOE Chairman's Report

Mrs. Wagner reported that the budget is moving forward and there is a Town Meeting on May 1st. We want to schedule a Board of Ed workshop maybe for the July meeting may have only one meeting either on July 12 or 26. Probably on July 26th. We will make that a workshop. On the calendar for June, we have two 7 & 21 but the 21st is tentatively graduation. Perhaps we could have our meeting on June 7th.

4.c. Student Ambassador's Report

Student Ambassador Jon Anderson reported on events at Wheeler MS/HS. NEASC application has been submitted. Seniors are working very hard on Capstone Projects. Pathway students have completed sixty hours of internships. Lots of End of Year activities. On 4/27 - Art Show @ 6:00 p.m. May 12 & 14 The Wheeler Drama, A Little Mermaid. On May 22 Chorus Concert @ 6:30 p.m. May 24th Wheeler Wellness Day May 24 also have a Band concert @ 6:30 p.m. ASBAC and NGSS and AP testing are beginning this month. National decision day is May 1st. For students who are planning to attend a college, such as UMASS, or New England Tech. Spring sports are underway Coop - boys Lacrosse, tennis, and outdoor track. The ECC diversity meeting in May is to plan next year's initiative. For school improvement work, the end of the year means that Wheeler admin will continue to gather data.

Ms. Maddison Wagner reported to the elementary school - Willi Wonka Junior's play was very well attended. Mrs. Gonzalez did a great job. Approximately 80 kids participated. 3rd Grade worked with Carol Glenn to put on a performance on the history of Connecticut. 3rd grade also worked on a wax museum and were able to make autobiographies of famous people. 5th Grade worked on pipefitting and made a

periscope. 6th grade went on a field trip to a farm. The Day of Awesomeness is coming Friday sponsored by the PTO.

5. **Old Business**

5.a. Grounds Study

Questions were asked and answered. The overall picture is that we are in desperate need to do something with the fields. We have several options and this company will put out the RFP for this. We have money in the Operating budget - to do the annual regular maintenance. We can invite Mr. Merrill and Mr. Rumrill to present what they have done and what the proposal entails. Next steps - Moving forward, we can continue with the RFP for all the fields. Questions were asked and answered.

Motion to move forward on an RFP for the lesser of the two options on the set of fields and irrigation made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

5. b. Non-Lapsing Account Discussion

We are talking about a big expenditure on the grounds; but maybe we can talk about items such as lighting for the elementary school. On April 6th there was an email from Mrs. Gonzalez for \$2,804.71. The process is that staff brings the needs to the principal and then to Superintendent. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Stefanowicz mentioned the Board needs to discuss the playground needs. By the first Board meeting in May, we will have a better estimation of the operating budget balance. Will make time for a discussion on the budget and grounds study at the next meeting.

6. **New Business**

6.a. Approval for Graduation Date of June 21, 2023

Motion to approve June 21, 2023 Graduation date for Wheeler High school made by Mr. Burdick and seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel. Carried.

6.b. Approval of Plaque for Eagle Scout Project (David Levanto)

Motion to approve the plaque for the Eagle Scout Project made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

6.c. Air Quality Study

Would like to do an Air Quality Study for this building for the alternate program. The classrooms that we will be using. Questions were asked and answered.

6.d. Alternative Educational Program

Mr. Hopkins reported that Mrs. Mullane is developing a brochure for the alternative program. The program will mirror the schedule of the high school. We are really excited about it and we will have applications to gain entry into the program and it will be a formalized program. We will add a vocational piece and partner with local business to develop marketable skills.

6.e. Transportation Study

Mrs. Wagner noted that would like to start developing the transportation study. Mrs. Wagner is looking to volunteer with this – Dr. Towle-Weicksel and Mr. Burdick will work on this project.

7. Policy Review - First Read

Mr. Stefanowicz pointed out the two updated policies from CAFE and 5125 and 6162.51 a couple of different mandated adjustments that we need to make. Mr. Stefanowicz and Mrs. Mazzella will look at this and the third - is a bylaw regarding Student Representative on the BOE. Mr. Hopkins shared the new language for policies 6142 and 6000 from Goal 2 – Innovative Instruction.

8. Public Comment*

None.

9. Proposed for Executive Session

- CBA for Paraprofessional/Custodians Contract

Motion to move into Executive Session made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

Motion to approve the CBA for the Custodians and Paraprofessionals. This motion, made by Mr. Burdick and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz, Carried.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. This motion, made by Mrs. Mastroianni and seconded by Burdick, Carried.

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