

Board of Education Minutes

September 28, 2022

DRAFT

A Regular meeting of the North Stonington Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on Wednesday, September 28, 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, Mr. Stefanowicz and Mr. Burdick and Mrs. Mastroianni Also present was Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Merrill.

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 on Agenda Items with Students Speaking First* - none

4. Reports - a. Mr. Hopkins reported on a new program, the Gift of Mobility, which refurbishes motorized wheelchairs. This is a good fit for our district and we are looking at implementing this program. Mr. Hopkins informed that the SEL forum was presented by Alison Mullane and there were a number of parents present. He also informed that this year, the Business Manager will be working on a zero based budget. Mr. Hopkins presented an idea from the PTO for a fundraising idea – Planet Aid clothing collection. There will be bins placed for clothing drop off. There were comments and questions were answered. The district will be donating approximately eight computers to a local religious organization. There were questions and they were answered. There was discussion regarding the idea of having a student who can join the Board of Education as a BOE member. Possibly two students, one junior and one senior. There will be an application process and a selection committee. Mr. Hopkins mentioned that there will be a meeting to look into a NEASC accreditation for the elementary school so that the district will be accredited. Mr. Hopkins also indicated that there has been some challenges with transportation. We are collaborating with the Senior Center to use their driver and bus to also use for athletic trips. Further comments were made.

b. BOE Chairperson's report – Mrs. Wagner indicated that she attend a parliament procedure at CABE. It was an interested webinar. There was a Tri-Board meeting last Monday and the town was approved for the STEAP grant, there is the next step that the town will take and then notify us when it will start. Mrs. Wagner met with Mr. Hopkins to discuss a new format for the budget for next year.

5. New Business - Travel Presentation by Marybeth Tavares – Thank you for having me again. Currently have 24 very excited students who have made their deposit for the trip to Bermuda. Tonight I am back to ask for another trip, which is academic based. Six to eight students who will be participating in this trip to London to immerse themselves in the Shakespearean world. Will tour Stratford-upon-Avon, which is the birthplace of Shakespeare. The price per students is \$1,250.00. Will also see two performances at the Globe Theater. Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and tour of the Globe and a few others. The students are very excited.

On a motion by Mr. Stefanowski, second by Mr. Burdick, the Board voted unanimously to approve the trip to London from February 16 returning on February 21, 2022.

6. Student Success - a. Administrator's Report – Standardized Test Scores – Mr. Cillino presented the Smarter Balance achievement data at the elementary school. Mr. Cillino, presented Grade 3 is at 53%, certainly not where we wanted to be. For the Grade 3 – Math, the district ranked at 76%, this brought the district to second in the state. For Grade 4 ELA and Math, the district was at 79% and 82% respectively. For Grade 5, ELA, Math and Science, scores were at 69%, 55% and 62% respectively. Questions were asked and answered.

Mrs. St. Germain, presented on the Wheeler student achievement data. Wheeler is well above the state average. Science scores, the district is first in the State. SAT scores are very high at 85.7. Mrs. St. Germain praised on how proud they should be about their teachers, who have worked so hard even during the pandemic. Mrs. Reyes, notes that the comparison the 2021-2022 and 2020-2021 school year supported twenty-five students in math intervention in tier 2 and Tier 3. In terms of Reading intervention there were fifteen students were supports in Tier 2 and Tier 3. The overall AP data from last year, the data shows how well individually students did. This year is a large number of AP scholars. There is one student Ben Nave is a semi-finalist and contender for national Merit Scholarship. Further comments were made.

b. Strategic Plan for Future Goals – Mr. Hopkins thanked the administrators for their presentation and what a great job they are doing. Mr. Hopkins distributed a summary of his entry Plan which was presented to the BOE during the summer when he came on board. He summarized his actions, strengths and challenges thus far. All of these point tie into the Goals of the Strategic Plan to Future goals. Goal #1 – safe, valued, and sense of belonging. Goal #2 – Innovative Instruction. Goal #3 – Transparent and Efficient and Goal #4 – NEASC Accreditation. All these goals are future goals which will align to past goals. There were questions asked and answered.

7. Facilities and Finance - a. Maintenance Position – Mr. Hopkins explained the recent review of the maintenance and grounds position for the remainder of this school year. Proposing one position for the remainder of the year which will combine the grounds and the maintenance position. Mrs. Wagner noted that to be clear – we are not adding a position, we are restructuring the position.

On a motion by Mr. Stefanowski, seconded by Mr. Burdick the Board unanimously voted to restructure the maintenance position as soon as possible to hire and pending the MOU.

8. Public Comment* - none

9. Adjournment - On a motion by Dr. Towle-Weicksel, second by Mr. Karpinski the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irma Wilhelm, Secretary to the Board of Education

