

**Board of Education Minutes**  
February 8, 2023

**DRAFT**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on February 8, 2023, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mr. Bryan Burdick, Mr. Alex Karpinski, Mrs. Stephanie Mastroianni, Mrs. Lisa Mazzella, Mr. Phil Mendolia, Mr. Chet Stefanowicz, Mrs. Christine Wagner and via zoom Dr. Jamie Towle-Weicksel. Also present were Superintendent Troy Hopkins, Director of Finance, Bill Merrill, North Stonington Elementary School Principal Rob Cillino, Wheeler High School Principal, Kristen St. Germain, Wheeler High School Assistant Principal Allison Reyes and Director of Student Services Alison Mullane.

1. **Call to Order** - Mrs. Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Pledge of allegiance was recited.
3. **Public Comment\*** - No public comments.
4. **Administrative**

On a motion to add as 7.b. consideration of policies to review, 5141.8 and 4118.237, 5145.511, 5144.4, 5145.53, and 6140. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Karpinski, Carried.

4.a. **Approval of Minutes**

4.a.i. December 14, 2022

On a motion to approve the December 14, 2022 minutes. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz, Carried. One abstention.

4.a.ii. January 11, 2023

On a motion to approve the January 11, 2023 minutes. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz, Carried. It has been moved and seconded to amend to add the words at the end of item 4.e. "I too represent the entire community." Said by Mrs. Mazzella.

4.a.iii. January 25, 2023

On a motion to approve the January 25, 2023 minutes. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz, Carried.

## 5. Reports

### 5.a. Student Ambassador's Report

Jon Anderson, BOE Student Member reported on a few events at Wheeler High School. March 10<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Planning is underway. Admin bringing in Maureen Sigler to work with staff on instructional practices that makes classrooms inclusive for all. Wheeler High School inducted students into the National Honor Society (NHS). Wheeler hosted diversity council student athletes and teachers to help plan the workshop they are running at the CAS Administrator's retreat on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The purpose is to help other administrators encourage inclusivity amongst students.

Mr. Anderson continued his report on the Elementary School that 6th graders have started the DARE program with the moto of "Keeping it REAL". **R**efuse, **E**xplain, **A**void, and **L**eave. There was a Schoolwide spelling B and the winner Cory Welsh will be going to States in March.

February 10<sup>th</sup> is the 100th day.

February 16<sup>th</sup> is the Invention Convention where fourteen students will be showing off the inventions they created to Mrs. Servidio.

February 22<sup>nd</sup> is Bus driver appreciation day.

February 17<sup>th</sup> there is a Big Lux Performance districtwide where a violinist will be playing.

March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> is the Willy Wonka Play production.

April 19<sup>th</sup> is the Kindergarten registration.

### 5.b. Superintendent's Report

We should be proud for what's already happening in our schools. The Members were provided with a manila folder with the Curriculum Coordinator position proposal in addition to the timeline. This information is a draft, but the district has a plan. Questions were asked and answered.

### 5.c. BOE Chairman's Report

Chairman Wagner reports that she has spoken with Mr. Carlson and Christine Dias regarding the STEAP grant. The town is in the process of putting together the RFP and going out to bid. Our audit presentation will be on February 15th. We will need to put a Policy and Procedures Manual, which will be completed by the Central Office. Having one of these would have been extremely helpful during the staff transition over the summer.

We continue to work consistently with the Town to do monthly reconciliations. CABE's event on The Board's Role in communications and Evaluations is tomorrow and Mrs. Mastroianni and I will be attending. The Superintendent's Evaluation, we will not be doing an Executive Session tonight. If there is any feedback from the members, please send an email to Mrs. Wagner. Mrs. Wagner and Mr. Karpinski will take a look and then meet with Mr. Hopkins to go over the process. The Governor just release a Grant regarding safety. We will be looking at that and perhaps be able to fund some of the items that were determined during the safety review. I have Policy 5118 and would like to review at the next meeting. Gave everyone information on House Bill 5283 - Education Cost sharing formulas, it shows what the impact to North Stonington it will be. By the year 2025 the ECS money would be at least twelve thousand dollars for the town.

#### **5.d. Committee Chairs**

Goal 1 - Safe Valued and Sense of Belonging, met last Wednesday about - we discussed the bullying prevention policy. Did not schedule a new meeting as we will focus on budget. Goal 2 – Innovative Instruction, discussed policies and what already embodies innovative instruction. Will continue to highlight policies that can integrate innovative instruction. Will wait until after the budget to meet again.

Goal 3 – Transparent and Efficient will meet on February 22nd @ 5:30 p.m. will be evaluating where we are with the budget process.

Mrs. Wagner indicated that the Finance Committee will meet on February 21 at 6:00 p.m. FB Live will be rescheduled until after the 22nd.

#### **6. Facilities and Finance**

6.a. Accept December Financials - Motion to approve the December 2022 financials. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz, Carried.

6.b. Presenting January Financials - Mr. Merrill presented January's financials. Questions were asked and answered.

6.c. Budget 2023-2024 – Mr. Hopkins presented a draft of the proposed Budget for 2023-204 school year. Questions were asked and answered.

#### **7. Policy First Review**

7.a. 5131.912 Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy - during the G1 committee meeting this policy was reviewed and noted the language was outdated. However, last fall it was

voted to be replaced. At this point it is a moot point because it's been completed and posted on the website.

7.b. 5141.8 and 4118.237 – already a policy that was removed that required masking in school. Propose to delete as being repetitive. Move to delete 5141.8 and 4118.237 as being repetitive. This motion made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mrs. Wagner. Carried.

5145.511 – Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program. Straightforward language change from CABE simply to match the new language of the new mandated policy. Motion to update language made by Mrs. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

5144.4 – Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students - this is a first read. In the policy it says there is a minimum amount of time to take away from recess time for punishment. The Board needs to review and will act at another meeting.

5145.53 – Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Youth. This is a first read – The Board needs to look at. Will act at another meeting.

6140 – policy was not distributed will send out for another meeting.

0523 – Equity and Diversity – this was reviewed at the G1 subcommittee – Safe, Valued and sense of belonging. Currently labeled Equity and Diversity and we need to change it to the modern language to include DEI as an acronym – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In section B.6 to match our Goal. Motion to adopt new language to include DEI and to adjust section B sub 6. Motion made by Mrs. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

8. **Public Comment\*** - No public comments.

9. **Personnel**

9.a. Proposed for Executive Session - Informal Superintendent's Evaluation -

This item was tabled as proposed in Chairman's report will follow process described above.

10. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

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