

**Board of Education Minutes**  
May 10, 2023

**DRAFT**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on May 10, 2023, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mr. Burdick, Mr. Stefanowicz, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Mazzella joined in person at 6:45 p.m. Present virtually were Mr. Mendolia. Mrs. Mastroianni joined virtually at 7:10 p.m. and joined in person at 7:29 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Hopkins, and Facilities Director, Randy Rumrill. Mrs. Sheri Tardiff and Mrs. Jane Servidio joined the meeting virtually and Mr. Brett Mastroianni joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. Public Comment\*

None.

4. **Presentations**

4.a. Grounds Study by Tom Irwin Advisors, Inc. Ian Lacy, Lead Project Advisor

Mrs. Wagner introduced Mr. Ian Lacy from Tom Irwin Advisors. We were contacted by Bill in the Fall and we walked the fields. We suggested that the best way forward was to do an analysis of the fields. We looked at the soils, grasses, and levels gradients on the fields, infield, and outfields of the softball and baseball areas. Bill pointed out during our initial walk around that the field gets very wet in the winter or early spring and usually whenever it rains. In most soils that we're looking for is for that water soaking or incorporated as we call it and then how it moves down towards the soil. We're looking for something around an inch to two inches an hour upwards is what we would classify as reasonably good free-draining soil. Unfortunately, we didn't see that with the soil, it was very slow draining. When we pull all that information together, that helps us understand the route to move forward. Recommendations, what is the

level of usage? What you are capable of maintaining. In most instances, we want longevity. We are also looking at balance. Equally, we leave you with fields that you can maintain. We always put a couple of options, one is more sympathetic to your budget but would still guarantee lots of years of usage. In our recommendation, we look at things differently. Are we going to help you rebuild the field or are we looking at what we call surface rehabilitation? That's why we take a field that isn't performing well for a number of reasons that we found in our study and then help rehabilitate it. It's an aggressive approach and you will lose field usage for approximately 10-12 weeks. One caveat to all of this is that you have the ability to irrigate the fields and the installation of an irrigation system is almost essential. We always use an irrigation system in an emergency. We don't have to do all the fields at the same time, the irrigation can be installed piece by piece as well. At least we would know that we have the irrigation that we need. Questions were asked and answered.

## **5. Administrative**

### **5.a. Approval of Minutes**

5.a.i. February 8, 2023

5.a.ii. February 22, 2023

5.a.iii. March 1, 2023

5.a.iv. March 8, 2023

5.a.v. March 13, 2023

5.a.vi. March 22, 2023

5.a.vii. April 3, 2023

5.a.viii. April 26, 2023

Motion to approve February 8, February 22, March 1, March 8, March 12, March 22, April 3, and April 26, 2022 by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

## **6. Reports**

### **6.a. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Hopkins reported that the State Department of Education has a list of mandated reading programs K-3 and seven that have been identified. You must pick one of these

programs and implement it or waive that you will be doing something else. We responded that we need one more year. However, due to the good work from Mr. Cillino, they have identified the program that they want. Houghton Mifflin, K-5. We have received a quote from the company but would like to have Mr. Cillino and his team present to the Board.

6.b. BOE Chairman's Report

We talked about transportation study and we will meet in a couple of weeks and will have more on that. Mrs. Wagner spoke with Selectman Mr. Carlson regarding the sheds and they are owned and used by the fire department and not available to move. The referendum is on the 15<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Hopkins will send out a reminder on Friday evening and Monday morning for people to remember that polls are open.

**7. Facilities and Finance**

7.a. Present February, March, and April Finance Reports

We would like to see an anticipated line on the report. If we are having some savings would like to see. He is anticipating that we will have about 30-50 left.

7.b. End-of-Year Projection

Salaries will be spent, even though it shows 33% but there is a balloon payment at the end of the year. Any questions send them to Bill and carbon copy Mrs. Wagner and Mr. Karpinski.

7.c. Non-Lapsing Discussion

Dr. Towle-Weicksel Updates on the playground – did a walk around with Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Cillino and have highlighted some of the areas that potentially could use more equipment. Dr. Towle-Weicksel has spent some time researching Game Time and currently has a grant funding opportunity. Essentially you have to apply for this program and they will give you a discounted rate. Currently, they have this inclusive playground equipment funding match. Some items are 40-45% off. They will do up to \$25,000. For the Pre-K - K we are in desperate need there. Facilities will need to be involved. We should fix what was installed incorrectly. We need to do some research as to who installed it and what needs to be done - the inclusive funding expires on June 30th. We have some options on how much we need to spend. A rough estimate of about

\$60,000 from the Board. There is 60-75K. Mrs. Mazzella will help Dr. Towle-Weicksel.

The storage shed's RFP has received no bids. Will have to request some quotes for that, concrete slabs and the electrical can be requested later. The Operating Budget will purchase the security cameras and will be reimbursed from the Security Grant will be reimbursed. Will get an update on the Non-lapsing.

## 8. Policy Review

### 8.a. 6142 - Basic Instructional Program

Motion to approve 6142 and 6000 as presented adopting the language as proposed.

This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick, Carried.

Mrs. Wagner: Abstain.

### 8.b. 6000 - Concept and Roles in Instruction

Motion to approve 6142 and 6000 as presented adopting the language as proposed.

This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick, Carried.

Mrs. Wagner: Abstain.

### 8.c. 5125 - Student Records; Confidentiality

Motion to approve policy 5125, the second version. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick, Carried.

### 8.d. 6162 - Surveys of Students

Motion to approve policy 6162.51 as the more concise version of the previous sample offered as an alternative policy. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick, Carried.

### 8.e. 9160 - Student Representatives on the Board of Education

Would like to table this policy and revisit this at the moment is not necessary and the policy is too stringent.

## 9. Proposed for Executive Session

Motion to amend 9 to add Contract negotiation by Mr. Burdick and seconded by Mrs. Mazzella.

Motion to go into Executive session made by Dr. Towle-Weicksel and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

- Superintendent Evaluation

Out of Executive Session

Motion to move out of Executive Session made by Mr. Burdick and seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni. Carried

10. Public Comment\*

11. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. by Mrs. Mastroianni and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

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