

**Board of Education Minutes**  
March 29, 2023

**DRAFT**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on March 29, 2023, beginning at 5:45 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mr. Burdick, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Mastroianni, Mrs. Mazzella, Mr. Mendolia virtual, Mr. Stefanowicz, Dr. Towle-Weicksel. Also present were Superintendent Hopkins and Business Manager Bill Merrill.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Karpinski called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **Facilities and Finance**

3.a. Review of the 2023-2024 Educational Budget

Mrs. Wagner reported that the Board of Finance (BOF) has asked to cut a total of \$320,000 between the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the Board of Education (BOE). Mrs. Wagner spoke with Mr. Carlson and the BOS was able to cut \$155,000 (one hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars) and they were able to find \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) in revenue. That leaves \$150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand dollars) for the BOE to cut. Mr. Hopkins reported that the best answer at the moment would be not to renew a Math Interventionist position at Wheeler High School and instead hire a Social Worker. A music teacher resigned and will replace that with a half-time position, however, given what Christine just said we may have the Selectmen save the music program. We would cut bus runs from 13 to 12. Will move two elementary paraprofessionals to the ESSER III grant. With all of those cuts, we came up with approximately \$200,000 (two hundred thousand). If the Selectmen is finding an additional \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) and is able to allocate it to the Board, we could hire a full-time music teacher and not cut a full run and cut half a bus run. By doing this it hurts because we do not have a math intervention, we won't have the instrumental music instruction. More kids riding on a bus and potentially more students

and longer bus runs. In addition, we are moving the Paraprofessionals to the ESSER III grant and less money to run regular ed summer school and less money to run an after-school homework club, and less money to potentially offer any after-school program at the elementary school. Impact on this, however, by taking that impact, we are able to get priority things like the social worker and the two paras, and next year they will need to go into the budget next year. The following are the savings - Math Interventionist - \$57,480; Band - 0.5 is \$22,349; Bus run \$60,060; Paraprofessional - \$60,131 Total - \$200,020. Questions were asked and answered.

3.b. Non-Lapsing

Agenda item tabled.

4. Policy Votes

Motion to adjust policy 4117.4 to change the date from April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mrs. Mazzella. Carried.

5. Public Comments\*

None

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Burdick. Carried.

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