



**Town of North Stonington
Tri-Board Meeting: BOE, BOS, & BOF
North Stonington Education Center
December 12, 2022
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order - (Meeting Chairman: Christine Wagner) Call to order at 6:03 p.m.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 3. Roll Call/Self Introductions:** Chairman Christine Wagner, Vice-Chairman Alex Karpinski, Chet Stefanowicz, Lisa Mazzella, Jamie Towle-Weicksel, Stephanie Mastroianni, and Bryan Burdick were all in attendance from the Board of Education. First Selectman Bob Carlson, Selectman Nicole Porter, and Selectman Brett Mastroianni were all in attendance from the Board of Selectmen. Vice-Chairman Michael Anderson, Garry Annino, Carl Johnston, Sarah Nelson, Winona Berdine, and Amy Friend were all in attendance from the Board of Finance. Also present were Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias and North Stonington's Superintendent Troy Hopkins.
- 4. *BOE Comments: Chairman Christine Wagner**
 - 4.a. BOE/District Goals**

CABE helped with aligning the three District Goals. The three goals are Goal #1 – Safe, valued, and sense of belonging. Goal #2 – Innovative Instruction and Goal #3 – Transparent and Efficient. We have the next three years to develop them. Mr. Hopkins touched on the three goals. Once these were established the BOE aligned with these goals. Moving forward the district will work to support these goals.
 - 4.b. CIRMA Safety Audit performed**

We had CIRMA come in to do a security audit and we are reviewing their recommendations. Questions were asked and answered.
 - 4.c. Woodshop**

We have heard a lot from students and the community and are looking at bringing the wood shop back. We certainly have many students that will benefit from having a

woodshop to learn some life skills. Not all students want to go to tech schools and they need to have some skills and this will help. We will modernize and include the proper technology to embed with the woodshop. We also have a partnership with Westerly Education Center. Questions were asked and answered. The state is also looking at something above ground because the current tunnel is not ADA-compliant, to be able to cross from the schools to the woodshop. BOE has added two student ambassadors and they report on school events.

4.d. Grounds Position

There has been a change in position and we took the opportunity to reassess. The Grounds position was regularly from March to November and we are not replacing this person, but we are absorbing that position to have someone that will work year-round. We had the opportunity to hire someone and have a second maintenance person. The new Facilities Director is Randy Rumrill.

4.e. Non-Lapsing: Grounds/Athletic Field Study

We have started the discussion about a grounds study. We have been told that we need an irrigation system but we have someone coming to assess the overall need of the grounds for the school district. We have two bids on that study so far.

4.f. Teacher's Contract

We just signed a new teacher's contract and we had some nice language in there. We had two great bargaining attorneys.

4.g. NEASC Accreditation

We are looking at the possibility to do NEASC school-wide. It will allow us to be the first district to be fully district-wide NEASC accredited. It's what defines quality schools. A lot of the curriculum follows the NEASC requirements.

4.h. Department of Education: CAPSS blueprint

CABE & CAPSS convention was attended by Lisa Mazzella and Chairman Wagner. The conference was on the CAPSS blueprint. The reason I want to share is what is happening at the state level and it's hard to understand why we do what we do. CAPSS has put this together about 2 years ago and it's a way to transform our schools. It's a guided list of what we should be doing. This blueprint is fascinating, it has a comprehensive plan. Questions were asked and answered.

4.i. Budget Timeline: meeting updates

We received this today. There are some meeting conflicts in March and June; we will review those dates.

4.j. Tuition Increase

We are looking at a tuition increase. Have already spoken to the superintendents in Preston and Voluntown and they know that we are looking at that. Questions were asked and answered.

4.k. Collaboration strategies between boards

What strategies should we come up with? We would like for BOF and BOS to have a better understanding of the budget now and not two months from now. BOF and BOS can send someone to attend BOE meetings at any time. We discuss the budget every month. Questions were asked and answered.

January 4th is the next BOF - @ 7:00 p.m.

5. *BOS Comments: Bob Carlson -

First Selectman Carlson gave an update on the Tax Relief Committee. He also gave an update on Indian Affairs. He informed the group that the Tax collector Position was filled, and it has been a great fit. The Planning, Development, and Zoning Official Position is still open. Questions were asked and answered.

6. *BOF Comments: The BOF listened to topics brought up by the BOS and BOE, asked questions, and made comments/recommendations.

7. Public Comments: None

8. Future Meeting Strategies

The next meeting June meeting and will be chaired by BOF.

9. Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:12 pm

*Board Comments: Discussion on current initiatives, future plans, and expectations from holding Tri-Board Meetings.

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