



**Town of North Stonington
Tri-Board Meeting: BOS, BOF, & BOE
North Stonington Education Center
September 19, 2022
6:30 PM**

MINUTES

1. **Call to order - (Meeting Chairman: Bob Carlson):** Call to order at 6:32pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call/Self Introductions:** First Selectman Bob Carlson, Selectman Nicole Porter, and Selectman Brett Mastroianni were all in attendance from the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Paul Simonds, Vice-Chairman Michael Anderson, Gary Annino, Carl Johnston, Sarah Nelson, Dan Smith, Winona Berdine, and Amy Friend were all in attendance from the Board of Finance. Chairman Christine Wagner, Stanley Stefanowicz, Jamie Towle-Weicksel, Stephanie Mastroianni, and Bryan Burdick were in attendance from the Board of Education. Members absent from the Board of Education were Vice-Chairman Alex Karpinski, Lisa Mazzella, and Phil Mendolia. Also present were Administration & Finance Officer Christine Dias and North Stonington's Superintendent Troy Hopkins.
4. ***BOS Comments:** The John Dean Gallup House has a new tenant that will generate a yearly income of \$19,000 for the Town. The North Stonington Early Learning Center is a possible tenant for the lower level of the two-story wing at 298 Norwich Westerly Road. The North Stonington Early Learning Center is hoping to have a November start and will pay \$30,000 per year to occupy that space plus utilities. The target completion date of the demolition project for the one-story wing at 298 Norwich Westerly Road is November 1, 2022. The BOS will hold a Community Conversation in the Spring followed by a Town Meeting to determine how the Town would like to repurpose the vacant property after the demolition of the one-story wing. Speed humps were installed in the village during August of this year. The BOS will hold a meeting in the Spring to determine whether to remove, add, or maintain

the speed humps. The BOS voted to form a Tax Relief Committee. The committee will consist of no less than 5 members and will have minority representation. The BOS will advertise for members to the committee and make the appointments. The Tax Relief Committee will have a window of 60 days to meet during which they will work with the Tax Assessor's Office and then act as an advisory to the BOF. The BOF will review the recommendations and then vote to send all, some, or none of those recommendations to the BOS to be added to a future Town Meeting. North Stonington's Administration and Finance Officer, Christine Dias, explained how the STEAP Grant Process works. According to a press release, \$395,603 in state funding has been approved for the North Stonington Milling and Paving Project and the North Stonington Elementary School Parking Lot Project. This will be matched by \$98,901 from the Town. BOE Chairman Wagner clarified that the parking lot project should be reworded to say, "blacktop for children to play on." Selectman Porter stated we could use these Tri-Board meetings in the future to discuss what we want to do for future STEAP grants. Discussion followed. The status of the school closeout was discussed. There is a debt payment of \$1.8 million due to Chelsea Groton Bank on October 21, 2022. Discussion followed on next steps. The BOS and the North Stonington Quarterly editors have decided to not go through with the Pennsylvania company to print the Quarterly. Instead, the Town will be looking for a local company to print the Quarterly. Printing the Quarterly at the school is no longer an option. First Selectman Carlson gave an update on Indian Affairs. There are two vacant positions at Town Hall. The Tax Collector and Planning, Development, and Zoning Official positions will be posted tomorrow.

5. ***BOE Comments:** BOE Chairman Wagner gave updates. There has been a full turnover at the School's Central Office. There has also been significant financial savings from staff's healthcare this year. Chairman Wagner thinks there could potentially be money returning to the Town this year. 18 students from Preston and Voluntown are attending North Stonington schools this year. The 18 students are bringing in \$205,000. More discussion on this topic to follow at a future meeting. Teacher negotiations have just started and the BOE will be having a retreat to go

over their strategic plan on October 15, 2022. There was a discussion on the calculations of savings from solar panels for the school.

6. ***BOF Comments:** The BOF listened to topics brought up by the BOS and BOE, asked questions, and made comments/recommendations.
7. **Open Discussion**
8. **Set day & time for future meetings (Quarterly):** The BOS, BOF, and BOE all agreed to change the start time for future Tri-Board meetings from 6:30pm to 6:00pm. The Tri-Board meetings will be held Quarterly on the second Monday of those designated months.
9. **Public Comments:** None
10. **Next Meeting:** December 12, 2022
11. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 8:23pm by Gary Annino, 2nd by Dan Smith; motion unanimously approved.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ivanna Hugo