



**Town of North Stonington
Tri-Board Meeting: BOS, BOF, & BOE
North Stonington Education Center
September 11, 2023
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

1. Call to order - (Meeting Chairman: Bob Carlson) Call to order at 6:02pm.
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 Selectman. In attendance from the Board of Finance was Chairman Paul Simonds, Vice-Chairman Michael Anderson, Gary Annino, Carl Johnston, and Sarah Nelson. Present from Board of Education was Chairman Christine Wagner, Vice-Chairman Alex Karpinski, Jamie Towle-Weicksel, Lisa Mazzella, Stephanie Mastroianni, Bryan Burick and Superintendent Troy Hopkins. Also present from the Board of Selectman Office was Director of Administration and Finance Christine Dias and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Knight. Chet Stefanowicz from the Board of Education joined the meeting at 6:12pm. Bryan Burdick stepped out at 6:25pm and returned at 6:48pm. Jamie Towle-Weicksel left the meeting at 6:45pm. Members absent from the Board of Finance were Dan Smith, Winona Berdine and Amy Friend. Not in attendance from Board of Education was Phil Mendolia.
4. *BOS Comments: First Selectman Bob Carlson wanted to extend a Thank you to Greg Pont from the North Stonington School District IT Department. He was able to successfully help us with an IT situation that arose at the Town Hall. Also, Jamie Towle-Weicksel and Stephanie Mastroianni of the Board of Education gave an update of the Before and After School Program. Discussion followed.
 - a. Town Financial Update: Shawn Murphy researched and assisted the Town to open a second CD. He also worked with Chelsea Groton Bank to find a way for the Sweep account to earn more interest. The current rate is .08% and the new account interest rate is currently at 2%.

- b.** Demolition Project Update: There is an Executive Session meeting on September 12, 2023 at 6:00pm. The Board of Selectman will report more information after this meeting.
 - c.** Community Conversation Recap: The event was a huge success. There were about 45 people in attendance and provided a lot of input. First Selectman Bob Carlson would like to thank Stephanie Mastroianni and Lisa Mazzella for their help with everything.
 - d.** Capital Project Definition and Long-Range Planning: Board of Selectman asked all groups to put out their five, ten, and twenty-year plans for Capital. The plans are due on October 2, 2023. Board of Finance would like to see the portfolios after the deadline of 10/2/2023. Discussion Followed.
- 5.** *BOE Comments: Superintendent of Schools Troy Hopkins provided information on the use of AI in the schools. He stated as long as it is used correctly it could be used as a tool to increase student learning. The music teacher is going to start using AI as a tool in the classroom. They are also going to be hosting Coffee Chats for the Community on the fourth Tuesday of the month. These events will be from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and take place at the Education Center at 298 Norwich-Westerly Road, across from the schools. First one is on September 26, 2023. Also, the North Stonington School District is seeking a NEASC Accreditation.
- 6.** *BOF Comments: They will be updating their meeting date to after the October 2, 2023 deadline for the Capital Plans. The Board of Education and the Board of Finance are planning a possible meeting date of October 18, 2023. More discussion about the Capital Plan.
- 7.** Approval of Minutes: First Selectman Bob Carlson made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from September 19, 2022, December 12, 2022, and June 26, 2023. Selectman Brett Mastroianni 2nd the motion. Motion approved by the Board of Selectman 3-0-0, by the Board of Finance 5-0-0 and by the Board of Education 6-0-0.
- 8.** Public Comments
- 9.** Next Meeting: December 11, 2023 (BOE Chair & Minutes)

10. Adjournment: Board of Finance Member Gary Annino motioned to adjourn at 7:32pm, 2nd by Board of Finance Member Carl Johnston. Motion unanimously approved.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Knight