

NORTH STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

North Stonington Education Center
298 Norwich-Westerly Road
North Stonington, CT 06359

Our Goals: Safe, Valued, Sense of Belonging - Innovative Instruction – Efficient and Transparent Processes

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

5:30 PM

Special Meeting - Hybrid Format

Via Hybrid Meeting Platform

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651477588?pwd=aW9KbzVIWWxNRExkZlBXTkVMRXXZPQT09>

Passcode: 769665

Via Telephone: 646 558 8656

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment** *Please be advised that our meeting structure does not allow for two-way dialogue during public comment but the Board uses this information to guide their decision making. Depending on the topic, they may ask the Superintendent or another District employee to follow up with you. Likewise, public comment might lead to a topic being added to a future meeting agenda.*
4. **Reports**
 - a. Superintendent's Report
 - i. Staffing
 - ii. Goals
 - b. BOE Chair's Report
 - c. Student Ambassador's Report
5. **Policy and Advocacy Discussion**
 - a. Policy 5141.5 - Suicide Prevention and Intervention
 - b. Policy 6148 - FAFSA Completion Program
 - c. Bylaws - 9000, 9000.1, 9005 and 9010
6. **Administrative**
 - a. Correspondence
 - b. Consent Agenda
 - i. Approval of Minutes
 - a. January 10, 2024
 - b. January 24, 2024
 - ii. Move monthly financial reports to the BOF
7. **Old Business**
 - a. FY25 Budget
8. **New Business**
9. **Calendar**
10. **Public Comment**
11. **Adjournment**

NORTH STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

298 Norwich-Westerly Rd.
North Stonington, Connecticut
Board of Education Meeting - March 27, 2024

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Presented by Troy C. Hopkins

Our Goals: Safe, Valued, Sense of Belonging - Innovative Instruction - Efficient and Transparent Processes

Staffing

We are currently in the selection process for the positions of athletic director and BCBA. We also have postings for elementary school special education teacher and sixth grade science teacher, to replace teachers who recently gave notice of their retirement. In addition we have a posting for 0.6 FTE social studies teacher.

Safe, Valued, Sense of Belonging

We have an HVAC need that I am considering an emergency situation according to our purchasing policy. A compressor at Wheeler that services several classrooms is in need of replacement. In addition, an inverter board and a fan PCB board need replacement. Since the weather could be hot soon and the windows of Wheeler do not open, this work needs to be done as soon as possible. The total cost is \$20,276. Unfortunately, none of the work or equipment is under warranty. When asking around for other estimates, we were told that this amount is reasonable, especially since it includes the recovery of the refrigerant.

The parking lot between the schools has been constructed just in time for Frozen, the elementary school play. Many thanks to the North Stonington Public Works Department.

Innovative Instruction

On March 20th, I attended the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) conference: Leading Transformational Learning, in Bristol, CT. I participated in the following breakout sessions: Transforming Schools: Leaders of a Thriving Future, Actualizing Transforming Schools through Implementation Science, and AI in the Classroom: Navigating the Future of Education with Emerging Technologies.

The PDEC (Professional Development and Evaluation Committee) has made significant progress in formulating the new educator professional growth plan. The plan is aligned to the district goals. I hope to bring this draft plan to the BOE in May for approval before submitting it to the CSDE (Connecticut State Department of Education).

Efficient and Transparent Processes

School Construction Audit - The audit has been completed on the 3 projects (administration building roof, Wheeler, and North Stonington Elementary School. The Town should be receiving the balance of reimbursement funds soon. This was a major focus for the central office over the past six weeks. In addition Susan Pike, bookkeeper, at Town Hall was a huge help to gather the necessary documentation.

I recently served on the CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) Award Committee for the 2024 elementary school principal of the year. This included scoring applications and conducting site visits for two finalists. This is my fourth year as a member of this committee.

BOE Meeting Dates - All Wednesdays

1st meeting - Committee Discussions (Facilities and Finance, Policy and Advocacy)	2nd meeting - Business and Presentations	Topic Presentation for 2nd meeting
	August 23th	Facilities
September 13	September 27	Technology
October 11	October 25	Student Testing Data
Combined with November 8	November 8	Curriculum Updates
Combined with December 13	December 13	Student Activities - Fall
January 10, 2024	January 24, 2024	Superintendent's Budget
February 14	February 28	(Curriculum Proposals/Updates) - removed
March 13	March 27- Special Meeting	Student Activities - Winter (postpone)
April 3	April 24	Special Services
May 8	May 22	School Climate/Discipline
June 12	June 26	Student Activities - Spring
July 10	July 24	Goals Review
August 14	August 28	Facilities
September 11	September 25	Student Testing Data
October 9	October 23	Technology
November 6	November 6	Curriculum Updates
Combined with December 11	December 11	Student Activities - Fall



Narrative to Support Policy #5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention

Recently updated February 2023 to provide language to make the 988 crisis line widely available in schools, this update includes specific risk factors related to youth suicide developed by the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board.

It's also important to note that while CABE has listed policy 5141.5 as a "mandated" policy, it wasn't required by the general assembly for boards of education to include such policy in their policy manuals. However, Sections 79-80 of Public Act No. 23-167 states, "Each local and regional board of education shall adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing with youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts."

CABE will continue listing policy 5145.5 and the associated regulations under its "Mandated Policies." The updated policy specifically reflects the language in the Public Act.

While policy 5141.5 language has been updated to comply with Public Act No. 23-167, Sections 79-80, CABE's model regulations remain relevant and support the policy changes.

A policy is required. Here is one sample. Others available by request.

Students

Suicide Prevention and Intervention

The Board of Education recognizes that suicide is a complex issue and that, while the school may recognize a potentially suicidal youth, it cannot make a clinical assessment of risk and provide in-depth counseling. Instead, the Board directs school staff to refer students who may be at risk of attempting suicide to an appropriate service for professional assessment, counseling and treatment services outside of the school.

The Board of Education recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and will establish student assistance program(s) to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youth, referral services and training for teachers, other school professionals and students to provide assistance in these programs.

Risk factors for youth suicide will be based on the statewide strategic suicide prevention plan developed by the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board, which includes, but is not limited to youth who are:

1. bereaved by suicide,
2. disabled or have chronic health conditions, such as mental health or substance use disorders,
3. involved in the juvenile justice system,
4. experiencing homelessness or placed in an out-of-home setting, such as foster care, or
5. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning.

To that end, the Board directs the Superintendent to implement an assessment recommended by the Connecticut State Department of Education for determining suicide risk. The assessment shall be used to determine the suicide risk of students who:

- a. exhibit mental health distress,
- b. have been identified as at risk of suicide, or
- c. are considered to be at an increased risk of suicide based on particular risk factors.

Any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat, attempt or ideation must take the proper steps to immediately report this information to the building Principal or his/her designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the Crisis Intervention Team, the student's family and appropriate resource services outside and within the school system.

In addition, information regarding the 988 crisis line should be made widely available in schools and district offices. Text should note to call 988 if you are in emotional distress and/or you are having suicidal ideations. It should also include that by calling 988, you will be provided with support and connected to resources if needed.

Students

Suicide Prevention and Intervention

Information concerning a student's suicide attempt, threat, or risk will be shared with others to the degree necessary to protect that student and others.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

Policy adopted:

rev 2/23

rev 1/24

A mandated policy.

Instruction

FAFSA Completion Program

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes that college, for many students, continues to be an important pathway that helps to provide students with the necessary skills for work and for lifelong learning. In addition, research has indicated the students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are more likely to attend college with financial aid.

~~Many Connecticut students, eligible for college, fail to complete the FAFSA each year, resulting in the loss of funds that could help support their postsecondary education.~~

In compliance with Public Act 23-204 sections 319-320, beginning with classes graduating in 2025, graduating students must have completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education an application for institutional financial aid for students without legal immigration status, or completed a waiver, on a form prescribed by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) signed by the student's parent/legal guardian or by the student if 18 years of age or older.

A principal, school counselor, teacher, or other certified educator may complete the waiver on behalf of any student if the certified educator affirms that they have made a good faith effort to contact the parent/legal guardian or student about the completion of the application.

~~The Board acknowledges that Connecticut has, for eligible school districts, implemented a FAFSA Completion Challenge (Challenge). This Challenge is based on the premise that FAFSA completion is strongly associated with postsecondary enrollment and outcomes. Students who complete the FAFSA, in greater numbers, attend college directly from high school in comparison to non-completers.~~

~~Note: The statewide FAFSA Challenge is a partnership between the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Connecticut College and Career Readiness Alliance. This partnership aims to strengthen postsecondary access and enrollment by raising FAFSA completion rates among high school seniors.~~

The Board, through this policy, sets as a goal a ~~District initiative to improve the completion rates~~ for of ensuring 100% compliance for the FAFSA completion rates among grade 12 students or students in District adult education programs. This goal aims to ensure District efforts to improve postsecondary enrollment and student outcomes and to make it easier for students to attend postsecondary education.

~~District efforts to meet this initiative should spark and support local creativity to increase FAFSA completion and postsecondary enrollment rates.~~ The Board directs the administration to develop plans to ~~pilot and~~ initiate new strategies for 100% yearly student FAFSA completion rates. The Board may accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations, to implement this policy.

Instruction

FAFSA Completion Program (continued)

Optional:

~~As a currently SDE designated alliance district, (or as a previously designated alliance district) the Board will add to the list of goals that it includes in its application to the Commissioner of Education for alliance district funds the goal of implementing its policy to improve FAFSA completion rates by grade 12 and for adult education students.~~

Strategies

The Board believes this goal of 100% FAFSA completion rates can be attained utilizing, but not limited to, the following strategies/considerations:

1. Design FAFSA completion initiatives according to target population's needs. ~~Low-income students, English Language students, homeless students, foster youth, and first generational youth should be the center of this initiative.~~
2. Establish and maintain strong partnerships with as many stakeholders as possible, with multiple organizations to assist.
3. ~~Make the completion process a component of graduation. Provide a parental opt-out so that no one is denied a diploma.~~
3. Incorporate financial aid training into the existing curriculum.
4. Provide individualized meeting between students and staff.
5. Collect and monitor appropriate data to identify which students are not completing applications and target extra support to them.
6. Build trusting relationships with parents and the community in order to ensure students and their families feel comfortable in filling out the forms.
7. Design systems, tools and events focusing on students who might otherwise not complete an application.
8. Provide a network of resources to support school counselors and teachers.
9. Raise awareness about FAFSA, prior to senior year.
10. Provide sufficient and easily accessible resources on district/school websites.
11. Offer school-day and evening support for students and their parents/guardians.
12. Create a FAFSA student/parent portal pertaining to FAFSA.
13. Use existing programs and forums, such as advisor periods, college and career planning seminars, parent meetings etc. to provide assistance.
14. Stress financial aid is for technical, two and four year schools.
15. Build a school or campus-based FAFSA team to monthly review data and discuss and implement strategies to reach students.
16. Partner with local postsecondary institutions.
17. ~~Create a FAFSA phone assistance bank.~~

Instruction

FAFSA Completion Program (continued)

As required, the Board will publish and make available on the District website the annual FAFSA student completion rate for the graduating class of each high school within the District.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 P. A. 21-199 An Act Concerning Various Revisions and Additions to the
 Statutes Relating to Education and Workforce Development, Sect. 6, 7, 8.

**Public Act 23-204 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium
Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor, And
Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State
Budget Sections 319-320**

Bylaws of the Board

Role of the Board and its Members

The Board of Education is the governing body of the North Stonington School District and derives its power and exists under the Constitution General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and the procedures of the Connecticut State Board of Education.

The Board has the power and responsibility to discharge any duty imposed by law upon it or upon the district of which it is the Board of Education.

Board-Related Responsibilities

In order to assure that its operations support the schools in providing all students with a high quality education, the Board of Education hereby establishes as its goals:

1. to work closely with the community to ensure that Board actions and performance reflect the concerns and aspirations of the community;
2. to identify the educational needs and aspirations of the community, and to transform such needs and aspirations into policies aimed at stimulating the students and the learning process;
3. communicate the educational programs to the people of the community.
4. to provide leadership in order that the goals and objectives of the school system, as set forth by the Board, can be effectively carried out;
5. to employ a Superintendent capable of ensuring that the district maintains a position as an outstanding school system and that school personnel carry out the policies of the Board with energy and dedication;
6. to formulate Board policies which best serve the educational interests of students and provide the Superintendent with sufficient and adequate guidelines for implementation;
7. to develop and provide data useful to the planning evaluation, organization and execution of Board management functions;
8. to perform all Board functions and operations in conformity with state, federal and local laws, rules, and regulations;
9. to evaluate the Board's performance in relation to these goals, and to establish and clarify policies based upon the results of such evaluation;
10. to adopt an annual budget.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[1](#)-200 Definitions

[10](#)-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education

[10](#)-220 Duties of boards of education.

[10](#)-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules

[10](#)-240 Control of schools

[10](#)-241 Powers of school districts

Bylaw adopted by the Board: June 6, 2007

Bylaw revised: September 27, 2023

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

North Stonington, Connecticut

Bylaws of the Board

Responsibilities and Duties of Board of Education Members

The Board of Education should make every effort to sustain a high level of professionalism in the school system. In order to maintain appropriate standards it is essential that individual Board members exhibit civility, integrity, and a willingness to apply themselves wholeheartedly to the business of supporting and governing the school system. Board members have the following basic duties and responsibilities:

1. To be aware of state school laws, regulations of the Department of Education, district policies, rules and regulations;
2. To have a general knowledge of the educational aims and objectives of the system;
3. To thoroughly prepare for Board meetings;
4. To participate, if possible, in the various training opportunities that are offered locally, regionally, and nationally for Board members to become better informed Board members;
5. To work harmoniously with other Board members without trying to either dominate or neglect one's share of the work;
6. To vote and act impartially in Board meetings for the good of the school district;
7. To accept the will of the majority vote and give support to the resulting policy;
8. To refer all suggestions and complaints from constituents to the Superintendent and, or Board, and to abstain from individual counsel and action;
9. To understand the individual Board member has no authority when the Board is not in session unless authorized by the Board;
10. To make no promise or commitment on school questions unless they are fully discussed and acted upon in a Board meeting;
11. To hold confidential all matters properly discussed in executive session of the Board and all matters pertaining to the schools that, if discussed, might needlessly injure individuals or the schools;
12. To immediately object to public matters that may be inappropriately brought up during executive session;
13. To make every reasonable attempt to remedy any and all complaints and objections about procedures with members of the Board and the Superintendent before making them a matter of public controversy;
14. To represent the Board and the district schools to the public in such a way as to promote both interest and support for public education in the community.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[1-200](#) Definitions

[10-186](#) Duties of local and regional boards of education

[10-220](#) Duties of boards of education

[10-221](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules

[10-240](#) Control of schools

[10-241](#) Powers of school districts

Bylaw adopted by the Board: June 6, 2007

Bylaw revised: September 27, 2023

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

North Stonington, Connecticut

Bylaws of the Board

Role of the Board and Its Members

Statement of Integrity

The long term health of a representative democracy requires that citizenship and leadership act upon what is right, rather than what is popular. As Board of Education members, our goal is to improve the education of our children and to advocate for them and their best interests. Board members must be working effectively together and with others in the community to successfully reach this goal. A Board of Education that operates with integrity will be a more effective Board. Integrity is first, discerning what is right and what is wrong, second, acting upon what you have discerned even at personal cost; and third, saying openly that you are acting on your understanding of right from wrong. It requires that students, colleagues, constituents, and others in the community be considered in every decision. A Board of Education with a sense of integrity will consider what is right, and what is wrong. This takes discipline and an awareness of one's environment.

To this end, as a Board of Education with integrity, we will:

- Understand that our first and greatest concern is the educational welfare of the students, and that all decisions must be based on this understanding;
- Render all decisions based solely on our judgment of the available facts and not surrender that judgment to individuals, special interests, or our own personal agendas;
- Attend all Board meetings insofar as possible, and be responsible for becoming informed on any and all issues coming before the Board, as well as being prepared to discuss and/or act upon all agenda items;
- Be responsible for becoming informed on any and all issues coming before the Board;
- Seeks to facilitate ongoing communication between the Board and students, staff, parents and all elements of the community;
- Conduct our meetings and foster an environment where all elements of the community can express their ideas;
- Declare a conflict of interest when it arises and excuse ourselves from related discussion and action on that issue;
- Refrain from using our position on the Board for personal or partisan gain;
- Insist on regular and impartial evaluation of all staff, and conduct a yearly self-evaluation and set annual goals;
- Fairly assess all non-instructional aspects of the school operation;
- Support all decisions by the Board to the community once a decision has been reached; **AND**
- Attend all Board meetings insofar as possible and be responsible for becoming informed on any and all issues coming before the Board, as well as being prepared to discuss and/or act upon all agenda items;
- Understand that we have no authority beyond that which is exercised at the Board meeting, and that we shall not lend the impression that we are speaking on the Board's behalf unless that authority has been so delegated.

The North Stonington Board of Education is committed to the highest legal and ethical standards essential in governing its school system. It endeavors to encourage growth and support established and innovative educational objectives.

(cf. [9000](#) - Role of Board and its Members)

(cf. [9271](#) - Code of Ethics)

Bylaw adopted by the Board: June 6, 2007

Bylaw revised: September 27, 2023

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

North Stonington, Connecticut

Bylaws of the Board

Limits of Authority

The responsibility of individual Board members is one of trust to the Board and to the District. This trust can best be upheld when relationships are established with regard to the Board, administration, staff and citizenry. Such relationships as established by the Board are as follows:

1. Board member's primary responsibility is to serve the District as a member of the Board of Education whose authority is derived from its compliance with statutory requirements, and its bylaws, policies and regulations. As an individual, Board member's legal authority exists at such time the Board is in session.
2. Individual Board members shall be granted authorization to conduct Board business upon Board approval. Such authorization will be with regard to such matters as, but not restricted to, educational needs, facility needs, transportation, budget preparations, negotiations, and those matters pertaining to the function of a standing committee or the responsibility of an officer of the Board.
3. Personnel records other than those made available to the entire Board by the Superintendent of Schools shall not be made available to individual Board members unless it is appropriate and necessary in order to fulfill specific responsibilities set forth by the Board.
4. Board members shall exercise respect in those matters pertaining to the responsibilities of the Superintendent of Schools whose authority for administering the educational program and conducting school business is vested in his/her office and his/her professional and non-professional staff.
5. Board members shall uphold the position that they are without legal authority outside of meetings of the Board and shall conduct their relationships with school staff, district citizens and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-220](#) Duties of boards of education.

[10-232](#) Restrictions on employment of members of the board of education.

Board of Education Minutes
January 10, 2024

DRAFT

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on January 10, 2024, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mr. Burdick, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Main, Mrs. Mastroianni, Mrs. Mazzella, Mr. Stefanowicz, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, and Mrs. Wagner. Also present were Mr. Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Bill Merrill, Business Manager.

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Mastroianni, BOE Chair, called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Public Comment

Please be advised that our meeting structure does not allow for two-way dialogue during public comment, but the Board uses this information to guide their decision-making. Depending on the topic, they may ask the Superintendent or another District employee to follow up with you. Likewise, public comment might lead to a topic being added to a future meeting agenda.

None.

5. **Reports**

5.a. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Troy Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, presented his report. The report is attached to the original minutes.

5.b. BOE Chair's Report

Mrs. Stephanie Mastroianni, BOE Chair, presented her report.

6. Old Business – none

7. New Business - none

8. **Facility and Finance Discussion**

8.a. Playground Update

Mr. Troy Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, presented Playground Updates. Questions were asked and answered.

8.b. Eversource Update

Mr. Troy Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Bill Merrill, Business Manager, presented the Eversource Update. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

8.c. School Zone Lights

Mrs. Stephanie Mastroianni, BOE Chair, presented on the School Zone Lights. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

Motion to approve up to \$12,000 for the School Zone safety speed lights from the non-lapsing account. This motion, made by Mrs. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Stefanowicz, Carried.

8.d. Irrigation Update

Mr. Troy Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Bill Merrill, Business Manager, presented the Irrigation Update. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

8.e. Accept November Finance Report

Motion to accept the November 2024 financial report. This motion, made by Karpinski and seconded by Burdick, Carried.

8.f. Present December Finance Report

Mr. Bill Merrill, Business Manager, presented the December Finance Report. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

8.g. Non-lapsing Account

Mr. Hopkins, presented on the non-lapsing. Discussion followed. Questions were asked and answered. Motion to approve up to \$6,000 to be able to purchase the kiln from non-lapsing. This motion, made by Stefanowicz, motion was Unseconded and there was no discussion.

8.h. Structure of Finance Committee and Meetings

Mrs. Stephanie Mastroianni, BOE Chair, presented on the Structure of Finance Committee and Meetings. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

8.i. Appointment of Finance Committee Members – was tabled.

9. Policy and Advocacy Discussion

9.a. Bylaws Discussion

Mr. Chet Stefanowicz reported that he and Mrs. Mazzella are reviewing the Bylaws.

9.b. Policy 1112 approval

Motion to approve the CABE policy version of Policy 1112 with corrections to item #9 by deleting the last sentence which is a duplicate of the previous sentence, and Policy 1112.5 and Policy 1112.6. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick, Carried.

Mr. Chet Stefanowicz reported on Policy 1112, 112.5, and 1112.6.

10. BOE Comments for Future Agenda Items

None.

11. Public Comments

Mr. Brett Mastroianni made recommendations to help with the energy concerns.

Regarding the building warranties, perhaps look into what is still available.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. This motion, made by Karpinski and seconded by Burdick, Carried.

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

Board of Education Minutes

January 24, 2024

DRAFT

A Regular Meeting - Hybrid Format of the Board of Education was held in a hybrid format on January 24, 2024, beginning at 6:30 PM in the North Stonington Education Center. Present were Mr. Burdick, who arrived at 6:42 p.m., Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Main, Mrs. Mastroianni, Mr. Stefanowicz, Dr. Towle-Weicksel and Mrs. Wagner. Mrs. Mazzella was Absent. Also present was Mr. Troy Hopkins, Superintendent of schools.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. Public Comment

Please be advised that our meeting structure does not allow for two-way dialogue during public comment but the Board uses this information to guide their decision making. Depending on the topic, they may ask the Superintendent or another District employee to follow up with you. Likewise, public comment might lead to a topic being added to a future meeting agenda.

None.

4. **Presentations**

4.a. Superintendent's Budget

Mr. Troy Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, presented the Superintendent's Budget. Mr. Hopkins was also joined by Mrs. Kristen St. Germain, Wheeler High School Principal, Mr. Rob Cillino, North Student Elementary School Principal, and Mrs. April Christiansen, Student Support Service Director. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. The original PowerPoint Presentation is attached to the original of these minutes.

Motion to move agenda item 6c to the new 4b. This motion, made by Mr. Burdick and seconded by Mrs. Wagner, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0 Absent: 1

4.b. Student Ambassador's Report - Mr. Jon Anderson, Student Ambassador, reported on Wheeler High School. Ms. Madison Wagner, Student Ambassador, reported on North Stonington Elementary School.

5. Administrative

5.a. Approval of Minutes

5.a.i. October 11, 2023, Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from October 11. with corrections. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Karpinski, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0 Absent: 1

5.a.ii. October 25, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of October 25, 2023. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Karpinski, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0 Absent: 1

5.a.iii. November 8, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the November 8, 2023 minutes. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Karpinski, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0 Absent: 1

5.a.iv. December 13, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the December 13, 2023 minutes. This motion, made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Karpinski, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0 Absent: 1

5.b. Correspondence

None.

5.c. Accept Monthly Financial Report

Motion to accept the December financial report. This motion, made by Mr. Karpinski and seconded by Mr. Burdick, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0 Absent: 1

5.d. Consent Agenda

None.

6. Reports

6.a. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Troy Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, presented his report. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. The original report is included with the original minutes.

6.a.i. Staffing – None

6.a.ii. Goals - None

6.b. BOE Chair's Report

Mrs. Stephanie Mastroianni, BOE Chair, presented the BOE Chair's Report. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

7. Policy and Advocacy Discussion

7.a. Bylaws - 9120, 9121, 9122, 9125, 9133, 9150, 9212, 9222, 9230, 9250, 9260, 9270, 9300, 9312, 9313, 9314, 9321.1, 9322, 9325.2, 9325.21, 9325.3, 9326, 9327, 9330, 9340.

Mr. Chet Stefanowicz, reported on the Bylaws.

8. Old Business

8.a. Accepting Financial Reports

Mrs. Stephanie Mastroianni, BOE Chair, presented on Accepting Financial Report. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

9. New Business

9.a. New Agenda Format

Mrs. Stephanie Mastroianni, BOE Chair, presented on the New Agenda Format. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

10. Calendar

10.a. 2023-2024 Calendar

The current school year has been revised to reflect that February 20 and May 24 are now school days. Questions were asked and answered.

10.b. 2024-2025 Calendar

Mr. Troy Hopkins reported on the 2024-2025 school calendar. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm. This motion, made by Mr. Burdick and seconded by Mr. Karpinski, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

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