

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING March 10, 2016-Page | 1

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Alisa Morrison, Alexa Garvey, Deborah Downie, Terry Stefanski, and Craig Esposito.

Also present were Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Mallorie Geiger, Student Government Representative, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Board Presentations

Aladdin Junior Musical Performance – PMS Students

Tim Smith, Pawcatuck Middle School Principal, gave an overview of the performance and thanked the teachers for their work with the students on this production. Mr. Smith introduced Pawcatuck Middle School teacher, Robin Aubin who introduced some of the students of the Aladdin Junior Musical. The students sang and performed a short version of songs that will be performed during the performance, which is scheduled for April 2 and 3 at Stonington High School.

New State Accountability System (Pending Availability of Final Report)-Nikki Gullickson

Nikki Gullickson, Assistant Superintendent, shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding Next-Generation Accountability Report for 2014-15. Mrs. Gullickson explained the numbers and assessment reporting is based on last school year data. Mrs. Gullickson noted that administration is to tracking student progress. Mrs. Gullickson reported on the accountability indicators for each of the schools and the significant differences. (Presentation attached)

Mrs. Gullickson congratulated and asked the administrative teams from DMS and WVSS/WBSS to speak on the recent Connecticut State Department of Education recognition where the state identified WBSS as a School of Distinction for Highest Performing Subgroup, West Vine Street School as the K-2 sister school to WBSS shares in the recognition of WBSS. Deans Mill School as a School of Distinction for Highest Performing Overall and Highest Performing Subgroup.

Communications & Recognitions

Board of Education Recognition

Dr. Van Riley announced that March is Board recognition month and administration from the high school and middle schools have a few things of appreciation for the Board members. Jennifer Bausch, PMS Assistant Principal shared an appreciation video from students of each middle school to the Board.

Faith Leitner recognized the event, Read Across America, going on at WV/WB. Mrs. Leitner also recognized the recent performance of the Addams Family by adding that she is proud of our students and the people the involved in it. Mrs. Leitner also commented on the Shine a Light on Heroin Forum that took place at the high school commending the presenters and the attendance from SHS alumni.

Alicia Morrison and Alexa Garvey thanked the administration for the Board recognition.

Frank Todisco said he received a number of inquiries about opening up our high school to North Stonington students. Mr. Todisco added, as Board Chair, he has a responsibility to bring this idea to the Board and residents. Mr. Todisco noted he has had conversations with Dr. Van Riley. The Board will bring this topic back for discussion at the April Board meeting. Dr. Van Riley shared with everyone a report regarding this topic. (See attached report)

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau handed the Board an invitation to "Light It Up Blue" being held on April 5th at Twisted Vine, sponsored by Human Services and the Autism Parent Support group monies get split here locally and Autism Speaks. Mrs. Nadeau also invited the Board to March 23 high school concert night.

Allen Gilbert commented on the statics on the arts being a greater part of the core curriculum as it is now recognized as a core subject according to the new ESSA law. Mrs. Gilbert also asked how will the state and Stonington Public Schools going to be treating the students and parents choosing to opt out of SBAC in light of the new federal legislation. Nikki Gullickson will address this question with Mrs. Gilbert.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – February 11, 2016 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Transfers
- E. Field Trip Approval - Virginia Beach - SHS Chorus Adjudication

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Faith Leitner:

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda A-E as presented.
All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Volunteer Drug Testing – CA Model – Dr. Van Riley spoke on the program that was put in place in California and how it worked. Dr. Riley asked if the Board would be interested in doing this same type of program at the high school. Alexa Garvey asked if there was any way to get more information to the parents. Craig Esposito asked if the students are feeling pressured. Dr. Riley answered yes students are feeling pressured and will bring more information to the Board. Student Government Representative, Mallorie Geiger remarked this would be beneficial to many students and felt it would be a great thing and a way to help students. Frank Todisco explained this is voluntary and would need to be a decision between parent and student. Dr. Riley noted the school would have nothing to do with the testing or results only the lab would.

March District Newsletter – Alexa Garvey spoke on the draft of the newsletter, which was handed out to all the Board members for their review. Mrs. Garvey explained the Communications Committee is trying to reach out and find ways to present this to the community. This particular edition of the newsletter focuses on finance and budget. Faith Leitner asked how many times it would be published and Mrs. Garvey noted about two or three times a year. Mrs. Garvey noted the newsletter does not follow the brown and white theme since not all the schools use these colors, and feels the school colors is something to look at in the future. Mrs. Garvey also spoke on renewal of the Finals site contract for the school website. Dr. Riley noted the contract now offers new pricing and timeline, which is more beneficial for the district.

Monthly Reports

Frank Todisco had a question as it relates to the RFP for Food Service. Dr. Van Riley explained that the RFP was sent out and hopes to have three or four vendors including our existing one to choose from the group.

Committee Reports

No comments.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

No comments.

Items for Future Agendas

- North Stonington students
- High school drug testing

Board Comments/Concerns

Frank Todisco reminded the Board of Monday, March 14 there is a presentation of the education budget to the Board of Finance, and noted he will not be able to attend but the Board Secretary will present the budget in his absence.

Adjournment

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded Terry Stefanski:

Motion 2: To Adjourn at 8:17 p.m.
All: Aye

Faith Leitner, Board Secretary

Stonington Public Schools

Next-Generation Accountability Report

2014-15

March 2016

Accountability Systems Serve Important Purposes

- Track progress
- Help schools and districts make improvements
- Show where support is needed most
- Recognize successes
- Promote transparency
- Satisfy federal and state requirements

What changes were made to the accountability system?

- Added several new indicators including some focused on college- and career-readiness and others on arts and physical fitness to underscore the importance of a well-rounded education
- Emphasized academic growth on state tests, which allows us to acknowledge schools that may have low performing students but made significant strides to improve their performance and close the achievement gap
- Refined existing metrics and made subgroup metrics more impactful and actionable
- Adjusted the classification methodology to better represent overall school performance, target interventions and support, and refrain from “labels”

Why were these changes made?

- Provide a more complete picture of a school or district
- Guard against narrowing of the curriculum to the tested subjects
- Expand ownership of accountability to all staff
- Allow schools to demonstrate progress on “outcome pre-cursors”
- Encourage leaders to view accountability results not as a “gotcha” but as a tool to guide and track improvement efforts
- Extensive feedback on these changes was sought by CSDE from district and school leaders, Connecticut educators, state and national experts, CSDE staff, and many others.

A New Family of Index Scores

- Each school will have an Accountability Index and a Performance Index.
- The percentage of total possible points earned on all available indicators is the “**Accountability Index**”.
- “**Performance Index**” will continue to refer to the index scores derived from state assessment results (Indicator 1).
 - Subject-specific (English Language Arts, Math, Science)

Indicators

Indicator	Indicator Title	Description	Target
1	Academic Achievement	Assessments used: Smarter Balanced, CTAA, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Science Checklists and SATs	75
2	Academic Growth	Percent of students in Gr. 4-8 meeting growth targets (½ SB-ELA ; ½ SB Math)	
3	Participation Rate	Does NOT contribute to the accountability index but can impact a classification	95%
4	Chronic Absenteeism	Percentage of students chronically absent	50 Pts.
5	Preparation for Postsecondary & Career Readiness –Coursework	Percentage of students in Gr. 11& 12 participating in at least one of the following during high school: two course in AP/IB/dual enrollment: OR two course in one of seven CTE categories : OR two workplace experience courses in any area	75% (50 Pts prorated)
6	Preparation for Postsecondary & Career Readiness –Exams	Percentage of students in Gr. 11 & 12 achieving CCR benchmark on at least one of the following: Smarter Balanced 11 th SAT or ACT or AP or IB	75% (50 Pts prorated)

Indicators (continued)

Indicator	Indicator Title	Description	Target
7	Graduation –On –Track in 9 th Grade	Percentage of 9 th Graders earning at least five full credits in the year AND no more than one failing grade in English, Math, Science or Social Studies.	94% (50 Pts prorated)
8	Graduation – Four Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate- All Students	Percentage of first time 9 th graders who graduate with a regular high school diploma in four years or less – all students	94% (100 Pts prorated)
9	Graduation – Six Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate- High Needs	Percentage of first time 9 th graders who graduate with a regular high school diploma in six years or less – High Needs Subgroup	94% (100 Pts prorated)
10	Postsecondary Entrance Rate – All Students	Percentage of graduating class who enrolled in a two or four-year postsecondary institution any time during the first year after high school graduation.	75% (100 Pts prorated)
11	Physical Fitness	Percentage of students meeting/exceeding the “Health Fitness Zone Standard” in all four areas of the CT Physical Fitness Assessment (CTPFA)	75% (50 Pts by a multiplier) Participation / Achievement
12	Arts Access	Percentage of students in grade 9-12 participating in at least one dance, theater music, or visual arts course in the school year	60% (50 Pts prorated)

Stonington District Report, 2014-15

No:	Indicator	Index/ Rate		Target	Points Earned	Max Points	% Points Earned	State Avg Index/Rate	
1a.	ELA Performance Index – All Students	74.1		75	98.8	100	98.8	67.9	
1b.	ELA Performance Index – High Needs Students	61.2		75	81.6	100	81.6	56.7	
1c.	Math Performance Index – All Students	67.4		75	89.9	100	89.9	59.3	
1d.	Math Performance Index – High Needs Students	55.2		75	73.6	100	73.6	47.8	
1e.	Science Performance Index – All Students	60.1		75	80.1	100	80.1	56.5	
1f.	Science Performance Index – High Needs Students	50.6		75	67.5	100	67.5	45.9	
4a.	Chronic Absenteeism – All Students	8.4%		<=5%	43.3	50	86.5	10.6%	
4b.	Chronic Absenteeism – High Needs Students	17.1%		<=5%	25.7	50	51.5	17.3%	
5	Preparation for CCR – % taking courses	54.2%		75%	36.2	50	72.3	66.1%	
6	Preparation for CCR – % passing exams	43.7%		75%	29.1	50	58.3	37.3%	
7	On-track to High School Graduation	97.2%		94%	50.0	50	100.0	85.6%	
8	4-year Graduation All Students (2014 Cohort)	93.2%		94%	99.2	100	99.2	87.0%	
9	6-year Graduation - High Needs Students (2012 Cohort)	88.6%		94%	94.3	100	94.3	77.6%	
10	Postsecondary Entrance (Class of 2014)	72.8%		75%	97.0	100	97.0	72.8%	
11	Physical Fitness (estimated part rate) and (fitness rate)	88.5%	65.3%	75%	21.8	50	43.5	87.6%	51.0%
12	Arts Access	27.0%		60%	22.5	50	45.0	45.7%	
	Accountability Index				1010.7	1250	80.9		

- Indicator 2 (Growth) will be included with 2015-16 results.
- Indicator 3 is the participation rate.

Achievement and Graduation Rate Gaps

- A district/school is identified as having an “achievement gap” if its gap size is substantially different from the average statewide gap in any subject area
- A district/school is identified as having a “graduation gap” if its gap size is substantially different from the average statewide gap

Stonington District Report, 2014-15 (continued)

Gap Indicators	Size of District Gap	Average Statewide "Substantial Gap Size" Threshold	Is District Gap Higher?
Achievement Gap Size Outlier?			N
ELA Performance Index Gap	13.8	17.3	
Math Performance Index Gap	18.2	19.6	
Science Performance Index Gap	14.0	17.2	
Graduation Rate Gap (2012 6 yr. Cohort)	5.4%	15.2%	N

Participation Rate	Rate
ELA – All Students	84.6%
ELA – High Needs Students	88.7%
Math – All Students	83.8%
Math – High Needs Students	87.9%
Science – All Students	99.6%
Science – High Needs Students	98.8%

Stonington Schools Report, 2014-15

School Name	Accountability Index	Any Participation below 95%?	Achievement Gap?	Graduation Rate Gap?	Category? (4, 5, or "Pause")
Stonington High School	80.1	Yes	No	No	Pause
Mystic Middle School	82.5	Yes	Yes	N/A	Pause
Pawcatuck Middle School	79.9 (71.1)	No	Yes	N/A	Pause
Deans Mill School	93.0	No	No	N/A	Pause
West Broad Street School	89.2	No	No	N/A	Pause
<i>West Vine Street School</i>	31.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Stonington Schools of Distinction

- The CSDE is recognizing 84 Schools of Distinction based on 2014-15 data according to the following criteria-
 - **Highest Performing Overall:** These are schools in the top 10% with respect to the Accountability Index.
 - **Highest Performing Subgroup:** These are schools in the top 10% of points earned for the High Special Needs subgroup in Indicator 1 (academic achievement)

Schools of Distinction: Indicator 1 (Academic Achievement)

Indicator		WBSS Index/ Rate	DMS Index/ Rate	State Average
1a	ELA Performance Index ALL	77.8	84.6	67.9
1b	ELA Performance Index HNS	70.3	70.4	56.7
1c	Math Performance Index ALL	70.1	74.7	59.3
1d	Math Performance Index HNS	63.4	60.6	47.8
	Accountability Index	89.2	93.0	N/A

Stonington's Strategic Priorities for 2016-17

- District:
 - Continue to increase student achievement for ALL students and High Needs students with careful monitoring and adjusting of curriculum and instruction
 - Continue to maintain / improve testing participation rates
 - Continue to

Additional Resources



The screenshot shows the Performance Office website. At the top, there's a header with the text "Performance Office" and a bar chart icon. Below the header, there are four main navigation buttons: "Data Collection", "Performance & Accountability", "Reports & Research", and "FAQ". A blue arrow points to the "Performance & Accountability" button. To the left of the buttons, there are four small images: a group of four children, a 3D bar chart, a hand typing on a keyboard, and a school building. Below the images, there's a "Mission" statement: "Improve student outcomes through the use of data". Under the mission, there are four goals listed: Goal 1 (Collect accurate data), Goal 2 (Aggregate and deliver accurate information), Goal 3 (Analyze and report data trends), and Goal 4 (Develop performance models and metrics). At the bottom right, there are three links: "Latest Newsletter >>", "Newsletter Archive >>", and "Contact Us: Photo Directory >>".

Performance Office

Mission:
Improve student outcomes through the use of data

Goal 1: Collect accurate data in a highly efficient, secure, and timely manner

Goal 2: Aggregate and deliver accurate information in a secure, timely and transparent manner

Goal 3: Analyze and report data trends and insights to support informed decision-making and action by schools, districts, the CSDE and other stakeholders

Goal 4: Develop performance models and metrics, establish targets and publish reports that enable a suite of differentiated supports and interventions for schools and districts

[Data Collection](#)

[Performance & Accountability](#)

[Reports & Research](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Latest Newsletter >>](#)

[Newsletter Archive >>](#)

[Contact Us: Photo Directory >>](#)

Web site: www.sde.ct.gov
Select "Performance Office"

Additional Resources

- Detailed PowerPoint presentation
- Using Accountability Results to Guide Improvement

Report on Possible Inclusion of North Stonington High School Students at Stonington High School

March 10, 2016

Van Riley, Superintendent

Introduction:

The Stonington Board of Education has requested an initial report on the feasibility of inclusion of North Stonington high school students in grades 9-12 at Stonington High School. This report is an initial analysis for the Board to consider with a recommendation as requested.

This concept would need approval and contractual agreements from both Boards of Education. In addition, the Stonington Board of Education and Stonington Board of Finance would need agreement on the funding issues.

The decision to move all high school students from North Stonington and experience the loss of a local high school would be a difficult decision for the North Stonington community. However, there are financial benefits to both towns and educational benefits to the students of both communities with this option.

Background and History:

For several years, the community of North Stonington has considered various plans for improving school facilities. There is a pending new proposal for facilities improvements that will be considered in a referendum in April. Past referendums for school facilities upgrades have not been successful.

At the June 9, 2011 Stonington Board of Education meeting, a presentation was made by Superintendent Leanne Masterjoseph related to the North Stonington High School Feasibility Study as requested by the Coordinator of Magnet School Development through CREC on behalf of North Stonington. At that time, the Stonington Board of Education concluded that "it could not endorse moving forward with a conversation regarding accepting North Stonington's high school students."

Then on May 8, 2014, an item was placed on the Stonington Board of Education agenda to again review this idea. Representatives from North Stonington requested that the item be removed from the Stonington Board agenda as North Stonington was not interested in considering this option at that time. Since then, no further communications related to this concept have occurred between the districts.

Enrollment Projections and Capacity:

Prior to considering the financial and programmatic aspects of this option, it is important for the Board to review projected enrollment and student capacity of Stonington High School. The current enrollment of Stonington High School is 713 students in grades 9-12. Considering move-ahead projections only, the enrollment will decline to around 650 in the next five years. State projections for both communities also show declines in 9-12 populations over the next 5-10 years.

After careful review by Stonington High School administration, housing 920 or so students can be accomplished within the current facility with no need for additional classrooms. Some teachers may be required to share classrooms during the day, but additional construction will not be necessary. Additional student lockers will need to be added and hallway space is available for that purpose.

Benefits for North Stonington:

Student Programs and Opportunities:

There would be a need for Stonington High School to hire teachers and support staff for the additional students. This would include teachers for the basic subjects such as English, math, science and social studies. There would also be a need to augment elective choices to ensure that students from both communities would have access to all offerings.

While there are some courses in North Stonington that are not currently offered at Stonington High School, North Stonington students would have some new and exciting instructional opportunities. The following is a list of current classes that are offered at Stonington High School but are not available for North Stonington students at their current high school. This list was developed from web sources and therefore may need confirmation/adjustments:

Math	AP Calculus
English	ECE Writing
	Verbal SAT Prep
	Journalism II
	Public Speaking
Science	AP Physics
	Honors Physics
	Anatomy and Physiology
	Exercise Science
History	Last 50 Years
	European History
	World Geography

	Local Regional History
	AP Psychology
	ECE Maritime Studies
	Criminology
Business	Marketing/DECA
	Financial Banking
	Credit Union opportunities
	Personal Finance II
	Accounting
Technology	Game Development
	AP Programming
	Robotics
Music	Ensemble
	Wind Ensemble Honors
	Steel Drums
	Chamber Singers
PE/Health	Advanced Health Issues
	Athletic Experience
Alternative	SAILS
	Alternative Education
	Connections
	Internships in local businesses
	TLC
	Transition

Stonington High School also offers some wonderful extracurricular opportunities including sports, drama and clubs that would all be available to North Stonington students. Some of these extracurricular opportunities that are not currently available in North Stonington are listed below. These are in addition to offerings currently available at both schools.

Sports	Swimming
	Field Hockey
	Boys' Indoor Track
	Boys' Outdoor Track
	Tennis
	Ice Hockey (co-op)
	Crew
	Sailing
	Gymnastics
Clubs	Alliance for Acceptance
	Bear Buddies
	Bearitones
	Brown and White
	DECA

Flag Squad
French Honor Society
Helping Hands
Interact (Rotary)
Link Crew
Math Team
National Honor Society
Keynotes
Robotics
Unified Talents

North Stonington students may be concerned that they may lose opportunities to participate on sport teams and clubs. Part of the plan to include North Stonington students would be to hire additional coaches (for larger teams or more levels) and increase music and drama programs. We would also want to continue sports/clubs that are currently offered in North Stonington such as Girls Volleyball and others.

Benefits for Stonington:

Student Programs and Opportunities:

Students from Stonington High School may be concerned that with 200 new students they may lose opportunities on sport teams, drama productions, and clubs. The district will hire additional coaches (for larger teams or more levels) and increase opportunities in music, drama, and other extracurricular offerings. By adding some of the programs that are currently in North Stonington such as agriculture/forestry, print shop, Girls Volleyball and others, Stonington High School students would be able to experience these new programs that simply have not been available due to restricted budgets in the past.

Additional sections of courses such as AP Psychology, AP Physics, and other singleton offerings would be provided to all students. Stonington students would benefit with more flexibility in class schedules and fewer singleton conflicts that require a student to choose between courses. We would also consider adding programs that were not affordable under the current budget such as advanced art, additional technology/STEM courses, wood shop, foods/culinary, child development, Certified Nursing program, more ECE classes, summer school enrichment classes, and perhaps automotive repair classes and driver's education.

The educational and extracurricular opportunities for students from both towns could increase dramatically with this option.

Additional Benefits for All Students:

Safety:

One of the recommendations will be to include a School Resource Officer (SRO) dedicated to serving the students at Stonington High School. Neither high school currently has a full time police officer on campus. This new position would provide for additional safety for all students. The SRO would be a member of Stonington Police Department and paid for with the additional district funds.

Other Issues:

There are many issues that will need to be resolved if this option is considered. Below are some of the issues that the Board should consider:

- 1) Contract/agreement - There will need to be a contract/agreement with Stonington Board of Education, Board of Finance, and Board of Selectmen for funding and other aspects of this option.
- 2) Transportation - It is estimated there will be a need for four bus runs from North Stonington education center to Stonington High School with the need to add at least one late bus for students in extracurricular activities. This 7.2 mile run will take approximately 12-14 minutes of additional travel time.
- 3) Tuition - There may be potential costs for out-of-district tuition for special education students requiring non-public school placements.
- 4) Facilities - Future facilities upgrades, repairs and maintenance to Stonington High School need to be addressed. Currently such costs are funded through the Stonington CIP budget outside of the district operational budget.
- 5) Other student transition needs/questions:
 - a. Counseling
 - b. Teacher needs/hiring
 - c. Administrative and supervisory needs
 - d. SHS student scholarship opportunities
 - e. Student leadership class/officers
 - f. Summer Arts camp at SHS
 - g. Stonington Recreation Program access for North Stonington students

Timing:

If both towns/districts agree that this option provides the financial and instructional benefits desired for all students, the transition could be accomplished as soon as fall of 2016.

Summary and Recommendation:

This report was prepared at the request of the Stonington Board of Education as an initial analysis of the potential benefits of offering access to Stonington High School for North Stonington students. Understanding that financial agreements would need to be completed, it is clear that there would be definite educational and extracurricular benefits for students from both towns. Therefore it is recommended that Stonington Public Schools present this option to North Stonington for further discussion. This item will be placed on the April agenda of the Stonington Board of Education for direction.