



# North Canaan Board of Education

## MEETING MINUTES

90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 [www.nceschool.org](http://www.nceschool.org)

---

*The North Canaan Board of Education met at  
6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, virtually through Zoom.*

**A virtual meeting was held using Zoom:** Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato (phone), Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

**Others present:** Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent; Dr. Scott Fellows and Jill Pace, Assistant Superintendents; Brian Bartram, North Canaan Representative (phone).

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm. by Mrs. Drislane.

### II. Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes for December 8, 2020, as written. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

III. **Public Comment:** None

### IV. Communications:

- A. A letter of resignation was received by Scott Messenger, Custodian.
- B. A letter of resignation was received by Chris Claydon, Cafeteria

### V. Region I Report - Mr. Bartram, North Canaan Representative

Mr. Bartram reported on the following:

- Region One voted January 12, 2021 to return to a hybrid learning model beginning on Tuesday, January 19th.
- There was a proposed resume date for athletics for next Tuesday, January 19th. CIAC will be meeting on Thursday, January 14th, to discuss and make a recommendation.
- January 13, 2021 Non Certified staff will start meeting for a new contract.
- A Board meeting with all 7 Region One school Boards of Education will be held January 26, 2021 to discuss the 2021-2022 calendar.

### VI. All Boards Chair Report

Mrs. Drislane reported that the All Boards Chair committee did not meet in December.

### VII. One Eleven Group Update

Superintendent Ms. Carter provided an update to the Northwest Corner Umbrella Group website. This website combines 3 schools in northwest Connecticut: Housatonic, Litchfield, and Wamogo.

This will give people the opportunity to look at our schools if they are interested in moving to our area. The One Eleven Group has started a Social Media Campaign to drive people to the website. Once data is collected Ms. Carter will be giving quarterly updates.

### **VIII. Policies (1st reading)**

There was a first reading of Policies: 5118.1 Homeless Students, 5118.3 Children in Foster Care, 5131.111 Video Surveillance, 5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments, 5131.81 Use of Electronic Devices, 5132 Dress and Grooming, 5144.2 Use of Exclusionary Timeout Settings, 5145.4 Nondiscrimination, 5145.511 Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program, and 5145.52 Harassment. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the February 9, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

### **IX. Action Items**

#### **A.-J. Policies**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of policies 5131.911 Bullying, 5141 Health, 5141.21 Administering Medication, 5141.231 Psychotropic Drug Use, 5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs/Food Allergy Management, 5141.3 Health Assessments & Immunizations, 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect, 5143.1 Student School Time Accident Insurance, 5144 Discipline/Punishment, and 5144.4 Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

#### **K. New Hires - Hiring of a Custodian**

Mr. Ellington recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Xavier Rodriguez as a Custodian beginning December 28th with a salary rate of \$19.54 per hour. Mrs. Dodger seconded. Vote: 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

### **X. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the link on the January agenda.)**

**Principal's Report:** Dr. Roy provided a brief overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- Thirty-eight (38) students were on the honor roll for Trimester One. Ten (10) students in grades 5-8 earned Honors, Eighteen (18) students in grades 5-8 earned High Honors, and Eighteen (10) students in grades 5-8 earned Highest Honors.
- There were 7 students with NYPs for Trimester One. This is more students in a trimester than normally seen in previous years. Nine (9) of the students are distance learners. Family meetings are being planned or have occurred.
- Working with the Leadership Team Dr. Roy has revised the family check-in and the staff check-in. Dr. Roy is aware that it is a challenging year for everyone and she wants to help anyone that needs it.
- Staples in Great Barrington donated five boxes filled with hand sanitizer, crayons, colored pencils, erasers, and two-pocket folders. Students were very appreciative to receive these and wrote thank you notes to Staples which Dr. Roy delivered.
- Staff and students participated in PJ day. \$475 was raised as a donation for children fighting cancer at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

- NCES Library was able to circulate 238 books during the last full week before the holiday break. All students are able to reserve books online.

***Assistant Superintendent's Report:*** (A copy is available through the link on the January agenda.) Mrs. Pace and Dr. Fellows both provided an overview of their monthly report. Some of the items they reported are listed below:

- Region 1 had a successful Trivia night with approximately 30 people representing all of the Region's schools.
- There are two types of instructional coaches in the Region, those assigned to buildings and those assigned by discipline.
  1. The coaches at the High School (Jackie Fenn, Caitlin Messina, and Beth Dinneen) have been facilitating weekly "Coaches Corners" during which they talk about instructional strategies, use of technology, and generally allow the faculty to discuss whatever concerns they may have during both the hybrid and fully distance learning environments.
  2. Danielle Krueger and Kristi Pramuka are working this year as Math Coaches for teachers throughout the Region. In addition to being the go-to people for teachers with questions about implementation of Bridges Math and Illustrative Math, they produce a monthly memo for staff highlighting new learnings (or reminders) about both of the two new math programs in use in our PK-8 schools.

Dr. Roy added that NCES is doing a coaches corner on Wednesdays once a month.

- A full day of professional learning activities were offered on January 4, 2021 to meet the needs of all teachers. The focus of the day was Curriculum, with teachers meeting in grade-level or subject area teams to discuss their work to date and the work for the spring.

***Superintendent's Report:*** (A copy is available through the link on the January agenda.)

Ms. Carter gave an overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported on are listed below:

- Vaccinations are currently being administered to group 1A in Connecticut. Group 1A consists of healthcare workers, long-term care facilities workers and first responders. All Region 1 nurses and employees who serve their communities as first responders have been registered in the VAMS program (the computer application used by the DPH to register vaccine recipients) and have received invitations to become vaccinated during the month of January.
- All staff working in public schools (certified and non-certified) are part of the 1B group and will be vaccinated later this spring. We are currently preparing a roster of employees, who wish to be vaccinated.
- By Mid-December Student Enrollment has remained consistent with North Canaan Elementary School. 2019-2020 there were 254 and 2020-2021 there were 247.
- Under FFCRA, all employees (certified and non-certified) who are absent according to the specific criteria are eligible for their full rate of pay for up to two weeks. After they have used their two weeks, if they must continue the absence (according to the criteria), employees are then eligible for  $\frac{2}{3}$  of their rate of pay for an additional ten weeks. These

days do not count as employee sick days as per the collective bargaining agreements (certified and non-certified) in any of the Region 1 schools. It is possible, but not likely, that the CT General Assembly will support the continuation of this legislation or that the Biden administration may reinstate the legislation after the inauguration. Various school Faculty Associations have been in touch about this issue and will be working with them (through their CEA representative, Sue Fulleton) and the BOE negotiations committees/representatives in each of our schools to address possible next steps.

XI. **Public Comment:** Mrs. Drislane commented about the amazing job the Region has done to keep the children safe and in school.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm. Mrs. Dodge seconded.  
Vote: 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Rooney

Approved: February 9, 2021