



North Canaan Board of Education

MEETING MINUTES

90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 www.nceschool.org

*The North Canaan Board of Education met at
6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, virtually through Zoom.*

A virtual meeting was held using Zoom: Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato (phone), Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; 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 6:34 pm. by Mrs. Drislane.

II. Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes for February 9, 2021, as written. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Communications: A letter of resignation was received by Xavier Rodriguez, Custodian. Dr. Roy reported that Mr. Rodriguez took a job that was more in line with what he wanted to do but that his position has now been filled.

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

Mr. Bartram reported on the following:

- The agreement between the Region One Board of Education and the Region One Non Certified 1303-266 Council 4 AFSCME Union for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 was approved.
- HVRHS Principal Strever presented his Instructional Model Proposal. Results of the survey indicated that a majority of both parents and students were against the 4-2 proposal that was presented last month. Now, the high school has decided to move forward with a synchronous learning model, which will begin on Monday, March 15.
- Discussion was held regarding the use of unexpended funds from the 2020-2021 school year to complete some of the high priority building projects. An additional item to be completed to address a water issue was also proposed. These projects would utilize 1% of the unexpended funds overall, with the remainder being returned to each of the member towns.
- The Region One budget is at an overall increase of 1.99%, which equates to an increase overall of \$314,052. There are a couple of items still outstanding including the cost of heating oil and some non-union employee contracts that are still to be completed. The Region One Budget Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, April 8th, at 7:00 p.m., using Zoom.

- The committee is still working on the search for Assistant Superintendent and will be meeting again on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.
- There was a brief discussion about why North Canaan doesn't have more of a percentage of votes at any level considering that North Canaan has the most students and most people. Mr. Bartram explained that it is decided by the Acts and Statutes by the State and the Census population not the number of students at the high school or in the Region. Mr. Bartram suggested North Canaan look into the Cost Sharing Grant from the State for educational funds for the North Canaan Town Budget.

VI. All Boards Chair Report

Mr. Bartram reported that Ms. Carter's contract was approved. Mrs. Drislane referred people to watch the video online for details.

VII. Board of Education Appreciation Month

Dr. Roy thanked the Board members for all they do and their dedication and support to the North Canaan School and sent gifts to each Board member as a token of North Canaan Elementary School's appreciation.

VIII. Update on Assistant Superintendent Search Process

Mrs. Drislane stated that applicants will start interviewing and an update will be made after the next meeting.

IX. Non-Certified Staff Contract Negotiations, Committee Formation

Mrs. Drislane requested that two Board members volunteer for the Committee. Mrs. Drislane said that Mrs. Dodge had volunteered. Mrs. Drislane took the 2nd position.

X. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of Policies: 6111 School Calendar; 6113 Release Time; 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness; 6114.3 Bomb Threats; 6120 Objectives of the Instructional Program; 6130 Organizational Plan; 6141.32 Technology and Instruction; 6141.321 Acceptable Use of the Internet, Other Computer Networks and Internet Safety; 6141.322 Website/Pages; 6143 Curriculum Guides; 6142.1 Health Education Program; and 6145.2 Interscholastic Athletics.

Mr. Ellington pointed out we should include a replacement cycle in Policy 6141.32 Technology and Instruction so we are not using old computers for any student. Once the computer is not in good condition for one student it shouldn't be used by any other student. All computers should be in the same working order.

Mr. Ellington also suggested we make sure that the staff signs off on the acceptable use form in Policy 6141.321.

The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the April 20, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

XI. Action Items

A.-J. Policies

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of policies 5122

Assignment to Groups; 5117 Attendance at Out-of-District High Schools; 5125.11 Health and Medical Records; 5131.5 Vandalism; 5141.24 Students/Staff with HIV, ARC (AIDS Related Complex) OR AIDS; 5144.3 Discipline of Students with Disabilities; 5145.11 Police in Schools; 5145.12 Search and Seizure; 5145.2 Freedom of Speech/Expression and 5145.53 Transgender and Non-Conforming Youths. Mr. Ellington Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

K. 5134 Married/Pregnant Students

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the removal of policy 5134 Married/Pregnant Students. Mrs. Cahill Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

L. 2021-2022 Budget

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the proposed 2021-2022 North Canaan Board of Education budget in the amount of \$4,411,561.65 a decrease of .18% from the current fiscal year. Mrs. Cecchinato Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

M. Healthy Food Certification Program

1. Renewal with Healthy Food Options

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board to continue the Healthy Food Certification Program for the 2021-2022 school year with healthy food options pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, and to certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the school under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. Mrs. Cahill Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

2. Food and Beverage Exemptions

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board to allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event, and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held. Mrs. Cecchinato Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

N. New Hires: Hiring of Two Custodians

Abby VanDeusen

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Abby VanDeusen as a Custodian beginning March 2nd with a salary rate of \$19.54 per hour. Mrs. Cecchinato Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

Joseph Woodruff

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Joseph Woodruff as a Custodian beginning March 15th with a salary rate of \$19.54 per hour. Mr. Ellington Seconded. 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

XII. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the link on the March agenda.)

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

- Teachers have begun to be vaccinated, and it is hopeful that more students will return to the school building this year.
- Tuesday, March 2, that very cold day, only 2 (two) students were out ill. It happened again on Thursday, March 4.
- The students participated in Read Across America Week which March 1st-5th. Classroom Community Groups were asked to read 1,000 pages during the month of February to qualify for a campout at each student's desk with treats on Read Across America Day, March 2. Students read a total of 175,080 pages during the month. The students enjoyed it very much and now are working on another reading challenge.
- A schedule is being made to give the SBAC and NGSS state assessments to all students beginning in grade 3 in May. It is required to give these assessments annually. Last year we did not give them, but this year we must resume testing. We are going to ask families to bring the DL students to the gymnasium for the testing if possible.
- Dr. Roy is working with Sam Herrick to finalize the paving project on the elementary side of the school for the EK, K, and grade 1 students. It has been more than 30 years since the last time it was paved and has become a safety concern. There are funds in the maintenance budget to cover the cost.
- To mark the 100th day together in school for the 2020-2021 school year the students were asked to share 100 acts of kindness. They are hanging and posted on a bulletin board in the school.

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

Mrs. Pace and Dr. Fellows both provided an overview of their monthly report. Some of the items they reported are listed below:

- Dr. Fellows attended the February meeting of the Northwest Corner Prevention Network NCPN. The majority of the discussion centered around the Developmental Assets Survey that is conducted with students in Grades 8, 10, and 12 through the McCall Center for Behavioral Health. There was a 10-year study of the results available and NCPN would be taking a stronger role in ensuring that the results of the survey are disseminated as widely as possible to include all community stakeholders who have a role in working with children in the Region.

- Mrs. Pace and Dr. Fellows are actively working on applications for both the REAP and ESSER II grants. Overall, REAP allocations were fairly comparable to last year, with Canaan the notable exception, seeing their allocation more than double. ESSER II allocations are significantly increased from the first iteration of this grant.
- The next RePDEC met and determined a plan for sessions devoted to grade-level and content area. Teams are continuing to work on curriculum decisions for the rest of the current school year. Regional Professional Learning opportunity is scheduled for March 10 and March 11,
- Celina Huber submitted her written report highlighting her work with the English Learners. She is now done administering the LAS Links assessment to her students.

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

Ms. Carter was not present. Mrs. Pace acknowledged how much Ms. Carter would have wanted to express her gratitude and appreciation to the Board for all they do. Dr. Roy concluded on behalf of Ms. Carter that this last week Hartford Health partnered with Torrington Health Department to make sure all of the Region One staff was invited to get their COVID shots. Those who requested the COVID shot in Region One will be done by Saturday, March 13th.

XIII. **Public Comment:** None

XIV. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: April 20, 2021