



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, February 9, 2021, virtually through Zoom.*

A virtual meeting was held using Zoom: Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato (phone) arrived at 6:45, Matt Devino, 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 6:35 pm. by Mrs. Drislane.

II. Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes for January 12, 2020 and January 26, 2021, Special Meeting as written. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Mr. Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

III. **Public Comment:** None

IV. **Communications:** None

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

Mr. Bartram reported on the following:

- Region One voted to move forward with the Alumni Association request of naming the HVRHS baseball field the Edward M. Kirby field and to do a dedication ceremony.
- A search for a new Assistant Superintendent was posted internally.
- A presentation was made by Principal Strever regarding an Instructional Model Proposal for the high school. This proposal is a compromise utilizing 4 weeks of hybrid learning followed by 2 weeks in distance learning through the remainder of the school year. All North Canaan parents that have been in contact with Mr. Bartram have been opposed to going to that type of proposed schedule.

VI. All Boards Chair Report

Mrs. Drislane reported on the following:

The All Boards Chair committee met on January 27th with the following 3 meetings:

- Middle School Athletics and Activities Committee. Ms. MacNeil announced that she just received notice that her project was accepted and she earned the designation of NIAAA Certified Master Athletic Administrator. The discussion was held regarding the advertising of available coaching positions. Postings for fall positions will begin immediately. Spring sports have not been decided yet. The Committee is hopeful that there will be something to offer for softball or baseball.

- ABC and Region One BOE met to discuss the Assistant Superintendent search. They formed a committee for the search and set parameters for the process which is all public on the Region One website.
- ABC Committee met regarding the Superintendent's contract. There was an executive session and no action was taken.

VII. 2021-2022 Budget (1st Presentation)

Dr. Roy gave a presentation of the budget and explained how and why costs have fluctuated. There were no considerable changes from the previous years' budget. The Board did not have any questions. Action will be taken at the March 9, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

VIII. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of Policies: 5122 Assignment to Groups, 5117 Attendance at Out-of-District High Schools, 5134 Married/Pregnant Students (Recommend removal), 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, 5145.53 Transgender and Non-Conforming Youths. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the March 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 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. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

K. 2021.2022 Draft NCES Version of Regional CALENDAR

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the NCES version of the Region 1 Board of Education approved calendar for 2021-2022. Dr. Roy reported that she spoke to the teachers regarding the Professional Learning days and it was decided that the February Professional Learning day be removed due to it being so close to the March Professional Learning day. Dr. Roy also removed the High School early dismissal days for the NCES version. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

L. Approval of ETT Environmental Services as lowest qualified bidder for the Underground Storage Tank Project

Mrs. Drislane recommended that the North Canaan Board of Education accept the lowest qualified bidder, ETT Environmental Services, for the North Canaan Elementary School UST project 100-0013 CV/OT in the amount of \$163,785. The unit pricing is \$67.50 per square yard of

Bituminous Concrete Pavement and \$8.50 per linear foot for bituminous concrete curbing. Mr. Ellington Seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

X. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the link on the February agenda.)

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

- The numbers of distance learners have continued to decline.
- Staples in Great Barrington donated many supplies to our school again. Boxes this time included hand sanitizer, crayons, colored pencils, erasers, two-pocket folders, pencils, glue sticks, pocket binders, earbuds, journals, staplers, tape, legal pads, and even seven backpacks.
- February features two challenges, one for students and the other for staff.
- Classroom Community Groups originally were asked to read 1,000 pages during the month to qualify for a campout at each student's desk and treats on Read Across America Day, March 2. The students have been so excited and have read so much in just a few days that Dr. Roy had to change it to 10,000 pages.
- To mark our 100th day together in school for the 2020-2021 school year we will be looking for students to share 100 acts of kindness.

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

- The coaches at North Canaan Elementary School, Melissa Bachetti, Linda Peppe, Renee Fleming, and Dena Noubleau, spend time after school every Tuesday collaborating with interested staff. They are responsive to any expressed needs while also reinforcing the work we are doing using *The Distance Learning Playbook*
- Kathy West, a teacher at Cornwall Consolidated School, is our Regional Science Coach. She has worked with many of our middle school science teachers since July to find and update the units being used in middle school (Grades 5-8), eliminating those that were not of interest to the students last year, and adding and revising additional units for their use.
- The State adopted a series of flexibilities with regard to teacher goal setting and evaluation for the 2020-2021 school year. We took this time, and some additional grant money that we received, to hire Amy Tepper to revise our teacher evaluation rubric (which we call the Continuum of Professional Practice [CPP]). Three important milestones occurred in January: (a) Jill, Scott, and Amy reviewed the document and made a few revisions; (2) the document was sent to a small group of readers from the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC), who also provided feedback that was integrated into the rubric; and (3) the document is now in the hands of 2 small groups of additional readers (members of PDEC) for their comments.

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

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

- With the help on everyone, Region One has been able to contain COVID in our schools to keep them open.
- Vaccinations are now open to group 1b in Connecticut. The first tier in this group to be vaccinated are individuals who are 75 and older. The next group to be scheduled (likely in February) will those between the ages of 65 and 74. Frontline workers, including education and childcare workers will most likely be scheduled in late February or March. Currently, about 75%+ of all Region 1 employees have indicated that they wish to receive a vaccination.

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XI. **Public Comment:** None

Adjournment: Mr. Devino made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 pm. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: March 9, 2021