



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 7pm on Thursday, December 13, 2018,
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

Board members present: Erin Drislane (Chairperson), Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Robert Hewins and Sarah Visconti

Others present: Dr. Alicia Roy, Principal; Dr. Pamela Vogel, Superintendent; Mrs. Lisa Carter, Assistant Principal

Daniela Brennan, Katty Brennan, Miriam Deane, Walt Deane, Brandy Devino, Ella Karcheski, Douglas Murray, Sophie Nason, Mrs. Piscitello, Caleb Rand, Dennis Rand, Jennifer Rand, Anne Smart, Gina Terwilliger and Taylor Terwilliger

I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane.

II. Board Recognition: Dr. Roy recognized Brandy Devino and Marjorie Gandolfo, school secretaries. She stated that they did a great job welcoming her this summer. She stated that they are both so very knowledgeable and caring, and that Mrs. Devino even came in the summer when she does not work to cover vacation and help with her telephone. She stated that they are very dedicated and helpful with all of their information about students, families, and the community.

Mrs. Drislane asked for nomination for Board recognition for January. Mrs. Cahill recommended recognizing Josie Pratt, Speech Pathologist.

III. Consent Agenda: Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 5 - Yes Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

IV. Public Comment: None

V. Communications: None

VI. Region One Report: Mrs. Carter and Dr. Vogel reported on the last Region I meeting. Some of the items they discussed are listed below:

- There was a presentation on two new courses at the high school called Human Resources and International Relations.
- Mr. Stever reported on the 4th standard assessments.

- Mrs. Carter and Dr. Vogel attended the CABA/CAPSS conference with a few Board members.
- The administration met to talk about roles of communication in Region I.
- Executive Session was held to discuss a police report concerning safety at the high school.

VII. Pride in Student Learning: Nature's Classroom: Ms. Smart reported that the Nature's Classroom trip was held in October with the sixth grade students. She stated that the students wish to thank the Board for their support of the program. She introduced Caleb Rand, Ella Karcheski, Daniella Brennan and Sophia Nason to the Board and stated that they will make a presentation on the Nature's Classroom program. Some of the experiences that they report to the Board are listed below:

- It was an overnight trip in Becket, MA.
- Everyday we got up, ate and chose an activity.
- Class I was bridge building and Class II was Squid Dissecting.
- We learned about communication.
- We enjoyed the two hour hike and being waitrons who set up and cleared tables.
- We built a geodome.
- We sang songs.
- The staff had funny names.
- Learned to stay away from home.
- Learned to be a good leader.
- There was no TV or Computers to use.
- Learned to sell people into participating in an activity.

VIII. First Reading of Wellness Policy: Dr. Roy reported that every three years the school is required to have a school lunch audit and one of the requirements for the audit is to have an up-to-date Wellness Policy. She stated that she looked at many schools policies for an example. She stated that the Board will have a first reading tonight and then approve it in January before the audit.

IX. Action Items: State Security Grant Application: Dr. Roy reported that she has received the funds for the first round of the State Security Grant and has applied for another round of available security funds. No additional funds from the budget would be required to meet the school match. Mr. Hewins made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the State Security Grant Application totaling \$54,042.77, with a requested state match of \$35,322.35. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 5 - Yes Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

2019 Board Dates: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Board of Education dates for 2019 as discussed and included with this

agenda. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 5 - Yes Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

CABE Policy Review: Mrs. Cahill made a motion to recommend to the full Board that Dr. Roy begin to make the recommended changes to the policies, which will then be brought to the Board for approval. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: 5 - Yes Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

X. Administrative Reports:

Principal's Report: Dr. Roy reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Some of the items she reported on are listed below:

- The staff created a video to model being positive. It received over 6,000 viewers on facebook.
- Veterans were honored by second grade students at an assembly last month and the veterans were impressed with the students' knowledge.
- The basketball season has begun for the boys and girls teams.
- Report cards will be distributed next Friday.
- Students in grade 3 through 8 performed at the Holiday Concert this week.
- Staff and students decorated gingerbread houses and they were featured at the holiday concert.
- Students are participating in the Pennies for Penguins challenge with Mystic Aquarium.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Carter reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Some of the items she reported on are listed below:

- She and Dr. Vogel made a presentation on "Grading Practices: Trials, Tribulations and Successes" to other superintendents and Board members from other school districts.
- On the January 4th Regional Professional Development day, we will be working with grades 4-8 teachers on the curriculum audit.
- The Literacy For All Conference was great.
- Each K-8 school has been continuing working on Personalized Learning.
- Dr. O'Neill continues to be busy with students on the Career/Work Experience Program.
- Mrs. Huber is doing an outstanding job on the English Learning Program.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vogel reviewed her November and December reports with Board members. Some of the items she reported on are listed below:

- Region I principals set goals. Every school has the same four goals. The superintendent has goals like the principals.
- Data is being collected that addresses social, emotional and prevention topics. Seventh and eighth grade and high school students were chosen to participate in these focus groups.

- She, Mrs. Carter, Mr. Stever and two Board members attended the CABE/CAPPS Conference in Mystic. Interesting at the conference was a panel discussion with two students from different schools and they discussed Mastery Based Learning, which is what Region I schools are doing with grading practices.

XI. Public Comment: Mrs. Drislane reported that her children love the new math teacher. Mrs. Terwilliger reported that she has been a parent at the school since 1999. She stated that she is very happy to see the principal at the school's activities. She also reported that she is disappointed to hear a rumor that the 7th grade trip to Boston may be eliminated this year. She stated that she hopes it's only a rumor as she knows many parents who would offer to help out with the trip because they feel it's very important for the students to go. Dr. Roy reported that she would discuss the trip to Boston with teachers to see if anyone is interested in leading it.

XII. Adjournment: Mrs. Cahill made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 P.M. Mr. Hewins seconded. Vote: 5 - Yes Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: January 17, 2019