



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
6:30pm on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, virtually through Google Meet.*

Virtual meeting was held using Google Meet: Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato (phone), Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, Amy Dodge, and Sarah Visconti

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Dr. Pamela Vogel, Superintendent; Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent; Brian Bartram, North Canaan Representative (phone)

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane

II. Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated May 12, 2020, as written with one typo change. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

III. **Public Comment:** None

IV. Communications:

A letter was received from Beth Frost for her resignation. Mrs. Frost's correspondence stated that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, she did not want her last few years of teaching to be distance learning. Dr. Roy updated the Board that there are interviews for three candidates to follow.

Dr. Roy read a letter regarding mask donations from the CT 5th District Face Mask Task Force 2020. A group made up of the co-owners of Lakeville Interiors in Lakeville, CT and the Kent Quilters of Kent, CT. The first donation included 40 adult masks and the second donation included 270 child and adult masks for our school. Dr. Roy stated she would write a thank you letter and hopefully have the opportunity to honor their hard work and generosity in some way in the future.

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

Mr. Bartram reported on the following:

- Dr. Scott Fellows and Ms. Jill Pace were voted on as a team to fill the Interim Assistant Superintendent position for .6 of their time, with .4 of their time devoted to responsibilities in their respective schools. Mr. Bartram stated he was very impressed with the way ABC committee and Region one worked together to find this team.
- Signed two contracts with the One Eleven Group.
- Graduation will start on Sunday, June 21st at 4pm at Lime Rock Park and then adjourn to the High School for a photo op and diplomas.

VI. All Boards Chair Report

Mrs. Drislane reported that the All Boards Chair Report was a quick meeting about the interim Assistant Superintendent. All were in agreement with Lisa Carter's recommendations.

VII. 2019-2020 Budget Forecast

Dr. Roy explained other than the technology that needed to be purchased, the school had done very well with a lot of savings. Dr. Roy expects she will be able to give the Town back close to \$200,000.00 which had first been anticipated to be \$100,000.00 before the pandemic.

VIII. Teacher Placements and Openings for 2020-2021

Dr. Roy reported that there are no significant changes. Due to retirements, First Grade will be Lisa Bradley and Reading will be Ms. LaCoss. We will have Ms. Ponkos as a new Math Coach/Interventionist. Mrs. Stiglmeier will be a full time Library Media Specialist. We will be hiring a new Science teacher and have a meeting once someone has been chosen to hire.

IX. Action Items

A-M Mrs. Drilane recommend to the full Board the approval of policies 4112.5 Security/Reference Checks; 4112.51 Employment/Reference Checks; 4112.6 Personnel Records; 4112.61 Use and Disclosure of Employee Medical Information (HIPAA); 4112.8 Nepotism: Employment of Relatives; 4118.13 Conflict of Interest; 4118.14 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities; 4118.231 Smoking, Drinking, and Use of Drugs on School Premises; 4118.4 Electronic Monitoring; 4118.5 Acceptable Computer Network Use; 4121 Substitute Teachers; 4135.1 Agreement; and 4222 Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals as recommended by administration. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

N. Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement with the NCES Faculty Association.

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding with the North Canaan Faculty Association regarding distance learning as presented. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti

O. Increase to Student Lunch Price 2020-2021

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the increase of the student lunch price to \$2.80 beginning in the 2020-2021 school year to be in compliance with the federal requirement as calculated through the paid lunch equity tool. Mr. Ellington seconded. Dr. Roy stated that last year when we had an audit, it was found that our lunch price was not the minimum amount. It is actually over \$3.00. The State agreed we could increase the price by 10 cents per year until we meet the minimum standards so as to not burden the parents all at once.

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

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

- Graduation was very successful. A photographer photographed each student in various poses. The school was able to give each graduating student an 8x10 photograph of them holding their diploma. Dr. Roy wanted to give a special thanks to Chief Allen for arranging the fire police and doing a great job organizing for the North Canaan graduation.
- Our school had a virtual Art show that was wonderful.
- The wooden lawn hearts were made by Peter Tuthill and family.
- The Board members were sent a video of our digital scrapbook since our closing and a video of graduation.

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

Ms. Carter wanted to take the opportunity to thank all the Board members and staff. North Canaan had a great team. Beth Johnson, Melissa Bachetti and Mrs. Steiglmeir helped a lot with the digital aspect helping teachers learn Seesaw, Google Classroom and bitmojis. Laurie Foley, Liela Wood and Karen Lindstrom participated in the Friday support meetings so teachers could come and talk about the social and emotional issues they were confronting themselves as well as to help students and families. Ms. Carter was pleased to say that there are three good candidates for the science teacher. Ms. Carter wanted to acknowledge Mrs. Huber for all her hard work and dedication to the English Language (EL) learners. A large number of EL students have tested out of the need for EL support.

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

Dr. Vogel stated that this was her last report. She wanted to congratulate the staff and anyone that made the end of the school year and the closure as successful as it could be. Dr. Vogel wanted to especially acknowledge Dr. Roy for championing creativity throughout the months. In particular, the scrapbook was a joy to see and was sent off to educators to see what we did.

- The principals have a completed document now for internet coverage with all students and families that don't have access to quality internet.
- Summer school will be approximately 50 students coming to schools and about the same for virtual learning in our Region. It took a lot of planning for all the procedures and guidelines to follow. A list of procedures will be sent to all Board members as soon as it is finalized.
- Meetings with Mrs. Vogel and Ms. Carter and the people Mrs. Vogel supervises will take place to talk about the end of year and goals for next year. Regional strategic planning has begun. Dr. Roy worked with all of her staff to begin to develop North Canaan's school plan.
- Graduation at North Canaan was noticeably joyful and caring, which made the students and families feel very special.

Mr. Ellington had a comment regarding Beta testing. Mr. Ellington plans to write to Elon Musk to explain our geographic isolation to ask to participate in their commercial service. He also commented on the Dell computers. He contacted Dell to say they didn't help us at our school and we needed chromebooks instead. The Dell program said it wasn't an option. It's a take it or leave it plan. Mr. Ellington urges us to carefully think about it because we could end up spending more money by taking the free computers. His suggestion is to possibly find a way to integrate them internally with the staff rather than with students.

XI. **Public Comment:** None

XII. Superintendent Recognition

Dr. Roy stated that the North Canaan School Board and School staff got together to give Dr. Vogel a Visa gift card as a thank you gift for everything she has done. Dr. Vogel commented what a pleasure it was to work with the Board. This Board is very kind and generous. Dr. Vogel stated that one of her greatest accomplishments with North Canaan was helping to bring Dr. Roy in as principal. Dr. Vogel sees great things happening to North Canaan and she wishes all the best to our school and thanked everyone.

XIII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Reviewing the Principal's Contract with Action Anticipated

Mrs. Cecchinato recommended that the Board enter an Executive session at 7:15. Mrs. Drislane invited Dr. Vogel and Ms. Carter to the Executive Session. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

Came out of Executive Session at 7:25 PM

Mike Ellington made the motion that The Principal's annual base salary from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, shall be one hundred thirty- six thousand nine hundred eighty-one dollars (\$136,981.) The Principal's annual base salary from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, shall be \$140,680, reflecting a 2.7% increase, the same percentage increase as the teachers union ratified. The Principal's annual base salary from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, shall be \$140,680 plus the same percentage agreement increase as that of the North Canaan Elementary School teacher contract. If there is no increase in the teacher contract, the Principal's salary shall be the same annual base salary as for the period of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, \$140,680. The total salary compensation outlined above shall be subject to the State Teachers Retirement Board contribution. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

XIV. Adjournment: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: July 14, 2020