



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, May 12, 2020, virtually through Google Meet.*

Virtual meeting was held using Google Meet: Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato (phone), Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, 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 6:39 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane

Mrs. Drislane made a motion that the Board add two items to the agenda: VIII.C. Budget Forecast/Technology Expenditure and VIII.D. Hiring of a Reading Interventionist.

Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

II. Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 21, 2020, as written. Mrs. Visconti seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the minutes for the special meeting dated May 5, 2020, as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti. 1 - Abstain Mrs. Cecchinato.

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Communications: None

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

Mr. Bartram reported on the following:

- Public hearing approved the Region One budget.
- Amended transportation budget for the high school was approved.
- Due to the unknown future, it was made clear at the meeting that the budget was voted on in good faith, and there are mechanisms in place to try to do things to rectify large unforeseen costs.
- No graduation date set for the high school as of the last meeting.

VI. All Boards Chair Report

Mrs. Drislane reported that the May ABC meeting was 9 minutes by reason of going into an executive meeting to discuss the interim Superintendent's contract. The Board voted to table any action until the next meeting.

XII. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of the following 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. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the June 9, 2020, Board of Education meeting.

VIII. Action Items

A. Nonresident Student Tuition Fee

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the nonresident student fee of \$4,569 for the 2020-2021 school year, \$2,284.50 payable by August 15, 2020, and \$2,284.50 payable by January 15, 2021. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Dr. Roy stated that it is the same fee as last year. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

B. Student Tuition (2 students) Waivers

Mrs. Drislane recommend to the full Board to waive Policy #5118.1 for the 2019-2020 school year for the two nonresident students who are currently enrolled as children of staff and not to charge tuition. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

C. Budget Forecast/Technology Expenditure

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board to approve an amount not to exceed \$56,000 be transferred from the following lines--electricity, substitutes, coaches, and transportation--for the purchase of computers for students. Mr. Devino seconded. Dr. Roy commented that we have many computers in homes and some need to be replaced due to distance learning. The school also does not have any touch screen computers, which are easier for the younger children to use. The school has saved money this year. For example, spring sports were not held and the school is using less electricity while not in session. The school needs approximately 200 devices for students. Dr. Roy continued to say that she expects to return to the Town a minimum of \$100,000, which Dr. Roy will advocate the Board of Finance uses so taxes will not increase. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

D. Hiring of a Reading Interventionist

Mrs. Drislane recommend to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Jennifer LaCoss as a reading interventionist for the 2020-2021 school year at a sixth year step 13 with a salary rate of \$91,406. Mrs. Ceccinato seconded. Mrs. Drislane stated this

is to replace a retiring teacher who is at a very similar salary rate. Dr. Roy commented that she was looking for a person with a 102 Certification, which Ms. LaCoss holds. Ms. LaCoss is highly qualified and can also teach any grade, not just reading. Dr. Roy concluded she would be proud to have her on our staff. Ms. Carter also commented how fortunate North Canaan would be to have Ms. LaCoss. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

IX. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the link on the May 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 is being planned
- Working towards an engaging and fun learning calendar as we continue for the last month of school
- Planning virtual field trips and field day
- Last day of school will be June 12th

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

Ms. Carter commented that the professional learning has been focusing on planning for the coming year, knowing there are gaps with learning expectations. Teachers will have time in June to adjust curriculum for the students going into the next grade level.

Superintendent's Report: A copy is available through the link on the May agenda.

Dr. Vogel stated the teachers are doing a phenomenal job and the message to parents and teachers for the next 4-6 weeks is to make the learning as fun as possible. The schools are doing their best to make school fun for the students.

- The numbers of families receiving meals is still very high. Dr. Vogel will be advocating to continue meals through June 30th instead of when school ends.
- Continuing to work on the Regional plans for 2020-2023.
- Starting a "Re-open School" committee. Asking for representation from all the Towns (several Board members, teachers, food service people, secretaries and other people associated with the school) to be able to think of things we will need in place if we are unable to return to school in August. Meetings will start in late May and early June.
- All schools have agreed on the same Graduation plan

XI. Adjournment: Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 pm. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: June 16, 2020