



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, November 10, 2020, virtually through Google Meet.*

A virtual meeting was held using Google Meet: Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato (phone), 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) came at 6:37.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm. by Mrs. Drislane

II. Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes for September 8, 2020, as written. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Communications:

- A. A retirement letter was received from Lester Robson. Mr. Ellington stated he was sorry to see him go and he will be missed.
- B. A resignation letter was received from Jeanne Taylor, paraprofessional.

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

Mrs. Drislane and Ms. Carter commented until Brian Bartram was able to join the meeting. Mrs. Drislane noted the regional custodial position was discussed. Ms. Carter stated that Mr. Ellington did a presentation on technology and how it was being handled in the Region. She also mentioned that the old plumbing at the high school was discussed: a contractor will be coming in to look at a longer term fix. Mr. Bartram joined the meeting and reiterated that Mr. Ellington did a great job explaining the technology in the Region. Mr. Bartram also reported that the schools are now able to have hot spots at each location, the MOA addendum was approved, and an AP computer science class was approved for next year.

VI. All Boards Chair Report

Mrs. Drislane started by saying that the meeting touched on human resources and the regional custodial position. Ms. Carter reported that Celina Huber's position was increased from 0.8 to 1.0 for the EL position through December 31, 2020. The expense will be covered by the Coronavirus Relief fund because she is only allowed to enter one school a day during the pandemic. Ms. Carter also reported that a Human Resources audit to be conducted by EdAdvance was approved.

VII. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of Policies: 5111 Admission/Placement, 5112 Tardiness to School, 5113.2 Truancy, 5114 Suspension/Expulsion, Student Due Process, 5123

Promotion/Acceleration/Retention, 5125 Student Records/Confidentiality, 5131 Conduct, 5131.1 Bus conduct, 5131.6 Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol, and 5131.8 Out-of-School Misconduct

The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the December 8, 2020, Board of Education meeting.

VIII. Proposed Board of Education Meeting Dates 2021

Proposed dates were looked at by the Board members. No one had questions or concerns. There will be action to approve the Board of Education meeting dates for 2021 on December 8, 2020.

IX. Action Items

A.-J. Policies

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of policies 4118.21 Academic Freedom, 4118.24/4218.24 Staff/Student Relations, 4118.51 Social Networks, 4131 Staff Development, 4134 Tutoring, 4147.1/4247.1 Bloodborne Pathogens, 4148/4248 Employee Protection, 4152.6 Family and Medical Leave Act, 4217.4 Suspension/Dismissal of Non-Certified Staff and 4222 Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals as recommended by administration. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

K. New Hires

A. Hiring of a Library Media Specialist

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Debra Erickson as a K-8 library media specialist for the 2020-2021 school year at a bachelor's step 8-9 with a salary rate of \$53,846 (prorated.). Mrs. Ceccinato seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

B. Hiring of a Head Custodian

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Steven Mallette as the Head Custodian beginning December 1st with a salary rate of \$26.97 per hour. Dr. Roy commented that Mr. Mallette has been the Assistant Head Custodian and has been filling in as the Head Custodian whenever needed. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

L. Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement with the Faculty Association regarding Distance Learning.

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement with the Faculty Association regarding Distance Learning as recommended by the administration and the association. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

M. Request Board of Finance to Create a Non-Lapsing Education Funds Account and to Transfer Unexpected Funds from FY20 to the Account.

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board to request the Board of Finance to create a non-lapsing education funds account and to transfer \$43,579 of the unexpended funds from FY20 in that account to be used to pay for computers that were requested in FY20 but not paid for in time for the audit. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

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

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

- Every student decorated a pumpkin for Halloween. Our youngest learners took home a bag of treats courtesy of Freund's Farm Market & Bakery. Laurelbrook Natural Resources also donated and delivered 150 pumpkins to make our Friday Festivities possible.
- Our fall conferences this year were virtual. Many students and families participated.
- Region 1 is using a new assessment this year, FastBridge. This fall was the first time it was given. We are fortunate to have interventionists in both reading and math this year. A difficulty is that we need to use the interventionists to cover classes when teachers are out ill. This limits the time they have for intervention.
- mySAEBRS Data assessment is also new to the Region this year. Students in grades 2-8 self-assessed on a 19-item scale. The scale asks students questions that pertain to their social, academic, and emotional behavior. We are monitoring all of our students and staff during this difficult time, knowing that we need to take care of people's social and emotional health so that we can improve the academics.

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

- We created a "Distance Learning Resource" for teachers to use as they prepare for and participate in the full distance learning model. Modeled after *The Distance Learning Playbook* (Fisher, Frey, & Hattie, 2020), the guide includes items specific to Region One, including our grading practices and curricular expectations.
- After our instructional coaches met with Mandi van Dellen, we met with her to debrief the sessions and to determine our next steps to create a working instructional coaching model. We identified two trends across the comments from the coaches and Mandi: (a) a lack of time to be involved in the coaching process and (b) the need to shift views of coaching from "remediation" to "connection and collaboration." We discussed those concerns with Mandi and will make use of them when we meet with the coaches.
- Much of the administrative staff and a number of teachers have been involved in additional training in the use of EduClimber, our data warehouse system, that will allow us to analyze both current data and historical data to look for trends that will point to the need for professional learning. Since EduClimber includes data for all of our students, including grades, standardized test scores, behavioral incidents, and attendance, Student Assistance Teams (and SRBI/MTSS Teams) across the Region will be able to create targeted interventions for students that should help to get them back on track.

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

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

- In October, Region One schools experienced its first cases of COVID-19 since the students have been present in school. We followed the protocol described in the Region One Reopening Plan with slight modifications. While I did work together with the Torrington Area Health District and the Region One Medical Advisor as per our plan, it is no longer necessary to receive permission from the Connecticut State Department of Education to close school or to quarantine a cohort of students. We were able to contact-trace and isolate cases within one day so there was no need to close school for the two to five days noted in the plan.
- On Thursday last week, the CSDE issued a memo allowing all schools in Connecticut to count weather days as regular school days if the students engage in distance learning on those days. The administrative team and I have begun to discuss the protocol that we will follow to take advantage of this new option.
- Region One has received a grant from Greenwoods Referral and Counseling Services, Inc, an organization in Lichfield that provides one-on-one counseling services by licensed clinicians. Betsy Maury, the Community Engagement Officer at The Berkshire Taconic Foundation (an HVRHS parent) worked with me and John Simoncelli, the Greenwoods Executive Director to make two hours of counseling available every Monday afternoon for teachers who want to use the service. BTF will fund this program as a pilot for six weeks. If the program is successful, we will discuss additional funding. Other services being developed to support teachers in the coming weeks are as follows:
 1. After-school discussion groups led by Region One School Counselors and Nurses
 2. Mindfulness and meditation workshops provided by Region One staff and local organizations
 3. Self-care workshops provided during faculty meetings and/or professional learning time
- A proposal to conduct an audit of the Region One Human Resource function was presented at the ABC meeting on October 28th. The need for this proposal surfaced due to an increase in the amount of human resource-related work for the Central Office and related positions in the Region One schools as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

XII. Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Mr. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Mr. Devino seconded. 7-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: December 8, 2020