



# North Canaan Board of Education

## MEETING MINUTES

90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 [www.nceschool.org](http://www.nceschool.org)

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*The North Canaan Board of Education met at 7pm on Thursday, October 11, 2018,  
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

**Board members present:** Chair Erin Drislane, Rebecca Cahill, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington, Robert Hewins, Karen Riccardelli and Sarah Visconti

**Others present:** Alicia Roy, Principal; Pamela Vogel, Superintendent

Leila Wood, Beth Johnson, Weston Doyen, Ronica Doyen, Lily Najdek, Ella Hewins, Tammy Fleming, Kathy Whiting, Tammy McGuire, Jessica Jasinski, Shane Cattelan and Mike Flint (CATV6)

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane.

II. **Board Recognition:** Dr. Roy recognized Lester Robson, Steve Mallette, Shane Cattelan and Jessica Jasinski, North Canaan Elementary School custodians. She stated that it was a great transition for her last summer because these custodians take pride in their work. They are dedicated and willing to cover for each other, resisting outside help because of their pride in the school. She reported that they are the shining stars in the school.

Mrs. Drislane recognized Tammy Fleming, Kathy Whiting and Tammy McGuire, the kitchen staff. She stated that they are at work very early in the morning making breakfast including smoothies. She reported that they have fun ways of making nutritious meals for the students and staff. Some of their work included free samples at Open House, an amazing salad bar and several food choices on the menu. She also stated that they are very hard workers and always smiling.

Mrs. Drislane asked for nominations for Board recognition for November. Mrs. Cahill suggested Mrs. Johnson for all that she does for the school. Dr. Roy recommended recognizing the Canaan Community Foundation for all they do for the school and community.

III. **Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the consent agenda with one change (switching action item B. in front of action item A.). Mrs. Riccardelli seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Riccardelli and Mrs. Visconti

Mrs. Cahill made a motion to approve the minutes dated, September 13, 2018 as written. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Riccardelli and Mrs. Visconti

IV. **Public Comment:** None

V. **Communications:** None

VI. **Region I Report:** Dr. Roy reviewed the report she received from Dr. Mary O'Neill. She reported that it was an update on the Career Experience Program at the high school.

Dr. Vogel reported on a few highlights from the last Region I meeting. Those highlights are listed below:

- Ian Strever made a report on student achievement at the high school.
- Carl Gross reported on the Special Education Program for all students in the Region.

VII. **Pride in Student Learning:** Mrs. Johnson and Weston Doyen reported on the 7th grade hike up Bear Mountain. Mrs. Johnson reported that this is her 13th year going on the hike. She stated on the way up students share information about themselves, growing one-on-one relationships and enhancing teacher/student relationships. Overall, it is a fun learning experience. Weston reported that you have to decide whether to climb straight up or over the rocks because it is a pretty hard climb. He also stated that you encourage your friends to keep trying until they reach the top.

Ella Hewins and Lily Najdek reported on the 8th grade ropes course trip. Ella reported that the ropes course takes place at Camp Jewel. She stated that some of the activities require communicating with each other. Ella also reported that one activity was to get all the students on to a platform with rocks under it and balance. Lily reported that they played games that involved team building. She also reported that some activities involved doing two things at once, like saying a word and putting your finger on the person next to you, all while trying to balance on a platform. Although the activities were hard, they enjoyed their time at Camp Jewel very much.

VIII. **Mental Health Grant and Staff Training:** Miss Wood reported to the Board on the CT NCSP Grant. Some of the items she discussed are listed below:

- Christina Khounsombath from the McCall Foundation has been working with North Canaan Elementary School for many years.
- She is working hard making suicide prevention a priority at North Canaan Elementary School.
- Data shows the United States has the highest suicide rate.
- Risky behavior can lead to suicide.
- Two at-risk students were identified through the Gizmo Pilot Program last spring at North Canaan Elementary School.
- Staff at North Canaan Elementary School were trained to be trusted adults.
- Middle School and high school students take part in the (SOS) Signs of Suicide Program.

**IX. Overview of Master Schedule 2018-2019:** Dr. Roy reviewed the 2018-2019 master schedule with Board members. Some of the items she discussed are listed below:

- There are different ability student groups across teachers for guided reading.
- Social studies and Spanish are in the same block and will switch at the midtrimester mark.
- The schedule has been created so students who both excel and need support can be appropriately challenged.
- ELA and math have more time in the schedule because they are core, foundational subjects.
- The schedule is designed to meet the students' needs.
- The WIN groups are organized by student needs.

**X. Action Items:** Mrs. Riccardelli nominated Mrs. Cahill as secretary of the North Canaan Board of Education. Mr. Ellington seconded. With no other nominations, Mrs. Riccardelli made a motion to close nominations. Mrs. Dodge seconded. All in favor of closing nominations. Vote: yes-7 Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Riccardelli and Mrs. Visconti

Mr. Ellington nominated Mr. Hewins as alternate member to the All Boards Committee. Mrs. Riccardelli seconded. With no other nominations, Mrs. Dodge made a motion to close nominations. Mrs. Riccardelli seconded. All in favor of closing nominations. Vote: yes-7 Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Riccardelli and Mrs. Visconti

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Board Chair, Secretary, and School Principal sign agreement ED-099 to participate in the Child Nutrition Program. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: yes-7 Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Riccardelli and Mrs. Visconti

**IX. 2018-2019 Budget Forecast:** Dr. Roy reported that there are no surprises in the current budget and she is continuing to work with Mrs. Olownia to acquire the necessary paperwork to receive the Security grant reimbursement.

**X. Second Reading of Policy #5141.213 Opioid Overdose Prevention (Emergency Administration of Naloxone):** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve Policy #5141.213 Opioid Overdose Prevention (Emergency Administration of Naloxone). Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: yes-7 Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Riccardelli and Mrs. Visconti

**XI. Administrative Reports:**

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

- Three teachers have been trained as complementary evaluators in Collegial Calibrations.
- Observations are focused on teacher growth.
- The P.T.O. put on a fabulous fun festival.
- Open House was very well received.
- Parents are signing up for conferences, which will be student led.
- The 1st safety committee meeting and fire drill were held.
- North Canaan girls are still undefeated in soccer.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vogel reported that Mrs. Carter is working on training for Region I staff and students on human trafficking. Dr. Vogel also stated that reading achieved is not advancing well and is not taught the same in all Region I schools. She stated that there will be a Regional talk on what we are going to do about it.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vogel reported to the Board on her monthly report. Some of the items she discussed are listed below:

- Region I is making plans to expand the athletic program for middle school.
- Some Region I schools don't have after-school programs, so information is being gathered for Early Release Days.
- CREC made an audit report last spring on strengths and weaknesses in Region I schools in technology. Region I tech personnel will meet to discuss these concerns.
- Mr. Ellington's will take on coordinating Region I K-8 computer teachers as part of his new job description.
- Local community leaders were invited to a breakfast at the Canaan YMCA and the director spoken on how they may expand the facility and funding for it.
- Region I has begun a task force on student wellness and mental health issues, and data will be collected from students in grades 7-8.

**XII. Public Comment:** None

**XIII. Executive Session for the purpose of discussion and possible action concerning assertion of a defamation claim:** Mrs. Dodge made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:42 P.M. for the purpose of discussing a possible defamation case. Mrs. Riccardelli seconded. Vote: yes-7 Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Riccardelli and Mrs. Visconti Dr. Vogel and Dr. Roy were invited.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to come out on Executive Session at 8:58 P.M. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: yes-7 Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Riccardelli and Mrs. Visconti

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 8:59 P.M.

XIV. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Visconti made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 P.M. Mrs. Riccardelli seconded. Vote: yes-7 Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Riccardelli and Mrs. Visconti

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: November 8, 2018



