



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, January 17, 2019,
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

Board members present: Erin Drislane, Chairperson, Rebecca Cahill, Amy Dodge, Dorothy Cecchinato, Michael Ellington, Robert Hewins and Sarah Visconti

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Dr. Pamela Vogel, Superintendent

Veronica Bonett, Donald Cahill, Saige Cahill, Rachel Gall, Ella Hewins, Ava Nason, Melissa Piscitello, Josie Pratt

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane.

II. **Board Recognition:** Mrs. Cahill recognized Josie Pratt, school speech pathologist. She stated that this is her eighteenth year working at the school. She also stated that she has worked with countless students including her daughter, she is dedicated and always going above and beyond. She reported that the Board is very grateful to have her and thanked her for her service.

Mrs. Drislane asked for nominations for Board recognition for February. Mrs. Cahill recommended recognizing Tom Olownia, Library Paraprofessional.

III. **Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

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

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, December 18, 2018, as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

IV. **Public Comment:** None

V. **Communications:** None

VI. **Region I Report:** None

VII. Pride in Student Learning: Inquiry-Based Learning in Science: Mrs. Gall made a presentation on inquiry-based learning for the Board with her students. Some of the items that they discussed are listed below:

- The teacher chooses an event, video or demonstration that is not immediately understood, launching a series of lessons.
- Investigating and navigating were teacher and student led.
- 7th grade students demonstrated that they could hear the sound of rhythms and voices coming from a paper cone attached to a needle rubbing along the grooves of a record.
- 8th grade students explained what they learned about circadian rhythms.
- Students decide what questions to research.
- Summative assignments sum up learning about the original phenomenon.
- The students reported that inquiry-based learning makes science class more organized and fun.

VIII. 2019-2020 Draft Regional Calendar: Dr. Vogel reviewed the 2019-2020 Regional calendar with Board members. She also presented the results of a faculty/staff survey concerning the calendar. Some of the concerns the Board members stated about the calendar are listed below:

- Teachers starting school the last week of August on Monday and Tuesday, then students starting Wednesday to give a longer summer.
- Instead of so many ½ days for professional development, holding four full days.
- If two Jewish holidays are taken away, then Good Friday should also be taken away.
- Two weeks vacation at Christmas is too much time off.

Dr. Vogel reported that the ½ days are needed for professional development to increase the reading and math scores in the Region. She also reported that she is meeting with all seven Boards, and that there will be changes to the calendar before the Regional Board approves it.

IX. Action Items: NCES Strategic Plan Update: Dr. Roy reported that five meetings were held to look at goals and make changes to the NCES Strategic Plan. She reviewed all of the parts of the plan. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the NCES Strategic Plan Update as recommended by administration. Mr. Hewins seconded. Vote: 7 -yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

Wellness Policy: Board members held the second reading of policy #6142.101 Wellness Policy. Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Wellness Policy as presented. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: 7 -yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

Resolutions for the Replacement of the Underground Storage Tank: Dr. Roy reported that the first step for removing the underground storage tank is to get approval by the State. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Resolutions as read and as recommended by administration. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

Service to Generator: Dr. Roy reported that repairs are needed to the generator, which is used as an emergency shelter for the town. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of \$2,153.48 to service the generator as recommended by administration. Mrs. Visconti seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, 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 trimester one academic celebration was held in December. The PTO was present. Several grades made presentations and the teachers surprised the students at the end with a few songs.
- The school raised \$575.27 for Pennies for Penguins. Mrs. DeMazza's classroom raised the most.
- Teachers received training in mental health. These trainings included Gizmo and Signs of Suicide.
- The 2019-2020 budget presentation to the Board of Finance is scheduled for March 20, 2019 and the date for the Town Budget Hearing is May 1, 2019. These meetings will be held at the North Canaan Town Hall at 7:30 P.M.

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

- Administrators have been working on next year's curriculum and professional development budget.
- On the January 4th regional professional development day teachers worked on curriculum.
- On the January 23rd early release day teachers will work on professional development projects.
- Ms. Carter attended a math workshop hosted by Connecticut Association of Schools.

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

- K-8 principals and Region I administrators held a video conference with the principal at East Union. She explained why the school has been showing gains in student achievement for the past several years.

- Ann MacNeil and Dr. Vogel met with middle school coaches and recreation directors to discuss having regional sport teams at the middle school level. Also adding a variety of sport teams was discussed.

XI. Public Comment: None

XII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing a Document that is Attorney-Client Privilege: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to amend the agenda to read Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing a Document that is Attorney-Client Privilege. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti.

Mr. Ellington made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:53 P.M. for the purpose of discussing a document that is attorney-client privilege. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti Dr. Vogel and Dr. Roy were invited.

Mr. Ellington made a motion to come out on Executive Session at 9:09 P.M. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 9:10 P.M.

Mr. Ellington made a motion to proceed with discussions to move the Canaan Child Care Center into the school. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

XIII. Adjournment: Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 9:11 P.M. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo