



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, January 21, 2020,
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

Board members present: Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington and Sarah Visconti

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

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane

II. Board Recognition Mrs. Cahill recognized Mrs. Nania who was unable to make it to the board meeting. Mrs. Cahill stated that the Board would like to recognize Mrs. Nania for her 20 years of service and running AHA at North Canaan School. In addition, Dr. Roy also expressed her thanks, on behalf of all the students and parents, to Mrs. Nania for her care in AHA as well as serving the North Canaan Community and her dedication for 20 years.

Mrs. Drislane asked for nomination for Board recognition for February. Mr. Ellington recommended recognizing Beth Johnson, computer teacher, for all she has done in the Makerspace class. Dr. Roy stated that she was recognized last year and that she would let Mrs. Johnson know that the Board appreciates all the work she is doing. There were no other nominations for February.

III. Consent Agenda: Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated December 12, 2019, as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Ellington. 1-Abstain Mrs. Visconti.

IV. Pride in Student Learning - Student Writing

Five students from grades 2 and 4 attended the Board meeting to read aloud their writing narratives. They read detailed fiction and non-fiction works of writing. The students were very poised and proud of their work. The Board was very impressed by their professionalism and their storytelling abilities. As all the students could not read their stories in their entirety, Dr. Roy stated she would get the copies to the Board via email.

V. Shared Services - Dr. Vogel and Mr. Herrick

Mr. Herrick was unable to attend this meeting. The update will be given at the February 11th Board meeting.

VI. Public Comment - Agenda items only: Public comment was heard from Doug Humes who said that at the Region One Board meeting Mr. Ellington commented that Mr. Bartram voted against the North Canaan Board of Education. Mr. Humes stated that Mr. Bartram was appointed by the Town of North Canaan to vote as the Town representative not the Board of Education.

VII. **Communications:** Dr. Roy reported that there were two written retirement resignations. Ashley DeMazza (1st grade) and Evelyn Duffy (Title 1 Reading teacher). Dr. Roy stated that she wanted to post the Title 1 Reading teacher job as soon as possible due to a lack of certified reading teachers. The Board understood.

VIII. **Region I Report - Mr. Bartram, North Canaan Representative:**

Mr. Bartram introduced himself as a Connecticut native and told the Board about his work history and his family. Mr. Bartram also expressed that he looked forward to working with the North Canaan Board of Education for the next two years. Mr. Bartram handed out minutes from the Region One Board of Education meeting on January 6, 2020. He stated that ABC and Region 1 will each hold a meeting January 22nd regarding the sports program. Mrs. Drislane reiterated that both meetings will be held on January 22nd and invited any and all people to come. Mr. Bartram stated he sent an email explaining why he voted against the sports program and would be happy to sit down with any Board members to answer any questions. Mrs. Cahill inquired as to what the purpose of the North Canaan Board of Education voting for something if Region One can vote against it? Mrs. Drislane explained that the vote was to create a line item only in the shared services budget to begin a middle school sports and activities program in the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Vogel added that people didn't seem to know that the vote was only to add the line item in the Region One Shared Services budget only. It was not about voting on the merit of the program and any options or alternatives.

IX. **All Boards Chair Report:**

Mrs. Drislane reported there was not an All Boards Chair meeting in December. The next meeting was January 22nd. Mrs. Drislane mentioned some highlights from the November meeting which was about Good Friday being a half day and the middle school sports athletic program.

X. **Policies**

There was a first reading of Policies: 3324.1 Contracts; 3326 Paying for Goods and Services; 3420 Classification of Expenditures; 3434 Periodic Audit; 3440 Inventories; 3450 Depository; 3452 Revolving Funds; 3514 Use of School Equipment or Property; 3517 Security of Buildings and Grounds; 3523 Painting, Heat, Light and Plumbing; 3523.1 Acquisition of and Updating Technology; 3524.1 Pesticide Application Policy; 3532 Student Insurance; 3545 Transportation; 3545.1 Transportation Guidelines for Kindergarten and Preschool Children and 3541.44 Transportation Equipment Privately Owned Vehicles. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the February 11, 2020, Board of Education meeting.

XI. **Action Items**

- A. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board the approval of policies 3110 Budgetary Planning; 3120 The Budget Statement; 3160 Transfer of Funds Within the Budget; 3171 Emergency Repairs; 3210 Revolving Funds; 3240 Tuition Payments from Local Town to Housatonic Valley Regional School Board of Education and Regional Schools Services Center; 3250 Material Fees; 3260 Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies; Disposition of Outdated Books; 3280 Gifts, Grants and Bequests; 3290 Surplus Funds;

3313 Relations with Vendors; 3321 Requesting Goods and Services (Requisitions); 3323 Soliciting Prices, Bids and Quotations; 3324 Ordering Goods and Services; 3450 Money in School Buildings; 3542.22 Food Service Personnel - Code of Conduct; and 3542.43 Food Service, as recommended by administration. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Ellington. 1-Abstain Mrs. Visconti.

XII. Administrative Reports

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

- Author Visit was a great day. Barrington Irving is the author of *Touch the Sky*. The Author gave two spirited presentations, one for PreK-3 and another for grades 4-8. He inspired the students and teachers to work hard to achieve their dreams.
- A Peace Corner has been created in the classrooms. It is an area designated for students who need a couple of minutes to step aside, refer to their mental health plan, reflect on their feelings, and then return to their work.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: Ms. Carter was unable to be present for the Board meeting. Ms. Carter's report can be read through the agenda link.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vogel reported to the Board on her monthly report.

Some of the items discussed are listed below:

- There will be a CAFE meeting for new and existing members of the Boards where questions will be answered and regulations and laws explained.
- 2020-2021 Calendar will be reviewed by the ABC committee after getting all school suggestions. It will go to every Board to be voted on in February.

XIII. Public Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: February 11, 2020