



North Canaan Board of Education

MEETING MINUTES

90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 www.nceschool.org

The North Canaan Board of Education met for a special meeting at 6pm on Thursday, September 19, 2019, in the North Canaan Elementary School library.

Board members present: Erin Drislane, Chairperson; Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington (arrived at 6:30 pm), Robert Hewins, and Sarah Visconti (arrived at 7 pm).

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Dr. Pamela Vogel, Superintendent; Ms. Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent.

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:08 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane.

II. **Board Recognition:** Mrs. Cahill recognized Betty Swiderski, Special Ed Teacher Assistant. Mrs. Cahill read a letter written by Heather Stride stating Betty worked 14 years with North Canaan and for the last 6 ½ with one student. She stated that she saw Betty display patience, dedication, care and attention to the children she worked with, while being a positive role model who is caring and creative to make things easier on them. Mrs. Cahill presented her with a special button of recognition.

III. **Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, June 27, 2019, as written. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Hewins.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the hiring of Patricia Vanicky, teacher assistant, and Kerry Rooney, administrative secretary. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Hewins.

Kerry Rooney spoke about her work history.

IV. **Public Comment:** None

V. **Communications:** Francine Lavoie wrote a thank-you note to the Board regarding her special recognition upon retirement.

VI. **Region I Report:** Dr. Vogel commented on the FFA exchange program between our high school and Iowa as well as the school districts acquiring a crisis communication system to contact outside authorities. North Canaan already has Crisis Go in place.

VII. All Board Chair Report: Mrs. Drislane reported on the last All Boards Committee meeting she attended. Some of the items that she discussed are listed below:

- Combining 8th grade student trips in different Region 1 schools and sending them to Philadelphia and Washington, DC together.
- Dr. Vogel's contract was extended 2 years.

VIII. Policies

There was a first reading of A-J Policies: 2100 Administrative Staff Organization: Chief Administrative Officer, 2111 Employment, 2120 Organization Chart(s), 2121 Delegation of Authority, 2130 Job Descriptions, 2133 Appointment of Principals, 2210 Administration Leeway in Absence of Board of Education Policy, 2218 Notice to Students of Policies Governing Discipline, 2220 Representative and Deliberative Groups and Regional School District One Suicide Prevention and Intervention Policy by the Board of Education. The Board agreed to some minor changes. Second reading with action to vote will be on the agenda for the October 10th Board of Education meeting.

IX. Action Items

- A. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full board the hiring of Carol Anne Stiglmeier as a .5 library media specialist at a master's degree step 10 with a salary rate of \$34,304.97. Mr. Hewins seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Hewins.
- B. Mrs. Cahill made a motion to recommend to the full board the acceptance of the quote from Toomey Tree Care in the amount of \$3,600 to prune and thin some of the trees on campus. An additional sum of \$6,000 will be used to remove dead limbs and to fertilize trees in the spring per the quote, if funds remain in the budget. Mrs. Dodge seconds. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Hewins.

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 power of positive thinking. We know that a growth mindset working with our ongoing focus on collective teacher efficacy will have the greatest impact on teaching and learning.
- Many classrooms moved this summer: teacher pairs are now located side by side in the school to share resources and group students to maximize student achievement. With a door that opens between most of the classrooms, we are easily able to communicate between teachers in the same grade.
- All of these changes required the dedication of our custodial staff. They worked hard to move at least one teacher per grade and to split a special education room to create space to move the school psychologist.
- Each school day we begin with Morning Meeting in every class, a way for each student to be an important part of the classroom community and to know what to

expect for the day ahead. The four parts of the morning meeting are Greeting, Sharing, Group Activity, and Morning Message. Results from our first weeks were very positive.

- On opening day she also led a whole-school presentation to set the tone for a positive year by explaining how Safety, Respect, and Responsibility will be in alignment with the expectations for this school year.
- The total enrollment as of the writing of this report is 247 students.
- STAR reading program data showed in the spring, 60.1% of our students met the 50 SGP goal in reading and 59% met the 50 SGP goal in math. 65% of the students improved 40 SGPs or more in reading. 67% of the students improved 40 SGPs or more in math.
- Approval for the underground storage tank replacement project rests with the state. With the unexpended funds we are returning to the Town from the FY2019 budget (\$213,569), the Town will have all of the monies needed to pay for North Canaan's portion of the bill as well as to pay for the increase in the school budget for the current fiscal year.
- Tuesday, September 17th was Open House beginning with a presentation in the gymnasium at 6:30 pm discussing our updated classroom libraries and focus on literacy.

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

- 18 Teachers were hired in the District to fill vacancies, three of which were hired at North Canaan: Beth Frost, Maddie Cutler and Carol Anne Stiglmeier.
- New Curriculum maps were completed over the summer for the 4th - 8th grade for English/Language Arts and Math by EdAdvance in conjunction with our staff.
- Professional Development plans include workshops on October 14 and January 3.
- Amy Tepper from Revision Learning will continue to work with Region One Administrators and teachers with a focus on science.
- Amanda Killian was hired for the Region One Applications Coordinator and has completed two PowerSchool upgrades and training.

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

- August 21st was the Region One first day back with all staff. Teachers with "Milestones" of 25, 35 and 40 years were recognized. North Canaan's Leigh Ann Merrill with 25 years was among them. Moving forward the total number of years for anyone working in Region One schools will be counted as opposed to starting over if you moved from one school to the next within Region One.
- Mrs. Carter, Mr. Strever and Dr. Vogel discussed the importance of developing positive and caring relationships with students, the importance of social-emotional learning, and how it affects the Portrait of a Graduate.
- Dr. Vogel commented on Region One's social media. There are an increased number of parents and community members responding positively to the shared information. She thanked Dr. Roy for her use of social media in North Canaan.

- Region One continues to respond to safety/lock down drills and guidance as to how to answer questions to parents and teachers to prepare them for real emergencies.
- Dr. Vogel will be attending the National Superintendent's Roundtable Group conference in Santa Monica Oct. 4-6 and the 2019 China Annual Conference for International Education on Oct. 11. Only 11 other Superintendents from the US will be attending the conference in China, which will be paid for by AASA.
- ASCD is an international education organization. Nearly every state in the U.S. has its own ASCD state affiliate. Connecticut's state affiliate folded. Dr. Vogel has worked with CAPSS to resurrect a state affiliate for Connecticut. Dr. Vogel will serve as President for 2019-2020. Dr. Roy will serve on the Board of Directors.

XI. **Public Comment:** None

XII. **Executive Session:** Mrs. Drislane called for an Executive Session at 6:56 pm and to include Dr. Vogel and Dr. Roy. The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:05. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the BOE & the Teachers regarding the teacher evaluation compensation. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Visconti, Mr. Ellington and Mr. Hewins.

XIII. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:07 pm. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Rooney

Approved: October 10, 2019