



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, December 12, 2019,
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

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

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

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane

II. **Board Recognition** for January will be Lynn Nania. Mrs. Nania was unable to make it for the December board meeting so it was moved to January.

III. **Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the minutes dated November 14, 2019, as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Ellington

IV. **Public Comment - Agenda items only:** None

V. **Communications:** None

VI. **Region I Report:** Because of a snow cancelation, the Region I Board meeting was postponed to January 6, 2020.

VII. **All Boards Chair Report:** Mrs. Drislane stated that the All Boards Chair meeting was a reiteration and rework of the Middle School sports program. Falls Village and Kent voted against the program and North Canaan, Sharon, Salisbury and Cornwall voted in favor. Ann McNeil was able to rework the late bus so students will be able to come back to their school and not go on the High School late bus which will be more pleasing to the parents. Kent is seeking counsel to possibly opt out of the Middle School Sports program. Falls Village will be starting a robotics club and the Art Garage at the start of the sports program. There will be no extra cost for the Art Garage because it's already started and funded. Good Friday was spoken about due to 50 teachers already seeking to take that day off.

VIII **Pride in Student Learning - Nature's Classroom**

8 students along with teachers, Renee Fleming and Rachel Molcyk, attended the board meeting to present a slide show and to explain what they did on the Nature's Classroom week long field trip. Mrs. Fleming started out by thanking the Board of Education for the field trip and told the Board members how fun and wonderful it was for both the teachers and students. One by one the students told the board about some of their favorite experiences. They were able to do things in groups such as dissecting rats and sharks, bridge building, learn about technology and the

digestive system. They played games, sang songs and were able to meet new people. The students all said how much they loved their experience and how much it meant to them to be able to go.

IX. Policies

There was a first reading 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 . The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the January 21, 2020 Board of Education meeting.

X. Action Items

- A. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the Board the approval of the Board of Education meeting dates for 2020 with a new 6pm start time (noting that the times may change). Mr. Devino seconded. Mr. Ellington stated that he will be unable to come at 6pm due to a High School conflict. The Board spoke about moving to a different night proposing the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30. Dr. Roy said she would email Mrs. Cahill and Mrs. Visconti to make sure that works for them as well. After the Board discussed various options, they decided on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 would be the best night and time. Mrs. Drislane withdrew her motion. Mr. Devino withdrew his seconded motion. Mrs. Drislane made a new motion to recommend to the Board the approval of the Board of Education meeting dates for 2020 to be on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Mr. Devino Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Ellington.

- B. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the Board the approval of a change in the school calendar for Good Friday to be a 1pm early release day and NOT a full day of school. Mr. Ellington seconded. Mrs. Drislane stated at the ABC meeting it was said that 50 teachers had already called out that day. The School Calendar was reworked to have consecutive weeks in session but the ABC committee decided to offer a ½ day. The ABC Board members needed to go back and discuss with the local Boards of Education and to vote on it. Dr. Vogel stated that we would have to do a 12:10 dismissal in order for teachers to get out of work and go to their religious mass. Dr. Vogel said she would check with the bus company to make sure that will work for North Canaan buses. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Ellington.

- C. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the Board the approval of policies 0521 Affirmative Action Policy Statement, 1312 Policy on Complaints concerning School Personnel, 1313 Gifts to School Personnel, 1321 Public Performance by Students, 1322 Contests for Students, 1324 Soliciting Funds from and by Students, 1330 Use of School Facilities, 1340 Access to School Procedures and Materials and 1416 Fiscal Authority as recommended by administration. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. The Board felt that in Policy

0521, Mental Disability needed to be in place of Mental Retardation. Mr. Ellington felt that the Board should reexamine Policy 0521 because of the wording that there is no discrimination for criminal records. The Board agreed that should be looked into. Mrs. Drislane withdrew her motion. Mrs. Cecchinato withdrew her seconded motion. Mrs. Drislane made a new motion to recommend to the Board the approval of the above policies excluding 0521 Affirmative Action Policy Statement. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Ellington.

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:

- The annual Thankful for Veterans Assembly was a success. Each veteran received a paper poppy made by students, Three seventh graders read a poem and all students and teachers gave thanks to our Veterans. Sergeant Jay Strobino, decorated Army Infantry Veteran was a special guest speaker.
- North Canaan participated in the annual National Geographic Geography Bee.
- Trimester One Report Cards went out.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: Ms. Carter was unable to be present for the board meeting, Dr. Vogel commented on the following items:

- Dr. Vogel, Mr. Ellington and Ms. Carter attended the CABE/CAPSS Conference in Mystic, CT for a series of workshops. Workshop topics included a range from ABCs of good board governance to how school administration and Boards can work together to implement various strategic initiatives. Mr. Ellington added that he and two members of the robotic team were able to take a video on their robot and he was able to get some great ideas there.
- A review of the EdAdvance curriculum audit report for grades K-3 English language arts which gave findings on what areas work needed to be done.
- A visit to Champlain Valley Union High School to see the transformational process of their fifteen year example of the successful integration of the portrait of a graduate, personalized learning programs and standards-based grading.

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

Some of the items discussed are listed below.

- Attended various workshops at the CABE/CAPSS Conference, the theme was "Every Student, Every Story". Two members of the HVRHS Robotics team and Coach Mike Ellington demonstrated elements of robotics in the display areas, Students in Mr. Paul Padua's Woods Class created an Adirondack chair which was donated as a door prize and some HVRHS students displayed artwork.
- MS Regional Sports and Activities has been discussed and voted on by all boards and the ABC Committee.
- PLC's have been implemented on a regular schedule to look at student data, discuss groupings of students, curriculum and strategies for teaching for the next two weeks and sharing of professional learning.

- There has been interest from several teacher in going to China for a Teacher Exchange program.
- Michelle Decker is the new Local Coordinator of the Special Olympics and she is working on more ways to enlist students into the program. Special education teachers will be sending letters home with students in the next week.
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XII. Public Comment:

- Mrs. Drislane wanted to share about a video, from London, she saw about teachers' experiences with bullying and how they overcame it. She thought it was a very positive news story and the video explained how it helped children start conversations about bullying.
- Dr. Vogel explained about the 2 hour delay and then having to cancel school 2 hours later. She wanted the Board to know that she had spoken to all the Town road crews and they had said they would clear the roads in two hours. After the two hours they realized it wasn't safe and Dr. Vogel had to make the very hard decision to cancel. She knows how hard it is on parents to cancel at the last minute but she had to keep all students safe in every Town. Some Towns were worse than others and it's a very hard decision to make.

XIII. Adjournment: Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge and Mr. Ellington

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Rooney

Approved: January 21, 2020