



# 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 6:30pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2020,  
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

**Board members present:** Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino (arrived at 6:33pm), Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington and Sarah Visconti

**Others present:** Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal, Dr. Pamela Vogel, Superintendent, and Sam Herrick, Region One Business Manager

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane

II. **Board Recognition:** None

III. **Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated January 21, 2020, as written. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti.

IV. **Pride in Student Learning:** Socratic Seminar postponed to March

V. **Shared Services:** Mr. Herrick described to the Board of Education with detail what the The Regional School Services Center (RSSC) provides and how their services coordinate personnel, business and finance, curriculum, and special education departments for the North Canaan Board of Education, North Canaan Elementary School and the seven Boards. He also explained the positions and responsibilities of Dr. Pam Vogel as Superintendent, Lisa Carter as Assistant Superintendent, and the Business Office and their roles with shared services. Mr. Herrick stated that North Canaan's share is modest regarding the size of our school and the services we use.

Mr. Ellington commented that he has created a shared spreadsheet moving forward with the budget and that he has taken the responsibility for all the schools to investigate and prepare contracts for software. He also informed the Board on the District's offsite backup and the solutions he has evaluated to modernize the different options and how safe we are digitally than in previous years. In conclusion, Mr. Ellington explained the many different software programs and data that are being used.

Lastly, Mr. Herrick answered questions from the Board mainly regarding what the formulas for the shared costs with the high school and the other five elementary schools are with examples of how they are shared.

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

VII. **Communications:** None

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

Mr. Bartram expressed his dissatisfaction with how he was treated by some Board members regarding his middle school sports vote. Mr. Bartram reiterated his desire to work with the North Canaan Board of Education moving forward, in a respectful manner. Mr. Bartram gave a quick update on the Region 1 Board of Education meeting held on February 3, 2020. Some items mentioned were the Public Hearing on the Budget on April 2, 2020, at HVRHS and discussion of the Board holding informational sessions regarding the high school departments, the All Boards Chair Committee, and the Parliamentary procedures regarding the Freedom of Information Act.

IX. **All Boards Chair Report:**

Mrs. Drislane reported that the All Boards Chair meeting was very brief due to a time restraint. Officers were elected during the meeting and the Board spoke about the 2020-2021 School Calendar.

X. **Policies**

There was a first reading of the following policies: 3152 Spending Public Funds for Advocacy; 3230.1 Federal Fiscal Compliance; 3320 Purchasing Procedures; 3435 Fraud Prevention and Investigation; 3513.1 Energy Conservation; 3516.11 Hazardous Materials Communication; 3516.12 Asbestos Control; 3516.4 Sex Offender Notification; 3516.5 Sex Offenders on School Property and 3520.13 Student Protection and Privacy/Cloud-Based Issues. The Board discussed 3520.13 Student Protection and Privacy/Cloud-Based Issues and decided that the policy needed further examination. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the March 10, 2020, Board of Education meeting.

XI. **2020-2021 School Budget**

- A. **2020-2021 Projected Enrollment** - Dr. Roy explained the Projected Enrollment for PreKindergarten through Grade 8. North Canaan is expected to stay level with the current year.
- B. **Draft 2020-2021 School Budget** - Dr. Roy described each line item and answered questions by Board members for the 2020-2021 School Budget.

XI. **Action Items**

- A. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board to approve the Draft 2020-2021 Region One School District Calendar as presented. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Dr. Vogel and Dr. Roy walked the Board through the changes and how this draft was conceived and decided. Mr. Devino stated, in his opinion, it was disrespectful to work on Veteran's Day. Dr. Vogel stated the Principals were aware of the importance of Veteran's Day and had already expressed they wanted to do something that day to honor the Veterans. The Board had some concerns about all the days and weeks off and ending school as late as June 15, 2020. After speaking about different options the Board proposed to make November 25, 2020, a half day and December 23, 2020, a half day, which would make the last day of school June 11, 2021. The Board continued to speak about the various professional

learning days and early dismissals of which Dr. Vogel and Mr. Ellington made it clear that professional learning days are very important to the teachers and continued learning. In conclusion, Mr. Ellington suggested calling the VFW to seek their advice on what would be considerate to the veterans. Dr. Vogel responded that she would make that call. Mrs. Drislane withdrew her motion. Mrs. Cecchinato withdrew her seconded motion. Mrs. Drislane made a new motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Draft 2020-2021 Region One School District Calendar with the proposal to change November 25, 2020, to a half day and December 23, 2020, to a half day which would make the last day of school June 11, 2021. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti.

- B. Mrs. Ceccinato recommended to the full Board 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 reviewed the Policies and made some minor changes. After evaluating Policy 3545 Transportation the Board was concerned that there is no crosswalk when crossing across the railroad tracks from Bragg street as the policy states. The policy was taken out of Action and will be researched. Mrs. Cecchinato withdrew her motion. Mrs. Cahill withdrew her second. Mrs. Drislane motioned to accept the Policies on the Agenda, with the exception of Policy 3545, as amended. Mrs. Visconti seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti.

## **XII. Administrative Reports**

***Principal's Report:*** Copy is on file with link on February Agenda

***Assistant Superintendent's Report:*** Copy is on file with link on February Agenda

***Superintendent's Report:*** Copy is on file with link on February Agenda

**XIII. Public Comment:** None

**XIV. Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Rooney

Approved: March 10, 2020