



# 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 7pm on Thursday, November 14, 2019,  
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; Dr. Pamela Vogel, Superintendent; Ms. Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent.

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Dr. Vogel.

II. **Election of Board Officers:** Dr. Vogel led the election of the Chair of the Board.

Dr. Vogel accepted nominations for Chairperson of the Board.

- Mrs. Cahill nominated Mrs. Drislane for Chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. With no other nominations, Dr. Vogel closed nominations for Chairperson of the Board. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti

Erin Drislane accepted nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

- Mrs. Cahill nominated Mrs. Dodge for Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Mr. Ellington seconded. With no other nominations, Mrs. Drislane closed nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti

Erin Drislane accepted nominations for Secretary of the Board.

- Mrs. Dodge nominated Mrs. Cahill for Secretary of the Board. Mr. Ellington seconded. With no other nominations, Mrs. Drislane closed nominations for Secretary of the Board. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti

Dr. Roy wanted to thank Robert Hewins for his years of service. Dr. Roy offered to write a letter on behalf of the Board members to Robert Hewins for his service on the North Canaan Board of Education. Mrs. Drislane welcomed new Board member Matt Devino.

III. **Nomination for Board Recognition for December:** Mrs. Cahill nominated Lynn Nania for her years of service.

IV. **Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, October 10, 2019, as written and the Special Meeting minutes dated, November 7, 2019, as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti

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

**VI. Communications:** None

**VII. Region I Report:** Mr. Ellington commented that there was a very good turn out for an open house at the High School. The students gave 55 families a tour throughout the school. He stated people seemed surprised at all the programs the high school has to offer. Mrs. Drislane commented that there was an impressive presentation on China from Dr. Vogel and a discussion on policies. She also stated to the Board that Brian Bartram was the new Region One North Canaan Board Representative.

**VIII. All Boards Chair Report:** Mrs. Drislane stated that the All Boards Chair meeting was predominantly about middle school sports. It was decided that each Board member would go back to their school and community to discuss. Anne MacNeil gave a presentation regarding the proposal for the middle school program changes. Kent prepared a video of their Board meeting that included Mrs. MacNeil's presentation and that North Canaan was able to send out to our families.

#### **IX Pride in Student Learning - Makerspace and NEW 3-D printer**

Beth Johnson with 11 students from Grade 7 made a presentation about Makerspace class.

- The first presentation was on the newly purchased 3D printer. The students explained how they did everything on their own including the process of troubleshooting in order for the printer to work. The students also learned about purchasing solutions, pricing and working as a team. After continued efforts and errors, they were finally able to print a vase. The students were very excited and proud of their perseverance.
- The second presentation was on Ozobots. The students started by opening the boxes not knowing how to use them. They stated they had to research coding and how the robots worked. They experimented with colors and used an app to make them move. They came up with ideas on how children can learn from them and how to incorporate them into the curriculum. The students passed out the Ozobots to all the Board members and assisted them in drawing colored lines on paper and having the robot follow the line and change colors to correspond with the marker that was used. The Board members were very impressed with the robots, and the students seemed very pleased helping everyone use them and sharing what they had learned.

#### **X. Report of Superintendent's Visit to China**

A presentation was given by Dr. Vogel on her recent professional development trip to China that included many pictures and videos. Dr. Vogel was one of eight Superintendents who were chosen to go on this trip. She visited schools in Beijing and Zhejiang and also visited The Forbidden City and the Great Wall. Dr. Vogel learned a great deal about how their education system works and many facts about their research, development and teaching practices. She stated there will be a possibility of teacher exchanges with our District's teachers and teachers from China. Dr. Vogel thinks it will be very beneficial and the Board shared her interest in learning more about the teacher exchange program.

## **XI. Policies**

There was a first reading 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. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the December 12, 2019 Board of Education meeting.

## **XII. Action Items**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of policies 1000 Concept, Goals and Roles in Community Relations; 1010 Communications with the Public; 1101.1 Parent Involvement; 1112 Public Press, Radio and Television; 1112.5 Media Access to School-Community Associations; 1220 Citizens' Advisory Committees; 1240 Citizen Assistance to School Personnel; 1250 School Visitors; and 1251 Loitering or Causing Disturbance. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, Mrs. Visconti. 1 - Abstain Mr. Devino

## **M. Middle School Sports**

Before the Board voted on the Regional Middle School Athletics and program proposal, the Board reiterated what had transpired since the last Board meeting and the pros and cons of voting for the change. Mr. Devino expressed concern that the cost would not decrease in the future and it would be dangerous to commit the money in the budget for future years. The Board stated that the positives would be gaining more sports/clubs, students getting to know each other before high school and the need for fewer coaches. The Board stated concern that the cons would be finding where the money would come from in the budget; travel for the children, parents and teachers; some students may not venture out with other schools; and concerns regarding the bus ride with the older students from high school after games and practices. One idea shared to help with the high school bus concerns was that an older student could be chosen on the late bus to watch out for the younger students. The Board members spoke about the Town Recreation support of this program. Everyone was in agreement that a solution for regional sports was needed. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board to approve the Regional Middle School Athletics and Programs proposal. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti. 1-No Mr. Devino

## **XIII. Administrative Reports**

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

- Nearly all of our families attended student-led conferences last month. Students shared their reading, writing, and mathematics goals with their families and also discussed progress they are making in their classes.
- Families purchased many books from the book fair this fall, more than \$3,600 worth. This amount will enable us to purchase additional books for classroom libraries totalling \$1835.
- Dr. Roy accompanied six teachers (Courtney Tomich, Jamie Crane, Dena Noubleau, Diane Selino, Maddie Cutler, and Renee Fleming) to the 30th annual Literacy for All Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, last month.

- On Tuesday, November 5 we hosted 19 administrators and teacher observers from throughout the Region to continue to strengthen our evidence-collection skills.
- Teachers from North Canaan, Cornwall, and Salisbury came together on the early dismissal day on November 6th for required professional learning. The topic was Human Trafficking.
- Bena Kallick spent the day at North Canaan last Thursday to support our work with the Habits of Mind and personalized learning. Animations of the habits will be used for grades PreK-2 to help students learn each of the habits.

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

- Teachers in grades K-5 each spent a day with two staff members from the CT Science Center. The teachers were able to spend time together to discuss the new science units that were purchased from CREC last year.
- Attended Literacy for All Conference with teachers and administrators from North Canaan, Salisbury Central and Cornwall.
- Bena Kallick and Mike Anderson spoke on October 14th on positive teacher talk. The teachers gave positive feedback to the day.
- North Canaan has 9 ELL students.
- Commented on the Human Trafficking presentation, how important this subject is, how shocked parents were, and how much learning we still need.

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

- Superintendent Goals for 2019-2020 were shared including developing the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan for School Improvement, increasing student learning and achievement, increasing academic and extracurricular opportunities for middle school students, and reviewing and updating Board Policies for Region One Districts.
- Attended the Superintendent's Round Table Conference in Santa Monica, CA.
- NESDEC Trends in Enrollment report regarding birth and enrollment trends and projections for North Canaan.

XIIIV. **Public Comment:** None

XV. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 pm. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington and Mrs. Visconti

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Rooney

Approved: December 12, 2019