



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, September 13, 2018,
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Chairperson
Dorothy Cecchinato, Erin Drislane, Robert Hewins and Sarah Visconti

Others present: Alicia Roy, Principal; Pamela Vogel, Superintendent; Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent

Elizabeth Allen, Karyssa Rosier, Molly Ford, Federico Vargas Tobon, Karri Rosier, Amanda Ford, Jonathan Ford, Natalia Tobon, Lynn Nania, Chris Claydon and Mike Flint (CATV 6)

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by Mrs. Riccardelli.

II. **Board Recognition:** Mrs. Visconti recognized Lynn Nania, Chris Claydon and Amanda Ford, members of the AHA Program. She stated that the program has been operating since 1991 and has offered classes in dance, arts & crafts, sports, etc. She reported that the Board expresses their appreciation for all that the AHA staff has done which is a lot, and they make a great team. Mrs. Nania stated that she thanks the North Canaan Elementary School for their support for the AHA Program over the last 27 years.

Mrs. Riccardelli asked for nominations for Board recognition for October. Dr. Roy suggested Mr. Robson as he does a great job keeping the school building clean. Mrs. Drislane recommended recognizing the cafeteria staff, which includes Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. Whiting and Mrs. Sullivan, for doing a great job preparing meals for the students and staff.

III. **Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Hewins seconded. Vote: Unanimous

IV. **Public Comment:** Mrs. Drislane reported that she was approached by the local Cranford Club members, and they stated that they would like to come to the school to read, volunteer and be more involved with school activities. Dr. Roy stated that she met with a few of the members today to talk about how they can help, and they plan to meet again in October.

V. **Region I Report:** Dr. Vogel reported that there is no report because the Region One Board has not met since June.

VI. Focus on Student Learning: Mrs. Allen reported that she is preparing the first annual art show for Open House. Three of her students made presentations of their art work to the Board for a preview of the show. Mollie Ford showed her painting of an elephant and rainbow water. She stated that she loves elephants and is proud of her painting. Karyssa Rosier showed her drawing of flowers and her name. She stated that she worked on her artwork over the summer and she called it “Tulip Land.” Federico Varga Tobon presented his portrait of flags from different countries. He stated that the flags are from Colombia, Ireland, Scotland and Netherlands.

Mrs. Allen made a presentation to the Board on T.A.B. Some of the highlights of her presentation are listed below:

- TAB is Teaching for Artistic Behavior.
- TAB is an art teaching philosophy, which is choice-based and student directed.
- TAB is based on three ideas - students are artists, the art room is their studio and in the studio they do what artists do.
- The teacher starts with a 5 minute lesson at the beginning of the class.
- There is less waste of supplies and less expense, therefore, with the TAB model.
- TAB is align with the National Visual Arts Standards.

VII. Action Items: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to modify the Action Items on the agenda by removing Trash Hauling and adding Hiring a Math Teacher. Mrs. Visconti seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Riccardelli, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs: Mr. Hewins made a motion to recommend to the full board that the secretary sign the authorized signature change form to operate the child nutrition program with the new principal. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Riccardelli, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

Election of Board Officers: Mrs. Riccardelli nominated Mrs. Drislane as chair of the Board of Education. Mr. Hewins seconded. With no other nominations, Mrs. Visconti closed nominations. Mrs. Drislane accepted. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Riccardelli, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

All Board members agreed to wait until the October meeting to nominate a secretary and an alternate to the All Boards Committee.

Hiring a Math Teacher: Dr. Roy recommended to the Board to hire Nicole Simmons as a math teacher to replace John Budge. She reported that she has a BA in science biology from Southern Connecticut State University with 44 hours in calculus and computers. Mrs. Carter reported that Nicole’s interview was very much relevant to getting students engaged to love math. She stated that she will receive additional support from a math teacher in Region I, and will also work with

an instructional coach. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to hire Nicole Simmons as a long term substitute with a BA1 Salary (\$40,579.00) to replace John Budge effective immediately. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Riccardelli, Mrs. Cecchianto, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

VIII. 2018-2019 Budget Forecast: Dr. Roy reported that the school budget is within the parameters and there should be a surplus under payroll.

IX. First Reading of Policy #5141.213 Opioid Overdose Prevention (Emergency Administration of Naloxone): Board members had the first reading of Policy #5141.213 Opioid Overdose Prevention (Emergency Administration of Naloxone). Dr. Vogel reported that the policy was reviewed with Boards from other schools and C.A.B.E. to put the best parts together. She stated that all school nurses will be trained, but they prefer a nasal spray instead of a syringe to administer the narcan. She also stated that all Boards in Region I will have the same policy.

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:

- She met with several staff members over the summer and she prepared for students to return to school.
- North Canaan Elementary School's website has been changed and updated for easier reading and to include timely information.
- Many 8th graders volunteered to be ambassadors to the younger students and for various roles in the school.
- It was a very nice start to the school year, warm and welcoming staff and eager students.
- The enrollment at this time is 256 students.
- Open House will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2018, with a few presentations given by the principal.

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

- She was very busy over the summer as she worked with seventeen Region I teachers.
- North Canaan received five great new teachers this year. Dena Noubleau, Courtney Tomich, Daniella Medico, Sarah Lyon and Alexandra Ferraro.
- The school year is off to a fantastic start.
- There was a great presentation for the Region I community by Dr. Guskey on grading practices.
- For professional development, the Connecticut Science Center will come to train Region I science teachers this year.
- Teacher evaluations are continuing.

- The amount of ESL students this year is lower and North Canaan only has seven.

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

- Board members will now receive the notes from administrators meetings.
- She met with secretaries in the Region to learn what they may need or want.
- Sam Herrick met with the custodial staff from Region I this summer.
- Region I bus drivers received donuts from the administration.
- A few calls concerning complaints about short days for hot weather were received.
- A community task force has been started to collect data on substance abuse and drinking.
- A special olympics program was approved.

XI. Public Comment: None

Written Communications: Mrs. Riccardelli read thank you notes she received from the following people:

Dorothy Cecchinato - her note stated she wishes to thank the Board for the lovely flowers she received from them.

Jean Anderson - her note stated it has been a pleasure and honor to have been the preschool teacher at North Canaan Elementary School since 1991. The note also stated that she thanks the Board for the lovely brass bell.

Elizabeth Simpson - her note stated that she thanks the Board for the kind words and beautiful bell.

XII. Superintendent Evaluation: Mr. Hewins made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Discussing Performance and Evaluation of the Superintendent at 8:20 P.M. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: Unanimous The Board invited Dr. Roy, Dr. Vogel and Mrs. Carter.

Dr. Vogel left at 8:49 P.M.

The Board came out of Executive Session and reconvened to its regular meeting at 9:28 P.M.

XIII. Adjournment: Mr. Hewins made a motion to adjourn a 9:29 P.M. Mrs. Visconti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo