



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
6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, virtually through Zoom.*

A virtual meeting was held using Zoom: Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato (phone), Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent; Dr. Scott Fellows and Jill Pace, Assistant Superintendents; Brian Bartram, North Canaan Representative (phone).

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:57 pm. by Mrs. Drislane.

II. **Consent Agenda:**

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes for November 10, 2020, as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

III. **Public Comment:** None

IV. **Communications:**

- A. Received thank you notes from Geer Nursing Home to students that made placemats for Thanksgiving. The residents of Geer were very appreciative.
- B. Plans were approved by the state for the underground storage unit. We will now go out to bid on the project.

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

Mr. Bartram reported on the following:

- The Region One Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 3, 2020, and voted to move the high school to distance learning beginning Monday, December 7th, through Monday, January 18th. Students would return to a hybrid model on Tuesday, January 19th.
- There was an election of officers with no changes.
- The Region One Board accepted the recommendation from the ABC Committee to appoint Lisa Carter to the position of Superintendent of Schools.
- Sports are still on hiatus.
- Christmas trees will still be for sale at the high school, along with wreaths and other holiday needs.

VI. **All Boards Chair Report**

Mrs. Drislane reported that the ABC Committee met on November 18, 2020, and the main objective of the meeting resulted in recommending to all region one boards of education the appointment of Lisa Carter as Superintendent of Schools.

VII. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of Policies: 5131.911 Bullying; 5141 Health; 5141.21 Administering Medication; 5141.231 Psychotropic Drug Use; 5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs/Food Allergy Management; 5141.3 Health Assessments & Immunizations; 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect; 5143.1 Student School Time Accident Insurance; 5144 Discipline/Punishment; and 5144.4 Physical Exercise, and Discipline of Students. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the January 12, 2021, Board of Education meeting.

VIII. Response of the Board of Finance to the Request to Create a Non-Lapsing Account.

Dr. Roy and Mrs. Dodge presented their request to the Board of Finance and it was denied. The Board of Finance did not deem it necessary to add another account to the Town that would need auditing and bookkeeping even though they did acknowledge that paying all bills quickly after the fiscal year ends is a problem every year. The Board gave some options for Dr. Roy to look at specifically for the computers that have not been delivered yet, which were ordered in the last fiscal school year.

IX. Action Items

A.-J. Policies

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of policies 5111 Admission/Placement; 5112 Tardiness to School; 5113.2 Truancy; 5114 Suspension/Expulsion: Student Due Process; 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention; 5125 Student Records, Confidentiality; 5131 Conduct; 5131.1 Bus Conduct; 5131.6 Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol; and 5131.8 Out-of-School Misconduct as recommended by administration. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

K. Proposed Board of Education Meeting Dates 2021

Mrs. Cecchinato recommended to the full Board the approval of the 2021 Board of Education meeting dates as presented. Mrs. Dodge seconded. 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

X. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the link on the December agenda.)

Principal's Report: Dr. Roy provided a brief overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- The average number of Distance Learners is 60 at NCES.
- In the event the school does not have enough staff in the building Dr. Roy will request that the Board approve switching to the **hybrid model** for learning. Dr. Roy is not anticipating this immediately but wanted to talk to the Board about the prospect. The Board was in favor of having a meeting to discuss it before it actually happens.
- The NESDEC Projected Enrollment shows the enrollment is relatively stable. There is a projected drop in enrollment because there are 41 students graduating in 8th grade; however, last week four new students enrolled. Dr. Roy asked the Board members if they

were comfortable with keeping all the teachers for the next year's budget considering the smaller numbers in some classes. The Board members agreed that due to the pandemic it was a better scenario with smaller classes rather than putting classes together and making them larger.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the link on the December agenda.) Mrs. Pace and Dr. Fellows both provided an overview of their monthly report. Some of the items they reported are listed below:

- CSDE has added additional flexibilities to help districts with filling substitute positions. The new regulations for substitutes are if you hold a bachelor's degree OR are age 18 or older, have a high school diploma, and have experience working with children (filing of ED174 Substitute Authorization with CSDE) then you can apply for a position.
- Mrs. Pace and Dr. Fellows are working closely with the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) and teachers to develop a robust set of offerings for the 4 January 2021 Professional Learning Day, the focus of which is curriculum.
- The Region's school counselors have been working hard to ensure that students returning to school have someone with whom they can talk about the anxiety and stress of returning to school.
- There was a productive session with PDEC to collaboratively determine the variety of ways in which evaluators could collect data throughout the school year.

Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the link on the December agenda.)

Ms. Carter gave an overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported on are listed below:

- The uptick in COVID-19 cases continued throughout the month of November. Region One reports student cases and community cases, which are communicated with all Region One parents and staff and can seem overwhelming.
- Work continues on the protocol for school closing with respect to weather. The administrative team prepared a protocol that has been reviewed by teachers and staff.
- The administrative team has prepared a draft of the 2021-2022 calendar and is now in the process of reviewing it with leadership teams and teachers. The calendar will be ready to present to Boards of Education in January.
- The NESDEC data report indicates that moderate K-8 enrollment growth continues in Kent, Cornwall, Salisbury and Canaan, while K-8 enrollments in North Canaan and Sharon remain stable. Over the next three years, District-wide K-8 enrollments are expected to increase and Grades 9-12 to see a small decline. NESDEC has added a "Second Semester refresher" enrollment projection at no cost to affiliates. The refresher will be based on our late May/early April enrollment data.
- Michael Baldwin, the new Director of Education and Associate Artistic Director of the Sharon Playhouse met with Ms. Carter this month to discuss how to strengthen the partnership between Region one and the Playhouse.

XI. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing the Recommendation to the ABC Board regarding the Appointment of the Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Drislane informed the Board that it was not necessary to go into an Executive session if they were comfortable voting without it. All Board members concurred they were ready to vote without an Executive Session. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of Lisa Carter to be appointed the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

XII. Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Mr. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 pm. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Michael Ellington.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: January 12, 2021