



# 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, April 11, 2019,  
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

**Board members present:** Erin Drislane, Chairperson; Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Robert Hewins, and Sarah Visconti

**Others present:** Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Ms. Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Pamela Vogel, Superintendent

Jaime Crane, Christopher Crane, Katie Crane, Lindsey Crane, Leah Drislane, John Ford, Mollie Ford, Beth Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Madelyn Johnson, Caiden Brewer, Tabitha Brewer and Mike Flint (CATV6)

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

II. **Board Recognition:** Mrs. Drislane asked for nominations for Board recognition for May. Mrs. Cahill recommended recognizing Mrs. Ferraro, Special Education teacher.

III. **Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, March 14, 2019, as written. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti Mrs. Dodge abstained.

IV. **Public Comment:** None

V. **Communications:** Dr. Roy read an invitation from the first selectman's office which stated that there will be an FOI Seminar on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. in the North Canaan Town Hall. Dr. Roy announced that there will be a Public Hearing on the budget held on Monday, April 29, 2019, at 7:30 P.M. in the North Canaan Town Hall. Dr. Roy reported that she received a letter from a North Canaan paraprofessional requesting permission for their child to continue to attend North Canaan Elementary School next year.

VI. **Region I Report:** Dr. Vogel reported on the last Region I meeting she attended. Some of the items she discussed are listed below:

- Mr. Stever and several high school teachers visited a school in New Hampshire to learn more about Personalized Learning. More teachers are planning to visit, too.
- Mr. Stever reported on grading practices and he shared information on all the grades of each student in high school going back 5 years. This research showed that Ds and Fs have gone down from 900 to 40 or 50.
- Mr. Stever reported on PSAT and SAT testing information.
- Several policies were passed.

**VII. All Board Chair Report:** Mr. Hewins reported on the last All Boards Committee meeting he attended. Some of the items that he discussed are listed below:

- There was a webinar on safety and a crisis plan.
- The Region I business managers contract was approved.
- The middle school sports program has been pushed back for a year.

**VIII. Pride in Student Learning - Makerspace:** Mrs. Johnson reported that 5th and 6th grade students in her WIN group have been working very hard on making things and learning how to work with each other as part of the makerspace. Some of those students explained what a makerspace is and how it has helped them learn. Some of their comments are listed below:

- It is a place that is shared to work on projects.
- It helps us work in teams.
- We combine ideas and problem solve.
- We agree and disagree on things.
- We used a cardboard base to make games like Ski Ball and Bucket Smash.
- We made an online video.
- It was lots of fun.

**IX. Next Generation Accountability Report:** Dr. Roy reviewed the Next Generation Accountability report on the 2017-2018 school year. She stated it tracks progress in absenteeism, achievement, assessment and academic growth. She explained the different points earned from a chart for ELA, Math, Science and Absenteeism for all students and high need students.

**X. First Reading of Recommended Policies:** The Board had a first reading of policies #5144.1 Restraint and Seclusion, #5145.5 Sexual Discrimination/Sexual Harassment, #5113 Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect or Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees. The Board will have a second reading on these policies with a vote for approval next month.

## **XI. Action Items**

### A-F. Policies

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of policies 0050 Code of Ethics, 0100 Mission Statement, 0200 Purposes-Goals-Objectives, 0521 Nondiscrimination, 0521.2 Commitment to Religious Neutrality, and 0523 Equity and Diversity as recommended by

administration. Mrs. Dodge second. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

#### G. Nonresident Student Tuition Fee

Mrs. Drislane reported that a new nonresident policy was approved last June and that a fee is now recommended. Dr. Roy explained that the fee was created from the Region I net cost per pupil.

Mr. Hewins made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the nonresident student fee of \$4,569 for the 2019-2020 school year, \$2,284.50 payable by August 15, 2019, and \$2,284.50 payable by January 15, 2020. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

#### H. Board Resignation

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept the resignation of Board member Karen Riccardelli, effective immediately. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

Mrs. Drislane reported that since it is an election year in November the Board will wait until then for a new Board member. The Board agreed to send a thank you letter to Mrs. Riccardelli for her years of service on the Board.

#### I. Teacher Resignations

Mr. Hewins made a motion to recommend to the full Board to accept the resignations of middle school teachers Rachel Gall and Anne Fern Smart, effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

Dr. Roy reported that a replacement for a middle school science teacher and a grade 4 teacher will be advertised.

## XII. 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 different grade levels showed what they were doing at the second trimester celebration.
- *Mulan Jr.* was a wonderfully successful show that involved many students in beautiful costumes.
- Kindergarten thru Grade 4 teachers and Middle School Language Arts teachers have been reading and having discussions on the book *Guided Reading*.
- The Brooker Memorial dental program served 72 students.
- Student-led conferences were held last week.

- Five middle school students participated in “Stem Day” at UCONN.
- Students had a great time at the Spanish Festival.
- Dr. Roy attended the second day of the Spring Leadership Series sponsored by SERC, the State Education Resource Center.

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

- A group of eight people from Region I attended the ASCD conference in Chicago.
- The Regional Professional Development Day held on March 15th was great with Karen Manning hosting the teachers.
- Focusing on feedback has continued to be a part of the teacher evaluation process.
- Four administrators attended a math workshop and viewed a video recording of classroom teachers lessons.
- Progress on the 2019-2020 staffing is going very well.
- The Career Work Program and the English Learner Program continue to be very successful.

***Superintendent’s Report:*** Dr. Vogel reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Some of the items she reported on are listed below:

- The Task Force group is planning a program for families on vaping and drug prevention for Friday evening, April 26, 2019 at the high school. Students in grades 6-8 can attend a Fun Night at the high school at the same time.
- Craig Miner and Maria Horn were at the high school on April 8, 2019, sharing their legislation that could impact the school.
- Lily Najdek was nominated as North Canaan’s Litchfield County Superintendent’s Award and it was a nice celebration.
- The Rotary Club along with Salisbury Bank are working with the high school to begin a student group to initiate more community service.
- The ASCD conference was very good.
- Administrators were given the CAPSS Innovation website that shares information from other schools.
- The CABE Workshop was taped for Board members to review if they were not able to attend.
- The robotics team is in Boston for a competition.
- High School Varsity Girls’ Basketball team had a super season.
- Three students from North Canaan are participating in the Special Olympics.
- *Rip Van Winkle* and *Mulan Jr.* were great plays.

**XIII. Public Comment:** None

**XIV. Executive Session:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to go into Executive Session for the Purpose of Reviewing the Principal's Contract with Action Anticipated at 8:42 P.M. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti Dr. Roy and Dr. Vogel were invited.

Mrs. Cahill made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:21 P.M. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti. No action was taken.

**XV. Adjournment:** Mrs. Visconti made a motion to adjourn at 9:22 P.M. Mr. Hewins seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: May 9, 2019