



# 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  
6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, virtually through Zoom.*

**A virtual meeting was held using Zoom:** Rebecca Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

**Others present:** Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent; Dr. Scott Fellows and Jill Pace, Assistant Superintendents.

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

### II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the minutes for March 9, 2021, Regular Meeting and April 5, 2021, Special Meeting, as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

III. **Public Comment:** None

### IV. CAS Student Art Awards

Liz Allen presented the CAS Student Art Awards to E. Petkovich and R. Hinman. Mrs. Allen described E. Petkovich's art as very creative and inspiring using crochet and paint together. Mrs. Allen described R. Hinman as a talented artist that prefers drawings and has drawn the front of North Canaan Elementary School and zip lining at Catamount to name a few. Both students have exhibited their own personal outstanding vision and artistry during the school year.

V. **Communications:** A letter of resignation was received by Carole Fraher, 3rd grade teacher. The Board members all agreed she was a good teacher and wished her the best.

### VI. Region I Report - Mr. Bartram, North Canaan Representative

Mr. Bartram was unable to attend the North Canaan Board meeting, Mrs. Drislane read Mr. Bartram's report as follows:

- The Region 1 BOE voted to approve the ABC Committee's recommendation to extend the employment for our current Acting Asst. Superintendents Jill Pace (0.4 time) & Scott Fellows (0.6 time).
- The Region held a Public Hearing on the proposed Regional budgets. Thank you to Mike E. for moderating the Hearing. No public comments were heard after the presentation.

- The Region 1 BOE voted to send the HVRHS (\$8,172,755) / RSSC (\$1,445,956) & Pupil Services (\$6,407,752) budgets to a Referendum on Tuesday May 4th. The combined budget totals \$16,026,463, an increase of 1.58%

## **VII. All Boards Chair Report**

At the March 24th meeting the ABC Board voted to recommend to the Region One Board to implement the recommendations made in the proposal from Ed Advance in regards to the Human Resources audit.

## **VIII. Update on Assistant Superintendent Search Process**

Region One accepted the recommendation from the Assistant Superintendent Search Committee to extend the contracts for Jill Pace at .4 FTE and Scott Fellows at .6 FTE in the role of Assistant Superintendents for the 2021-2022 school year.

## **IX. Policies (1st reading)**

There was a first reading of Policies 6000 Instruction (Concept and Roles), 6114.1 Fire Emergency (Drills)/Crisis Response Drills, 6146 Graduation Requirements/Mastery-Based Learning, 6153 Field Trips, 6154 Homework/Make up Work, 6161 Equipment, Books and Materials: Provision/Selection, 6161.1 Evaluation/Selection of Instructional Materials, 6161.2 Care of Instructional Materials, 6162.51 Surveys of Students/Student Privacy, 6163.1 Library Books and Library Materials, 6171 Special Education Program, and 6176 Career and Vocational Education. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the May 11, 2021, Board of Education meeting.

## **X. Action Items**

### **A.-L. Policies**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of policies 6111 School Calendar; 6113 Release Time; 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness; 6114.3 Bomb Threats; 6120 Objectives of the Instructional Program; 6130 Organizational Plan; 6141.32 Technology and Instruction; 6141.321 Acceptable Use of the Internet, Other Computer Networks and Internet Safety; 6141.322 Website/Pages; 6143 Curriculum Guides; 6142.1 Health Education Program; and 6145.2 Interscholastic Athletics. Mrs. Dodge Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

### **M. Agreement with the North Canaan Faculty Association regarding payment for directors of non-athletic activities after-school**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the agreement with the North Canaan Faculty Association to pay teachers who direct approved non-athletic activities after-school at the rate of \$29 per hour. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Dr. Roy stated that there is no wording in the current contract to pay for these activities, only for being an athletic coach. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

#### **N. Building Management System using grant funds**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the proposal by Environmental Systems Corporation (ECS) to install the building management and air control system using grant funds. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Dr. Roy reported that budget monies would not be used and installing an air control system would let air flow properly, regulate temperatures in the classrooms, and save money on heating. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

#### **O. Paving Project**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the paving quote from Pete's Paving Service, Inc. in the amount of \$28,495.00. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

#### **XI. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the links on the April agenda.)**

***Principal's Report:*** A moment of silence was held for Leila Wood and Mrs. Drislane's father who both passed away. Dr. Roy said a few words regarding Ms. Wood's passing and her 35 years of teaching at North Canaan School. Dr. Roy provided a brief overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- A total of 37 students made the honor roll for the second trimester.
- The State of Connecticut has brought free WiFi to our school grounds. We were one of the first to sign-up and receive the hardware needed to offer free WiFi. Although we were originally slated for one connection point, we asked for two and did receive them.
- Dr. Roy, along with our interventionists, continue to participate in professional learning regarding FastBridge, which is the new source of assessments to support students in reading, mathematics, and social-emotional learning. We are learning to understand the reports and how to conduct progress monitoring.
- Beth Johnson and Dr. Roy participated in training led by the Center for School Change from 4-6 PM with the superintendent, assistant superintendents, and other schools in the Region for four days last month to help learners and staff as we transition more of our learners back to the classroom and continue to plan to meet everyone's needs.

#### ***Assistant Superintendent's Report:***

Mrs. Pace and Dr. Fellows both provided an overview of their monthly report. Some of the items they reported are listed below:

- The Professional Development and Evaluation Committee met on March 29th to discuss the new Evaluation Rubric (*The Continuum of Professional Practice-CPP*) and how it will be used to define the effective (and expected) planning, assessment, and instruction for all of our schools.
- Summer school will be having both enrichment and academic work. We will be using some of the Federal grant monies to offset the cost of these summer programs.
- Jill and Scott are currently working with the building principals to identify qualified applicants for all current and anticipated staff openings and working with the building administrators to schedule interviews with these candidates. All finalists will be asked to teach a class prior to making a final decision on hiring.

### ***Superintendent's Report:***

- We can safely estimate that 75-85% of the Region One staff has received the vaccine. The high school students ages 16+ will start getting their vaccinations.
- Students are returning to school for in-person learning in all of our schools.
- An HR Generalist position will be created in the Central Office. The scope of work will be focused on improving compliance with legal requirements, better communication, and improving efficiency of operations throughout the Region.
- After presenting the Umbrella Campaign to all of the Superintendents at the Litchfield County Superintendents Association at the March meeting, no one has reached out to express an interest in joining the group. Chris Leone (the Superintendent in Region 6), the Litchfield Superintendent, and Ms. Carter will be meeting with Janet Carlson to discuss next steps.
- CSDE is strongly recommending that school districts create robust summer programming that include time for academic learning as well as for socializing with peers. After much discussion among administrators, teachers and paraprofessional staff, Region 1 will be offering K-8 summer programming in two locations: Kent Center School and Salisbury Central School. Given the brevity of the summer program day (three hours), Kent will provide its own summer programming (due to its distance from Salisbury) while students from the other five schools will attend summer programming at Salisbury Central.

### **XII. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Memorandum of Agreement regarding a member of AFSCME Council 4, Local 1303-269 (action anticipated)**

Mrs. Drislane invited Dr. Roy, Lisa Carter, Jill Pace, and Dr. Scott Fellows to the Executive session at 7:12. The Board came back to the regular meeting at 7:20. Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement regarding a member of AFSCME Council 4, Local 1303-269 discussed in executive session. Mrs. Dodge Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

### **XIII. Public Comment**

Dr. Roy reported that after all the savings and including the grant money for the 2020-2021 school year that the school budget should be able to return about \$300,000 to the Town, in addition to the monies that will not be spent with the underground storage tank. Dr. Roy expressed hope that it will help with the \$400,000 regional budget increase for the next fiscal year.

### **XIV. Adjournment**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 pm. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 5-yes Rebecca Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Rooney

Approved: May 11, 2021