



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
6:30pm on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, virtually through Google Meet.*

Virtual meeting was held using Google Meet: Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato (phone), Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington, and Sarah Visconti

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Dr. Pamela Vogel, Superintendent; Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent; Brian Bartram, North Canaan Representative (phone)

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane

Mrs. Drislane requested the Board to add line item “Q. 1PM Dismissal on Wednesdays in May and June 2020” to the Action items. Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve adding the action to the April Agenda. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, and Mrs. Visconti.

II. Board Recognition: None

III. Consent Agenda: Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated March 10, 2020, as written. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, and Mrs. Visconti.

IV. Public Comment: None

V. Communications: None

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

Mr. Bartram was unable to communicate through the virtual meeting due to technical issues. He told the Board he would email the report to whoever needed it.

VII. All Boards Chair Report

Mrs. Drislane reported the significant topics of the ABC Board meeting which included the following:

- Region One Board is beginning the search for the new Superintendent. They have voted to hire Dr. Joseph Erardi as the consultant for the ABC Committee Superintendent Search. The Board has been meeting with him every Wednesday except for Spring break. The Board has decided that now is not an optimal time to do a full search, so an Interim Superintendent will be hired for 6 months or longer if school is not in session until late fall.

- There was also discussion on regional middle school sports and trying to move ahead. Mrs. Drislane will represent North Canaan for the first year but one more person is needed. Mrs. McNeil is working on a handbook.
- Any questions or concerns about the Interim Superintendent should be directed toward Mrs. Drislane via text, phone or email.

XIII. Action Items

A-M. Policies

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board to approve the policies 1212 School Volunteers; 3281 School Fundraisers; 3511 Compliance with 504 Regulations; 3542.31 Free or Reduced Price Lunch; 4111 Recruitment and Selection of Staff; 4111.1 Equal Employment Opportunity; 4111.2 Professional Staff Vacancies; 4112 Appointment and Conditions of Employment (Hiring); 4117 Disciplinary Action/Suspension/Dismissal; 4117.2 Resignations; 4117.4 Non-Renewal/Suspension; 4118.112 Sexual Harassment (Certified and Non-Certified); and 6114.8 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness as recommended by administration. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, and Mrs. Visconti.

N. Healthy Food Certification Program

1. Renewal with Healthy Food Options

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board to continue the Healthy Food Certification Program for the 2020-2021 school year with healthy food options pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, and to certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the school under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, and Mrs. Visconti.

2. Food and Beverage Exemptions

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board to allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of

the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, and Mrs. Visconti.

O. Memorandum of Understanding with North Canaan Faculty Association

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the North Canaan Faculty Association regarding distance learning as presented. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, and Mrs. Visconti.

P. Hiring of a Math Coach/Interventionist

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Sarah Ponkos as a math coach/interventionist at a master's degree step 4 with a salary rate of \$50,949. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, and Mrs. Visconti.

Q. 1pm Dismissal on Wednesdays in May and June 2020

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the 1pm dismissal on Wednesdays in May and June 2020 recognizing that if social distancing changes before the end of school this action item will be reviewed and revised. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, and Mrs. Visconti.

IX. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the link on the April agenda.)

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

- Could not be more proud of the hard work in our school community during Distance Learning: students, staff, and families.
- We are now serving 275 meals per day. We are serving 70 more meals per day than any other school in the region, including much more than sandwiches.
- Students have also recorded the Pledge of Allegiance to help their friends begin their day as we did while at the school.

Dr. Vogel commented on what an outstanding job Dr. Roy and the staff at North Canaan were doing with their videos, community outreach throughout the town, and food delivery.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: A copy is available through the link on the April agenda. Ms. Carter commented on what a tremendous job North Canaan Elementary has been doing.

Superintendent's Report: A copy is available through the link on the April agenda.

Dr. Vogel stated she couldn't say enough of how proud she is of the staff in Region One. From reaching out to students and their families, the community support and the lunches being delivered. Some of the items she reported on are listed below:

- Very proud of the distance learning with Special Education. Each school has put a grid together and each teacher will pull out the most important goals. This is to check in on each

student who has special needs to see that we are addressing each child's goals in their Individual Special Education Plan.

- Working on sending out a survey through each school on how the internet services work so we can tell the companies it's time to do better.
- The decision we made for our schools to continue to pay support staff in full, and to reduce their work day by half, has been of benefit to us all. Teachers and families alike, are appreciative of the assistance paras provide their students.

X. Public Comment: Mr. Ellington stated we were lucky that if this had to happen it happened at this point in time because as a Region we are fairly well equipped with technology to deal with this. In the past teachers have shown some resistance with new technology because of the lack of time to learn it. Mr. Ellington is very impressed and appreciative with how the teachers have taken everything they can acquire through technology and virtual learning and doing everything in their power to use what they are given to teach. The very generous taxpayers enabled the Region to be far ahead of a lot of other places. In Mr. Ellington's opinion, the investment in teaching, training and technology and merging them together to teach the students is working very well.

XI. Adjournment: Mrs. Cahill made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 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: May 12, 2020