



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, October 10, 2019,
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

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

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

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane.

II. **Board Recognition:** None

III. **Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, September 19, 2019, as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes dated, October 7, 2019, as written. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

IV. **Public Comment - Agenda items only:** None

V. **Communications:** None

VI. **Region I Report:** Lisa Carter commented that the school counselors gave a presentation with the schools, there was a final review of the (9000 Series) Policies and there was a presentation of demographic data.

VII. **All Board Chair Report:** Mrs. Drislane stated she was unable to attend this meeting but commented that a portion of the meeting was the discussion of regionalizing middle school sports and each chair was instructed to speak at their next board meeting and vote as to whether or not their school was interested in moving forward to pursue further planning.

VIII. **Pride in Student Learning - Morning Meeting, Grade 3**

Mrs. Selino and six grade 3 students came to the Board meeting to present their morning meeting routine. They started by showing the Board members how they get into a circle in pairs, do an elbow shake to say hello and share information about their life in order for the students to get to know each other. The students acted out an activity and demonstrated how they read the teachers board message in the morning to find grammar errors and decide how to fix them. The children

stated they like morning meeting very much because it's fun and they get to know their classmates. Dr. Roy commented that every grade in North Canaan does this every morning with two teachers and has found that it is very helpful to all the students to transition into their day.

VIII b. Public Comment

Delores Perotti of North Canaan spoke to the full Board to address STAP (Stop the Asphalt Plant.) Mrs. Perotti stated that B. Metcalf Paving, Inc. is seeking a site modification approval to be allowed to add a warm mix asphalt plant to its site on East Canaan Rd. adjacent to residential neighborhoods and the Blackberry River. The plant would be in violation of multiple CT Public Acts which will have a very negative impact on home values as well as health effects from exposure to asphalt fumes. Mrs. Perotti wanted to make the Board of Education aware of what was happening because of the effect it will have on the Town of North Canaan and its school system.

IX. State Assessment Results Overview

Dr. Roy explained the Smarter Balanced Assessment Results for the 2018-19 North Canaan Elementary school year. She stated that the State and local districts must administer tests to all students and Federal and State law require testing in Grades 3-8.

- Summative Assessments provide us with the following: accurately describe students' achievements and growth, give us an annual snapshot of student achievement, and provide a reliable measure of students' progress of knowledge and skills. They are not, however, meant as a sole measure of student achievement and a sole source of guidance for curriculum or instruction.
- The English language arts and math growth showed overall that North Canaan scores are improving for all grades, the percentage of students exceeding the standard is increasing, and the percentage of students not meeting the standard is decreasing although the special education students are not meeting the standards.

X. Policies

There was a first reading of A-L Policies: 1000 Concept, Goals and Roles in Community Relations, 1010 Communications with the public, 1101.1 Parent Involvement, 1112 Public Press, Radio and Television, 1112.5 Media Access to Students, 1120 Public Participation in Board Meetings, 1130 Board of Education Meetings, 1210 School-Community Associations, 1220 Citizen's Advisory Committees, 1240 Citizen Assistance to School Personnel, 1250 School Visitors and 1251 Loitering of Causing Disturbance. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the November 14th Board of Education meeting.

XI. Action Items

A-J. Policies

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of policies 2100 Administrative Staff Organization: Chief Administrative Officer, 2111 Employment, 2120 Organization Chart(s), 2121 Delegation of Authority, 2130 Job Descriptions, 2133 Appointment of Principals, 2210 Administrative Leeway in Absence of Board of Education Policy, 2218 Notice to Students of Policies Governing Discipline, 2220 Representative and Deliberative Groups and 5141.5 Regional School District One Suicide Prevention and Intervention Policy. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

K. Middle School Sports

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to recommend to the full Board to move forward with the plan to pursue regionalized middle school sports as outlined by the Regional Schools Services Center. Mr. Ellington seconded. She stated that Region One middle schools have a decline in enrollment and in order for the teams to have enough students to play and to bring a higher level of competitiveness to each sport, something needed to be done for the future of middle school sports. She also stated that by combining schools it would give the opportunity for more specialized coaches in each sport, a possibility for expanding sports with robotics, drama, etc. to our sport offerings and an opportunity for students to socially know each other before they play in high school in 9th grade. There will be a shared cost among the 6 schools. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

L. AHA Support

Dr. Roy announced the resignation of Lynn Nania, Director of AHA. Dr. Roy recommended to the Board that Patricia Vanicky, North Canaan Elementary, Teacher assistant, be hired to replace Mrs. Nania. She stated that the Town had a \$3,000.00 cut in the budget. Mrs. Nania was notified on October 9, 2019, and she resigned as of October 31, 2019. Dr. Roy stated North Canaan Elementary needs this program very much for our working families. As of now, there are 36 families that use AHA after school. Mrs. Vanicky has previously run a successful after-school program in Cornwall. Dr. Roy would be meeting with Mrs. Nania and Mrs. Vanicky on October 11, 2019, to make plans for Mrs. Nania's departure. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to recommend to the full Board to use \$3,000.00 from the school payroll budget to transfer to the Town to cover the Town's budget cut towards a new AHA director's salary. Mrs. Visconti seconded. 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti

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:

- PTO had their annual Fun Fest which was successful and a fun day had by all.
- 8th Grade trip will team up with Sharon and Cornwall this year to go to Gettysburg, PA and Washington, DC.
- Every Tuesday there is a weekly teacher team meeting for 90 minutes to look at data and plan instruction for the next two weeks. Half the teams meet one Tuesday and the other half the following week.

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

- Human trafficking presentations have started for all teachers in Region One Schools.
- Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Testing results have been received. Students in most schools showed growth. One or two schools showed significant overall growth.

- Professional Learning: On October 14th there will be keynote sessions followed by workshops about a variety of topics regarding social/emotional learning. All professional learning communities will have met for the first time by the end of October.
- She attended the Alpine Users Conference regarding the effective use of student data and formative assessment. She also attended the Literacy for All conference along with several teachers from PreK-8.
- Mrs. Huber has met with teachers as well as students to administer placement tests to new students who have languages other than English in their homes. North Canaan has 9 EL students (Spanish.)

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vogel was unable to be at the meeting. Lisa Carter commented on some of the items on the Superintendent's Report.

- Superintendent Goals for 2019-2020 include the following:
 - ❖ Develop 2020-2013 Strategic Plan for school improvement
 - ❖ Increasing student learning and achievements in grades K-12
 - ❖ Increase academic and extracurricular opportunities for Middle School students
 - ❖ Review and update Board Policies for Region One Districts
- Progress is being made on all schools regarding the Policies. All schools are in the process of reviewing and revising.
- Social Emotional programs are being used for prevention and intervention. Some schools are using the program from Sandy Hook Promise - "Start with Hello" - and also doing Red Ribbon week. All schools are being provided with the Gizmo Program for students K-5 and the SOS (Signs of Suicide) program in grades 6-8 and the high school to create consistency for our students.
- Secretary Meetings will be happening on early dismissal or late start days. These meetings will provide support to all the secretaries and provide ways to be consistent with our data.
- She is working on a policy to do a better job with volunteers. The policy will consist of background checks for specific volunteers when they attend field trips and for other specific times.

XIII. **Public Comment:** None

XIV. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 8:53 pm. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Cecchinato, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Ellington, Mr. Hewins and Mrs. Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Rooney

Approved: November 14, 2019

