



# 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 6:30pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2020,  
in the North Canaan Elementary School library.*

**Board members present:** Dorothy Cecchinato, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, and Sarah Visconti

**Others present:** Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Mrs. Drislane

**II. Board Recognition:** None

**III. Board of Education Member Appreciation Month:** Dr. Roy thanked the Board members for all they do and their dedication and support to the North Canaan School and handed out a gift as a token of North Canaan Elementary School's appreciation.

**IV. Consent Agenda:** Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated February 11, 2020, as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

**V. Pride in Student Learning:** Mrs. Davis and 13 students from the 7th grade attended the Board meeting to explain what a Socratic Seminar is and how it works in their classroom. Mrs. Davis started out by expressing how proud she is of her students for all their hard work and dedication. Students got up in front of the Board and explained how the Socratic Seminars work and what the purpose is. The students described how they are able to understand a book's deeper meaning and how it helped them examine other ideas and differences while speaking and listening to fellow students. In conclusion, the students all agreed that the Socratic Seminar is very helpful and meaningful. The Board applauded their efforts and commended them for their professionalism.

**VI. Public Comment - Agenda items only:** Katty Brennan, a paraprofessional at North Canaan Elementary, recognized school nurse Lori Foley for doing an amazing job with all the illnesses this winter as well as remembering even the slightest ailments she sees on a daily basis.

**VII. Communications:** The Physical Education teachers in the region are planning a new Spring event called Unite-a-Thon on May 26th for 7th and 8th grade students in place of the annual track event. There will be stations with problem solving games and activities for the students to collaborate and build new friendships. The 7th and 8th grade students will spend the day rotating within the games while the 9th and 10th grade high school students, acting as leaders, help guide

students during the day. This will provide another opportunity for students in the Region One community to collaborate and build friendships when entering the high school.

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

Mr. Bartram was unable to be present. Mrs. Drislane briefly summarized what she watched of the Region 1 Board meeting. Public comment was heard by many in support of keeping the football program. Discussion was held regarding the sustainability of the football and field hockey programs. The discussion will be continued at the next Budget Committee meeting, on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. There was action and discussion of policies, continued discussion of the coronavirus and the budget. Mrs. Drislane pointed out that you can watch the Region I Board of Education Meetings online through the regional website.

#### **IX. Representatives on Middle School Sports/Activities Committee**

Mrs. Drislane reported that Middle School Sports would form a committee. The committee should be made up of 1-2 people from each Town to represent each school. Mrs. Drislane recommended 1 person from the community and 1 person from our Board of Education.

#### **X. Policies**

There was a first reading of the following 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. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the April 21, 2020, Board of Education meeting.

#### **XI. 2020-2021 School Budget**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the proposed 2020-2021 North Canaan Board of Education budget in the amount of \$4,419,475.49 and increase of 1.41% over the current fiscal year. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Dr. Roy pointed out some changes from the first reading. For example, the Middle School sport budget went up due to Kent opting out of most of the middle school sports activities. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

#### **XII. Action Items**

- A. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board to approve the policies 3152 Spending Public Funds for Advocacy; 3230.1 Federal Fiscal Compliance; 3320 Purchasing Procedures; 3435 Fraud Preventions and Investigation; 3513.1 Energy Conservation; 3516.11 Hazardous Materials Communication; 3516.12 Asbestos Control; 3516.4 Sex Offender Notification; 3516.5 Sex Offenders of School Property; 3520.13 Student Protection and Privacy/Cloud-Based Issues and 3545 Transportation. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

### XIII. **Administrative Reports**

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

- Dr. Roy shared the Next Generation Accountability Results for North Canaan Elementary. The results showed that there has been improvement and there has been an increased overall percentage points by 9, bringing us over the state average.
- Developmental Assets Survey Results from all of last year's 8th graders in the region. Only 31% of 8th graders said that they "read for pleasure three or more hours per week." This internal asset received the lowest percentage of student responses. The external asset that received the lowest percentage of student responses, 23%, from last year's 8th graders is spending "three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts." Both of these assets are areas on which we could focus as a community.
- North Canaan sent a survey home about whether families have internet and/or computers/ipads in anticipation of possible distance learning due to Covid-19 and having to close the school. Dr. Roy stated she will keep everyone informed.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report:** A copy is available through the link on the March agenda.

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

XIV. **Public Comment:** Mrs. Visconti inquired if AHA was going to be canceled for the summer. Dr. Roy said the Town Selectmen are working to address this program. She added that the underground storage tank replacement project at the school this summer will be outside of the AHA program door, and it will not be possible for students to be around the school. Also, the Town Pool may not be open for the summer due to needed repairs. Both of these projects directly affect the AHA summer program. Dr. Roy added that there will be a small summer school at North Canaan again this year which will somewhat help families out.

XV. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Cecchinato, Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Dodge, and Mrs. Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Rooney

Approved: April 21, 2020