



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
6:30 pm on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, virtually through Zoom.*

A virtual meeting was held using Zoom: Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Mike Ellington, 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 6:40 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 14, 2021, Regular Meeting as written. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 6-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devio, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Mike Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Communications - Written

A letter of resignation was received by T. Olownia. Dr. Roy requested the Board to re-evaluate Mr. Olownia's position of Library Manager before posting a replacement. Dr. Roy stated that we now have a librarian and the position is not entirely needed anymore. Dr. Roy requested that we make it a Support Staff Paraprofessional position that will Support the library media specialist and will also do lunch duties and classroom coverage. The position would be 30 hours a week from 8:30-2:30 Monday through Friday. The Board had no objections.

V. Region One Report

Mrs. Drislane stated that the Region One Board meeting was October 4th. Ms. Drislane summarized as follows:

- Discussion was held regarding a proposal for possible adjustments to the policy review process to make it more collaborative across the region. As CABA proposes policy updates/revisions, meet with a committee composed of members from each Board to develop a first reading draft to bring back to their Boards. This would help gain efficiencies in regards to policy work across the region.
- There was an approval of the MOA for COVID-19 for certified staff.
- Discussion was held regarding the HVRHS speaker system project.
- There was an executive session to appoint Rebecca Gaschel-Clark to the position of Supervisor of Special Education; discuss the Business Manager's Contract; and update on the Region One Certified Contract Negotiations.

VI. All Boards Chair Report - Mrs. Erin Drislane

Mrs. Drislane reported that there was an ABC meeting on September 22nd. Ms. Drislane summarized as follows:

- A brief Human Resources update was provided by Superintendent Carter.
- Discussion was held regarding a proposal for a regional policy committee. This committee would contain a member or two from each Board to work together on recommended policies, then the policies would go back to the individual boards for review/revision and approval. This proposal is to help gain efficiencies across the region and make better use of the Superintendent's time.
- Approval of the Superintendent's Performance Goals, as presented.

VII. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of Policies 9010 Limits of Authority; 9110 Number of Members, Terms of Office; 9120 Officers and Auxiliary Personnel; 9121 Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary of the Board; 9124 Recording Secretary/Clerk; 9125 Attorney(s)/Corporation Counsel; 9127 Auditor; 9132 Standing Committees; 9133 Special Committees; and 9140 Board Representatives. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the November 9, 2021, Board of Education meeting.

VIII. Action Items

A-J. Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of policies 6162.7 Educational Software; 6180.1 Student Achievement; 7115 Developing Educational Specifications; 7221 Selection of Site; 7230.2 Indoor Air Quality; 7230.3 Acoustics; 7551 Naming of Facilities; 9000 Role of Board and Members (Powers, Purpose, Duties); 9012 Legal Responsibilities of Boards of Education; and 9250 Remuneration and Reimbursement. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 6-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devio, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Mike Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

K. NCES Strategic Plan 2021-2022

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the Strategic Plan for North Canaan Elementary School for 2021-2022. Dr. Roy presented a slideshow with an overview of the Region One Plan and then a more in depth look at the North Canaan Strategic Plan. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 6-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devio, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Mike Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

IX. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the links on the October agenda.)

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

- There was an Open House on Thursday, September 16th with families in our school. The response was positive.
- Dr. Roy commented on the Assessment data. Dr. Roy explained that the results were not as high as we would expect due to COVID-19 as well as having two different math curricula in the school. All elementary grades have now been switched to Bridges and middle school grades to Illustrative Math. Ms. Carter also commented that the data reflects the pandemic challenge.

Assistant Superintendents' Report: (A copy is available through the links on the October agenda.)

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

- After applying, the Region was selected to receive a grant from the Connecticut Association of School (CAS) and the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE) that will enroll the Region in the 2021-2022 cohort of the Special Education Administrator Coaching program. This program will pair the Region with an experienced Special Education Administrator, who will work on goals that were selected (increasing rigor in Special Education and ensuring that students with IEPs are being equitably provided with the resources that they need).

Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the October agenda.)

Ms. Carter provided an overview of their monthly report. Some of the items they reported are listed below:

- COVID-19 cases appear to be plateauing throughout the State as positivity rates have been holding steady or slightly declining.
- The Blackline report was completed. NCES numbers are lower than normal partially due to more homeschooled children during the pandemic and the 8th grade graduating class was a much larger class compared to other classes.
- Vaccination status information has been collected for all staff. The vaccination rate throughout the Region is extremely high for all staff members. All applications for vaccination exemption have been collected and schools have established a testing schedule for those individuals for whom weekly testing is required.
- All Star remains thinly staffed. If any driver doesn't come to work for any reason, adjustments will have to be made to district routes and/or athletic schedules. All-Star Transportation will do their best to minimize impact if/when adjustments are needed and will communicate with schools immediately when changes are made.

X. Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing a Memorandum of Agreement with the North Canaan Faculty Association for the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID-19 (action anticipated.)

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to discuss both Executive sessions in one meeting. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devio, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Mike Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

Mrs. Drislane invited Dr. Roy and Ms. Carter into the Executive Session at 7:27 pm. The Board came back to the regular meeting at 7:41pm.

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the North Canaan Board of Education and the North Canaan Faculty Association for the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID-19. Mr. Ellington seconded. 6-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devio, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Mike Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

XI. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the negotiated 2022-2025 contract with the North Canaan Faculty Association (action anticipated.)

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the 2022-2025 contract between the

North Canaan Board of Education and the North Canaan Faculty Association as discussed in executive session and to send it to the Town Clerk's Office for a 30-day review period as required by state statute. Mrs. Cahill seconded. 6-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devio, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Mike Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

XII. Public Comment: None

XIII. Adjournment: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:46 pm. Mrs. Cahill seconded. 6-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devio, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Mike Ellington, and Sarah Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: November 9, 2021