



North Canaan Board of Education
MEETING MINUTES
90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 www.nceschool.org

*The North Canaan Board of Education met in the library
at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 13, 2024.*

A meeting was held: Amy Dodge, Stephannie Grant, Amy Helminiak, Christopher Jacques, Brooke Riva, and Kristine Simmons.

Others present: Beth Johnson, Principal; Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent; Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent (virtually).

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Mrs. Dodge.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to amend the agenda to add Universal Screening Assessment Training: NCES to the agenda with Action Anticipated. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

II. Consent Agenda

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the October 8, 2024 Minutes, as written. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Communications - None

V. Region One Report - No report was given

VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

The ABC Committee met virtually on Wednesday, October 23, 2024. Mrs. Dodge reported that the ABC Committee accepted Superintendent Brady-Shanley's goals as presented for the 2024-2025 school year and to complete the evaluation process by June 30, 2025.

VII. Discussion of credit card procedures in Region One schools.

Mrs. Johnson expressed to the Board that there is a need for a school credit card at North Canaan Elementary School. She explained that if a staff member has to attend a conference, they have to put the hotel, flight and registration on their personal credit card and wait to be paid. She went on to say that other schools in our Region have them and she has already inquired with the Town Treasurer. The Town has a credit card and they did not have a problem with us keeping one and using it as needed. The Board agreed that there was a need for a school credit card. Mrs. Johnson said she would draw up a policy for it once she contacted the Town Treasurer to see how they went about getting one and would put it on the December agenda for action.

VIII. Action Items

1. 2025 Board of Education meeting dates
Mrs. Dodge recommended to the full Board the approval of the 2025 Board of Education meeting dates as presented. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.
2. 2025/2026 North Canaan District Calendar
Mrs. Dodge recommended to the full Board the approval of the North Canaan Elementary School proposed 2025/2026 calendar. Superintendent Brady-Shanley reported the changes that were made from last year and answered questions by the Board. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.
3. Universal Screening Assessment Training: NCES
Mrs. Dodge recommended to the full Board the approval of the funds to conduct training in the AIMSweb Assessment in the amount of \$2,003.00. Dr. Rose explained to the Board that there has been a new screening assessment selected to replace the FASTBridge screening tool for all grades K-12. The AIMSweb assessment is approved by the state and is aligned with Science of Reading expectations. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

IX. Administrative Reports

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

Beth Johnson provided a brief overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- The North Canaan Volunteer Fire Department visited our school. Students had the chance to aim and shoot hoses at targets, carefully operate the Jaws of Life to avoid breaking an egg, and explore the interior of a real fire truck.
- Our students at North Canaan Elementary School had the opportunity to showcase their preparedness during a comprehensive safety drill. Our resident trooper, bus drivers, and local emergency staff were thoroughly impressed as students practiced shelter-in-place, evacuation, and off-site evacuation procedures to Geer Village.
- North Canaan Elementary School recently hosted its first middle school dance of the 2024-25 school year. DJ Tayo Kauffman provided an entertaining soundtrack.
- North Canaan Elementary School recently held its fall student-led conferences, and we are thrilled to report that about 85% of our students and families participated.
- This month, kindness took center stage at NCES in a special collaboration that benefited students across grades. First and second graders enjoyed personal tours of the Book Fair, guided by none other than their older schoolmates from eighth grade. The younger students were thrilled to receive book recommendations from these mentors, making their Book Fair experience memorable and engaging.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the November agenda.) Dr. Rose provided a brief overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- Great Mountain Forest: K-8 Science Teachers are working with Lisa Carter and Dr. Matt Wlodarczyk in Great Mountain Forest. Teachers are using professional learning time to consider how to integrate the weather station, the sugaring shack, and the geology of the forest into the OpenSci Ed curriculum to bring authentic phenomenon to life for students.
- World Language scope and sequence and assessment alignment: The K-8 World Language teachers are working with the high school teachers to develop aligned and consistent expectations for students as they move up to the high school to ensure that students are equitably prepared for the high school Spanish curriculum. Teachers are examining scope and sequence and setting benchmark proficiency levels with benchmark exams.
- In coordination with the Reading teachers, we have selected a new screening assessment to replace the FASTBridge screening tool for all grades K-12. AIMSweb is one of the reading assessments approved by the state and is aligned with Science of Reading expectations.
- For the past 3 years the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation: Fund for the Northwest Corner has generously supported our regional K-8 summer school program and the middle school Summer Mountaineer Program. As with every grant, there is a need to begin to reduce reliance on grant funding and to shift responsibility to the individual towns. BTCF will continue to support the programming with \$61,000 in grant funds in the coming year, and the ARPA grant will provide about \$12,250, for a total of \$73,241. This is the final of three years for the ARPA funding. The reduction in grant funds will raise the cost to about \$334 per pupil in 2025. With 2025 participation consistent with that of 2024, we can anticipate the approximate cost per school to increase.

Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the November agenda.) Superintendent Brady-Shanley provided a brief overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- On October 22nd, the Kent Kindergarten Class visited our family farm. During their trip, they learned all about the animals, took a hike, had a picnic, roasted marshmallows, and carved pumpkins. They were so good and we are looking forward to welcoming any Kindergarten Class next year.
- This past month, the high school has approved three new courses for the potential inclusion into the 25/26 school year - AP Chemistry, Intro to Acting, and Intro to Ceramics. These courses will add to an already robust curriculum.
- On Monday, November 4th, the high school will be open to all community members. The students presented information about the renovation while taking individuals on tours.
- Students have been elected as the officers for the Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter of the National Honor Society for the 2024-25 school year.

X. Public Comment - None

XI. Adjournment

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm. Mrs. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: December 10, 2024