



**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 in the library  
at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.*

**A meeting was held:** Lindsey Crane, Stephannie Grant, Amy Helminiak, Christopher Jacques, and Brooke Riva.

**Others present:** Beth Johnson, Principal; Allison Curtiss, Assistant Principal; and Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mr. Jacques.

**II. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Grant made a motion to approve the October 14, 2025, meeting minutes, as written. Mrs. Helminiak seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

**III. Public Comment - None**

**IV. Communications -**

There was a letter of resignation from a 3rd grade teacher.

**V. STEAM presentation by Denise Sorrell -**

Denise Sorrell, a teacher at NCES, provided a slide presentation explaining what happens in her STEAM classroom. Mrs. Sorrell described STEAM as a hands-on learning experience that uses collaboration, real world problem solving, team work and Critical thinking. STEAM merges science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math. Mrs. Sorrell invited everyone at the Board meeting to go to her classroom to look around and see the projects students are working on.

**VI. Region One Report -**

There wasn't an NCES Board member at the Region One Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Brady-Shanley reported the following:

- Tom Zetterstrom gave a presentation on the 20-year history of the Landscaper and Arboretum Committee.
- The 2026-2027 Regional Calendar was approved.
- The budget process for 2026-2027 began.
- Policies were approved.

**VII. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report**

Mr. Jacques stated there was not a meeting to report on since the last Board meeting.

### **XIII. Action Items**

1. 2026 NCES Board of Education meeting dates.

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the 2026 NCES Board of Education meeting dates.

Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

2. 2026-2027 School Calendar RE1 Approved 11.3.25

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar. Superintendent

Brady-Shanley reported on the changes for the new school year. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

3. Work for Replacement Fire Alarm and Fire A/V Update Project

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the quote from Hull Alarms LLC for Phase I in the amount of \$67,576.00 to replace the Fire Alarm system and update the Fire A/V system using \$67,576.00 from the Board of Education Non-Lapsing Account. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

4. Request for information for an article by Pam Vogel.

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the request for information for an article by Pam Vogel. Superintendent Brady-Shanley explained Pam Vogel wanted data, that is not public, for an article she started many years ago with data used when Mrs. Vogel was Superintendent for Region One. The Board discussed whether or not that would be beneficial. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 0 yes, 0 abstain, 5-no Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

### **IX. Administrative Reports**

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

Mrs. Johnson provided a presentation slide show explaining the aimswebPlus Fall Benchmark Results.

***Assistant Superintendent's Report:*** (A copy is available through the links on the November agenda.) Dr. Rose was not present.

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

Superintendent Brady-Shanley provided a presentation slide show explaining the data in the Next Generation School Accountability Results 2025. Some Region 1 highlights from the data are as follows:

- All 7 schools have performed above state average.
- On average our performance is 8.43 above the state.
- All 7 schools have improved their performance.
- Two schools who have reached distinction for the 2025 school year.
- Both focus schools - Sharon Center School and HVRHS have improved their overall performance.

**X. Public Comment -**

1. Mike Reagan, a Canaan resident, addressed the Board regarding the assessment scores from 2018-2019 through 2024-2025. Mr. Reagan expressed concern over the test scores and pointed out the difference between growth and performance data.

**XI. Adjournment**

Mr. Jacques made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Rooney

Approved: January 13, 2026