



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 Tuesday, March 8, 2022, virtually through Zoom.*

A virtual meeting was held using Zoom: Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, Stephannie Grant, Christopher Jacques, Maribeth Marchi, and Kristine Simmons.

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 7:04 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 8, 2022, Regular Meeting, as written. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to add K(1) to the agenda, Executive Session for the Purpose of Reviewing a Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Hiring with the Teacher's Association with Action Anticipated, and to move K to K(2). Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. Public Comment - Mrs. Hinman, a parent of students at North Canaan Elementary, read a list of concerns she had about the budget and Policy 1110.1 Communication with the Public. Mrs. Drislane stated that some of her concerns would be addressed during the meeting.

IV. Communications

A letter of resignation was received from L. Allen, Art Teacher.

V. Region One Report

Mr. Gow reported that the High School is performing Into the Woods on March 17th, 18th and 19th. Lisa Carter reported on the Region One Board Meeting and provided a brief overview of the meeting as follows:

- There was an approval for the expenditure of \$2,200 for a CABA policy audit to begin after July 1, 2022.
- There was an approval for the Robotics field trip competitions to Waterbury, CT and Shrewsbury, MA coming up in March.
- The hiring of Julie Browning for Pupil Services for the 2022-2023 school year was approved.
- There will be an Alumni Association tribute for Ed Kirby on June 4, 2022 in the area of the baseball field. There will be more information to come.

- The hiring of Mary Broderick of CAFE as the consultant for the Assistant Superintendent Search was approved.
- Business Manager Sam Herrick provided the proposed 2022-2023 Budget Update. The proposed budget is at an overall increase of 3.99%.

VI. All Boards Chair Report

Mrs. Drislane reported that there hasn't been an All Boards Chair meeting since the last Board meeting and would give a report in April.

VII. Board of Education Appreciation Month

Dr. Roy gave her thanks and gratitude to all the Board members for their volunteered service and all the hard work they put into making decisions for our School. Lisa Carter thanked the Board as well for doing all the duties a Board member commits to and keeping everyone safe in our school. Ms. Carter said she had something for the Board members and would hand them out.

VIII. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of the following policies: 4000.1 Sex Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace, 4152.6/4252.6 Family and Medical Leave Act Policy and Procedure, 5131.911 Bullying Prevention and Intervention, 5145.44 Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, 5141.28 First Aid/Emergency Medical Care, 5141.7 Student Sports - Concussions, 5142 Student Safety, 6115 Ceremonies and Observances. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the April 12, 2022, Board of Education meeting.

IX. Action Items

A-G. Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of policies 0200 Purposes-Goals-Objectives, 110.1 Communications with the Public, 3542.43 Food Service Charging Policy, 4118.11/4218.11 Nondiscrimination, 5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal, 5113.2 Truancy, 5141.22 Communicable and Infectious Diseases, 5145 Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities, and 6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program. Board members discussed the concerns that were brought up in the Public Comment regarding Policy 1110.1 Communications with the Public. Two Board members said they had good experiences with reaching out to teachers and communication. Mrs. Drislane allowed discussion from a couple parents regarding their concerns about Student LED conferences. Dr. Roy added that the conferences are positive and include what the student would like to share and their goals for the year. The family then knows how to support their child and a plan is formed if needed. Ms. Carter stated that the Student LED conferences were a Regional decision and have been developed for the last few years due to how successful they are. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

J. 2022-2023 NCES BoE Budget (2nd presentation)

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the proposed 2022-2023 North Canaan Board of Education budget in the amount of \$4,451,634, an increase of .89% from the current fiscal year. Dr. Roy stated there had been no changes since the first presentation at the February meeting. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant,

Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

K. (1) Executive Session for the Purpose of Reviewing a Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Hiring with the Teacher's Association with Action Anticipated.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to invite Dr. Roy and Ms. Carter into an Executive Session at 7:48 pm. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

The Board came back to the regular meeting at 7:59pm.

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the acceptance of the Memorandum of Agreement with the North Canaan Faculty Association regarding hiring as discussed in executive session.

Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

(2) Hiring of a reading specialist

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the hiring of Marlena McDonnell as a grades K-8 reading teacher at a master's degree step 12 with a prorated salary beginning at the start date determined by the superintendent. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

X. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the links on the March agenda.)

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

- There has been a lot of focus on reading with a Reading challenge and Read Across America for the students.
- Students in grades 5 and 6 were issued a zippered binder to organize their work and assist each student to have a successful end to the school year.
- Dr. Roy presented a slide show with the FastBridge assessment data. The data shows the changes in student growth from fall to winter. The data is benchmark data, meaning that they show growth against the expected indicator or benchmark.

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

Dr. Fellows and Mrs. Pace provided a brief overview of their monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- Mrs. Pace and Dr. Fellows have been supporting new staff to the Region and visiting each of the certified staff members in classrooms across the Region.
- Much time has been spent coming up with Summer programming, Hiring for the 2022-23 school year and trying to give a Grade Four Arts Day locally in each town due to Hotchkiss not being able to have people on campus.

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

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

- wearing masks has become optional in school and on school buses as of February 25th.
- Covid-19 numbers have been much lower in February than January.
- The Litchfield and Region 6 school districts have partnered with Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and Hartford Healthcare to set up a summit on Friday, March 4, 2022. The summit will be focused on student and staff mental health needs, the Litchfield County

capacity to service those needs and how to work together to make a plan to add to that capacity in the future. All Litchfield County Superintendents have been invited as well as local providers, local legislators, and town leaders.

- The mid-year check-in meetings with all Region 1 administrators has been completed.

XI. Public Comment:

V. Hinman spoke about her opinion with how the Student LED conferences are run and about policy 1110.1. Communications with the Public. She went on to say that she has been unsatisfied with teacher communication and would like the LED conferences to be re-evaluated. Dr. Roy explained that the teachers can be notified by parents if there are concerns or to contact her directly and she will relay any concerns to the teachers. Dr. Roy added that she will bring these issues to the teacher teams and address them right away.

XII. Adjournment: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: April 12, 2022