



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

*The North Canaan Board of Education met virtually
at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.*

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

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent (lost power and left the meeting around 7:20 pm; Dr. Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent.

I. Call to Order: The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to begin the meeting with VIII A. 2023-2024 Proposed NCES BoE Budget followed by VIII D. School-Based Health Centers Federal Grant and then to follow the posted agenda due to a concern regarding the loss of internet during the storm. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

VIII. Action Items

A. 2023-2024 Proposed NCES BoE Budget

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the proposed 2023-2024 North Canaan Board of Education budget in the amount of \$4,426,036.83, a decrease of .58% from the current fiscal year. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

Board of Finance Budget Presentation - Wednesday, March 22nd, 7:30 PM Town Hall.

D. School-Based Health Centers Federal Grant

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the participation in the federal grant application to support the implementation of a school-based health center at North Canaan Elementary School. Ms. Carter gave a brief overview of the grant. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 14, 2023, Regular Meeting, as written. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Communications - None

V. Region One Report

Mr. Gow was not present. Mrs. Drislane reported on the Region One Board Meeting, providing a brief overview of their March 6, 2023, meeting as follows:

- The Housatonic Musical Theater Society will be presenting their upcoming show, *Mean Girls*, on March 16, 17, and 18.
- Principal Strever presented the 2023 Valedictorian as Sylvie Stiffler and 2023 Salutatorian as Melody Matsudaira.
- The School-Based Health Centers Student Survey was approved.
- A supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$204,737 to the Capital Maintenance Reserve Account from the estimated fiscal year end 2021-2022 surplus and operating funds were approved.
- A Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m., on Zoom for the proposed Region One 2023-2024 budget.
- Rebecca Gaschel-Clark was hired as Director of Pupil Services to begin on July 1, 2023, upon the retirement of Martha Schwaikert.

VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

Mrs. Drislane reported that the board discussed and approved the search committee and timeline for hiring the next Director of Pupil Services.

VII. Middle School Sports and Activities

The board was in agreement that since Ms. Carter and others were unable to attend due to power outages, the Middle School Sports and Activities discussion would be moved to another date. Dr. Roy will begin finding a date that will work for everyone. If a date is not agreed upon, the discussion will be held at the next Board of Education meeting on April 18, 2023.

VIII. Action Items - Con't

B. Nonresident Student Tuition Fee

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board to approve the nonresident student fee of \$4,569 for the 2023-2024 school year, \$2,284.50 payable by August 13, 2022, and \$2,284.50 payable by January 14, 2023. This is the same fee approved for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

C. School-Based Health Centers Survey approval

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the School-Based Health Centers Survey to be administered to grades 6-8 as recommended by administration. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

E. Phone system upgrade to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the purchase agreement from Connecticut Communications (an approved state contract) in the amount of \$24,464 to upgrade the phone system to a Voice over Internet Protocol system with an additional cost of \$7,926 for five years of maintenance. Dr. Roy explained that the current phone system is very outdated, unstable, and would be very difficult to repair if needed. Dr. Roy pointed out there will be a savings of \$300-\$400 a month by not using Frontier because they were charging for multiple phone lines and all long distance calls. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

IX. 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:

- The Robotics Team from Hotchkiss recently visited NCES to work with fourth grade students.
- In February the eighth graders went ice skating free-of-charge at the hockey rink at Hotchkiss.
- Grades EK-2 enjoyed individual classroom visits from Mother Goose.
- This year's reading challenge encourages students to continue their love of reading by sharing a "taste" of books they have read. In two days the students read 334 books. Dr. Roy revised the total number of books needed to reach the challenge this month from 500 to **3,500** due to such a great opening success.
- March 2nd was the annual day for Read Across America. NCES welcomed 16 readers from the community including our Superintendent Lisa Carter and Board of Education member Stephanie Grant. Each guest read a book to one of our classrooms, including all grades.

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

- Summer School Directors Larissa Morby of Salisbury, and Eve Davis of North Canaan, are busy planning the K-8 summer school, which will be hosted by Sharon Center School from June 26-July 21.
- There will also be a middle school summer school held at the high school from July 10-21. Each morning will focus on outdoor team-building activities (hiking, geocaching, and hopefully water activities like kayaking and swimming). The afternoon will be indoors. Students will have activities focusing on coding, robotics, and art, which will be taught by teachers in the ag-ed program, Science and Technology Center, Flying Cloud, and Art Garage.
- The final Full Release Day for Professional Learning was March 10th at North Canaan Elementary School.
- EL Report was submitted by Celina Huber. Among all the schools, North Canaan has the most English language learners with 14 students.

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

Ms. Carter was logged off the meeting due to losing electricity. Dr. Roy stated she will add this report onto the next Board of Education meeting. If anyone has any questions for Ms. Carter, they can reach out to her.

X. Public Comment - None

XI. Adjournment: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: April 18, 2023