



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, April 8, 2025.*

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

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

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 by adding an action item to the agenda. The action item will be Severance Pay for three retiring teachers. Mrs. Crane seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

II. Consent Agenda

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the March 11, 2025 minutes with the revision that the meeting was held in the library and not virtually. Mrs. Riva seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Communications - None

V. Region One Report -

Mr. Jacques provided a brief overview of the Monday, April 7, 2025 Region One Board meeting. Some of the items he reported are listed below:

- Niya Borst & Emil Urbanowicz were recognized for their heroic actions in saving a woman from a burning vehicle by Principal Ian Strever.
- The list of spring coaches was approved.
- The field trip for AgEd to Denver, CO in January 2026 was approved.
- Liam O'Reilly was hired as Summer School Principal.
- Two AgEd tuition students were approved.
- Policies were reviewed and discussed.

VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

A. Mrs. Dodge reported there was no ABC Board meeting since our last BoE meeting.

VII. Discussion of Policies:

There was a discussion of Policy 3541 Transportation and Tuition (excluding Salisbury). Superintendent Brady-Shanley gave a summary of proposed changes to policy 3541 and

an explanation of why it would be beneficial to have a common Region School District 1 - Non-Resident Tuition Application for all schools. The Board agreed to have a first reading for both in May based on the discussion.

VIII. Board Policies (first reading) -

There was a first reading for Policy 1212 Volunteers; Policy 4121 Substitute Teachers; and Policy 3323 Soliciting Prices/Bids. Superintendent Brady-Shanley presented the Board with the revisions to the existing policies and explained the new policy for Volunteers. The policies will be an action item in the May meeting.

IX. Action Items

A. Renewal with Healthy Food Options

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the following: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the North Canaan Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the school under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

B. Food and Beverage Exemptions

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve The North Canaan Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

C. Increase to Student Lunch Price 2025-2026

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to increase the student lunch price to \$3.30 (an increase of \$.10) beginning in the 2025-2026 school year to be in compliance with the federal requirement as calculated through the paid lunch equity tool. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

D. Increase the Student Milk Price 2025-2026

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve an increase to the student milk price to \$.50 (an increase of \$.10) beginning in the 2025-2026 school year to be in compliance with the federal requirement as calculated through the paid lunch equity tool. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

E. 1st grade teacher transferring to Reading Specialist.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to hire Jaime Crane, 1st grade teacher, to the Reading Specialist position for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

F. Severance Pay

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve paying the three required severance payments at the cost of \$42,141.60 with the 2024-2025 budget, using unspent funds from the insurance line and transferring the funds to the teacher wages line. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

X. Administrative Reports

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

Principal Johnson presented the data for the 2024-2025 Climate Survey Results. The survey included survey results from Students, Staff and parents. Some of the questions were based on topics including Safety, What the school could do better, What teachers could do differently to help you learn, and How could the school culture be enhanced. The NCES leadership teams are evaluating the trends among and across the groups, examining other systems to find more effective ones for our school, and looking at what can be done for the '25-'26 school year with the data that was collected.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the April agenda.) Dr. Rose provided a brief overview of the Continuous Instructional Improvement that has been happening throughout the Region. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- The implementation of the revised teacher evaluation model continues to yield positive feedback from our educators. Teachers report that midyear meetings have become more productive and reflective.
- Ongoing walkthrough observations conducted by the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Pupil Services, and building principals have provided valuable insights into instructional practices. These observations, coupled with data from the climate survey, are playing a crucial role in shaping our professional learning plan for the upcoming year.
- In collaboration with consultants Amy Tepper and Carolyn Corrado, we are developing a professional learning plan for building leadership. This summer, Amy Tepper will work with the administrative team to establish a shared understanding of classroom walkthrough expectations. This groundwork will be reinforced and calibrated through three professional learning days focused on differentiation and ensuring access to

grade-level content for all students, including those receiving special education services, as well as work focusing on building restorative school communities.

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

Superintendent Brady-Shanley provided a brief overview of her report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- Over the past few weeks, the U.S. The Department of Education has undergone major restructuring. There have been no direct effects on any school in Region 1. Superintendent Brady-Shanley is actively attending meetings with the CT State Department of Education to stay informed. What we do know is that certain services have been reassigned to other federal agencies. Our primary funding sources—Title and IDEA funds—remain unaffected at this time, both in terms of amount and distribution.
- On March 5, 2025, our teachers hosted 4th Grade Arts Day at the Kent School, providing students with a hands-on exploration of various art forms. Throughout the day, students engaged in activities such as Ukrainian egg decorating, resin jewelry making, needle felting, beginner screen printing, and cardboard sculpture. Guided by experienced, professional artists from our local communities, students had the opportunity to learn new skills, express their creativity, and immerse themselves in the artistic process.
- End of Year Graduation Event Dates were listed. NCES will have their graduation on June 11th outside at 6:00 PM. HVRHS Graduation will be June 13th at 6 PM outside on the front steps.
- On March 27 and 28, 2025, all K-8 principals, Dr. Rose and Superintendent Brady-Shanley attended the Connecticut Association of Schools Conference in Mystic, CT.

XI. Public Comment - None

XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: May 13, 2025