



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, March 11, 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 6:31 pm by Mrs. Dodge.

II. Consent Agenda

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the February 11, 2025 minutes and the March 4, 2025, Special Meeting minutes, as written. 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. Board of Education Appreciation Month

Mrs. Johnson presented gifts to the Board and expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the Board for all their service.

Region One Report -

Superintendent Brady-Shanley provided a brief overview of the March 3, 2025 Region One Board meeting. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- Housatonic Music Theatre Society presented a small performance of It's a Privilege to Pee from the Musical Urinetown to the board.
- Housatonic Valley Regional High School Graduation date was approved for Friday, June 13, 2025.
- The Board approved several job descriptions for the High School.
- Several administrative contracts were approved in an Executive session.
- The Local 1303-266 of Council 4 AFSCME Non-Certified Contract was approved.

VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

- A. Mrs. Dodge reported that the Board met on February 26, 2025. Central Office administration contracts were approved after an Executive session.

VII. Action Items

- A. North Canaan Elementary School Budget 2025-2026

- Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the Board for the approval of the North Canaan Elementary School Budget 2025-2026 in the amount of \$273,004.71, an increase of 6.02%. Mrs. Johnson reported that the Insurance changes are mostly even. She also stated that the Health insurance was lowered but dental insurance increased. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.
- B. Change to the Technology contract from Datahal to Twin Lakes Consulting.**
- Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the Board for the approval to change Technology contracts from Datahal to Twin Lakes Consulting starting on July 1, 2025. Mrs. Johnson explained to the Board the benefits the school will receive switching from Datahal to Twin Lakes Consulting. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

VIII. Administrative Reports

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

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

- Students gathered in their community groups for a Luau to celebrate reaching 100 more links on the kindness chain. The student council took control of the organization and planning. The luau featured fun group activities, including a math flip-flop challenge, volleyball, and a limbo contest.
- We celebrated Read Across America all week long! Students had fun coloring bookmarks and dressing up as their favorite book characters. The highlights of the week were reading with our reading buddies and welcoming our community readers.
- There was a Region 1 Band and Chorus concert in February. NCES was well represented with 9 members in the band and 5 members in the chorus.
- Spring Sports Update: Baseball-4 Softball-7 Baking-2

Assistant Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the March agenda.) Dr. Rose provided a brief overview of the Region One Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) hosting a professional learning day on February 19, 2025. There were 30 different Teacher-Presenters and 31 different sessions in the morning. The afternoon sessions included training with HILL for Literacy and Carolyn Corrado and well as content area collaboration time. The teachers gave feedback and the PDEC will review the feedback survey data in detail at their next meeting.

Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the March agenda.) Superintendent Brady-Shanley provided a brief overview of her District-wide school climate survey. Superintendent Brady-Shanley reported that school levels will receive reports on school-based data. Regional data was also presented. Upstander workshops will occur next year to help provide students with necessary skills. In the April presentation the NCES data and feedback survey will be presented.

X. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to move into an Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing the review of the AHA program by the Office of Early Childhood.

Mrs. Dodge invited Superintendent Brady-Shanley and Mrs. Johnson into the executive session. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

The Executive session ended at 7:14 pm and the regular Board meeting continued.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion for the Board of Education to administer the AHA program and therefore retain the ultimate responsibility for the management and oversight of such program, for the staff employed at the program and the children attending the program. Mrs. Helminiak seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Executive Session: To discuss a pending legal matter.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to move into an Executive Session at 7:15 for the Purpose of Discussing a pending legal matter. Mrs. Dodge invited Superintendent Brady-Shanley and Mrs. Johnson into the executive session. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

The Executive session ended at 7:31 pm and the regular Board meeting continued.

IX. Public Comment -

Mrs. Hinman, a parent, asked if a copy of the budget would be available. Mrs. Johnson said it will now that the Board has voted on it.

XI. Adjournment

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Curtiss

Approved: April 8, 2025