



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, October 14, 2025.*

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

Others present: Beth Johnson, Principal and Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mrs. Dodge.

II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Helminiak made a motion to approve the September 9, 2025, meeting minutes with a change to the Board of Education Retreat presentation minutes changing Amy Helminiak attended with Chris Jacques and Lindsey Crane, not Amy Dodge. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Vote to add an item to agenda:

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to add a 4th action item to change the date of the November Board of Education meeting. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Communications -

There was a letter of resignation from the Social worker through EdAdvance.

V. Region One Report -

We didn't have a Board member at the Region One Board of Education meeting. The minutes and video are available on their website.

VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

Mr. Jacques reported that Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley's goals were reviewed, updated and approved.

XI. Action Items

1. Policies:

Mrs. Dodge recommend to the full Board the approval of the following policies: 5131.911(a) Connecticut School Climate Regulations, 5131.601(a) Medical (Palliative) Use of Marijuana, 5141.25(a) Students with Special Health Care Needs, 5142(a) School Safety: Preparation, Response, and After Action, 6161.12(a) 1312.3 Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy, 6161.13 1312.4 Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, 6161.14

1312.5 Library Display and Program Policy. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

2. Draft NCES BOE Goals 25/26

Mrs. Dodge recommended to the full Board the approval of the North Canaan Board of Education Beliefs, Focus Areas, and Assessment Standards - 2025-2026. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

3. Leave of Absence Letter

Mrs. Dodge recommended to the full Board the approval to extend a leave of absence for a non certified employee beyond the standard allowance in the North Canaan Elementary School Employees Local 1303-269 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO contract. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Added to Agenda:

4. Mrs. Dodge recommended to the full Board the approval to change the date of the November Board of Education meeting from November 11, 2025 to November 18, 2025. The original date was decided before the Regional Calendar was approved. There is now no school on November 11, 2025. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

XI. Administrative Reports

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

Mrs. Johnson provided a presentation slide show explaining the Standardized Performance results for SBAC and NGSS from the 24-25 school year. She also reported on the 2025-2026 School Improvement Plan.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the October agenda.) Dr. Rose reported that there will be upcoming Restorative Practices professional learning as well as Professional Learning for Paraeducators. Dr. Rose also pointed out in her report the chart for all the grants each school is receiving.

Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the October agenda.) Superintendent Brady-Shanley was not in attendance. Dr. Rose reported that there is a new statewide policy that has gone into effect regarding Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) coverage. For the first time, non-certified staff members are included in Connecticut's FMLA provisions. This change provides important additional protections and support for our staff, ensuring that they can care for themselves and their families when needed without fear of losing their positions. Dr. Rose also mentioned that there have been instructional walkthroughs across the district. These walkthroughs allow administrators and leadership teams to step into classrooms regularly to observe teaching and learning. Superintendent Brady-Shanley stated in her report, "What we have seen so far has been outstanding".

XIII. 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 made suggestions that there should be parental and community involvement to improve student performance and accountability.
2. Vanessa Hinman, a NCES parent, addressed the Board with a couple concerns. Mrs. Hinman inquired about her Freshman's SBAC reports. Her other children from the elementary school received them but she didn't receive her Freshman's and would like a copy. Mrs. Hinman also is concerned about the Spanish teacher position no longer at the school. She wanted to ask the Board to consider having some Spanish lesson exposure for at least 7th and 8th grade considering they may not have Spanish in the high school until 10th grade. Mrs. Hinman acknowledged that she understands there is a Spanish teacher shortage and budget concerns but hopes there will be room for Spanish in the elementary school in the future.

XIV. Adjournment

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: November 18, 2025