



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 7 pm on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.*

A regular meeting was held: Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Stephannie Grant, Christopher Jacques, and Kristine Simmons.

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Beth Johnson, Assistant Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent; Ned Gow, North Canaan Town Representative.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 12, 2023, Regular Meeting, as written. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Youth Voices Count Data presented by Marissa Kent from HYSB (Housatonic Youth Service Bureau)

Ms. Kent gave a presentation providing data for the survey results taken by the 7th and 8th grade students of Region One in June of 2023. Middle school students took an abbreviated Youth Voices Count Survey (a maximum of 24 questions), and were not asked questions related to substance use, or other selected items such as sexual identity, certain emotional health indicators, sexual behaviors, and toxic stress items. The survey was completely anonymous and no identifying information was collected. Some of the topics that were in the survey are listed below:

- Youth Time Alone on Weekdays without Supervision
- Youth Hours of Sleep on Weeknights
- Bullying Frequency
- Frequency of Anxiety – Past Year
- Time Spent on Physical Activities, Weekly
- COVID Impact on Emotional Well-Being

V. Communications - Written

A letter of resignation dated September 13, 2023, was received from Maribeth Marchi resigning from the Board of Education effective immediately.

VI. Region One Report

Mr. Gow reported on the October 2, 2023, meeting as follows:

- The HVRHS Solar Project was presented to the Board by Business Manager Sam Herrick with Jack Cunningham and Brendan Smith of ESC.

- Region One Board approved the 2024 meeting dates.
- Policies were approved and 1st readings were presented.
- There was an approval of the Addendum between the Region 1 Board of Education and Region 1 Local 1303-266.

VII. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

North Canaan School did not have a Board member present at the ABC meeting. Ms. Carter reported on the September 27, 2023, meeting as follows:

- Discussion was held on the use of LifeVac Devices in all Region 1 schools after a parent offered to purchase these devices for all Region 1 schools. There are no emergency services or emergency rooms in the area that use this device. Legal advice is not to implement in one school without implementing in all schools and strongly advised against implementation since it is not listed in the standard of care.
- Superintendent Carter's goals for the 2023-2024 school year were approved as presented.

VIII. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of the following current policies: 5125 Student Records, Confidentiality; 6159 Education Program/Special Education Program; and 6162.51 Surveys of Students/Student Privacy. Dr. Roy explained the revisions. The Board didn't have any changes. The policies will be on the November Board meeting agenda for action.

IX. Action Items

A. Approval of Policy 5111 Admission/ Placement

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of policy 5111 Admission/ Placement as recommended by administration. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

B. Acceptance of Strategic School Plan

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the Strategic School Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Roy reviewed the proposed NCES Strategic plan and explained on what the school would be focusing. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

C. Acceptance of Donation

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board with much gratitude the acceptance of the donation of \$5,000 from Mr. Ben Wohlfert to help defray the cost for eighth graders who need financial assistance to attend the trip to Washington, D.C. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

D. Approval of Grant Application

This action item is on HOLD - Dr. Roy reviewed the grant we are working on for the HVAC air conditioning units. There will be no motions or vote until the first steps in the process are completed with the town. Dr. Roy will be contacting the First Selectman to further the process of applying for the grant.

E. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the North Canaan Board of Education and the North Canaan Elementary School Employees Local 1303-269 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the North Canaan Board of Education and the North Canaan Elementary School Employees Local 1303-269 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO regarding state-mandated teacher assistant professional learning. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

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

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

- On Tuesday, September 19th, all students took a journey with NED, a character whose name is an acronym. The N is for “Never give up,” the E for “Encourage others,” and the D for “Do your best.” The students enjoyed the presentation and all classrooms had some yo yos to practice all the tricks they saw.
- Dr. Roy wrote and was awarded a grant to fund all Region 1 students attending a special performance of The Nutcracker on December 8th, free of charge to students. All grade levels will continue to attend field trips.
- Teachers have brainstormed ideas to support improvements after reviewing the survey data from the School Climate survey. The leadership team has reviewed them to set foci for the year.
- The parent feedback from the School Climate survey has been reviewed and acted upon as discussed in the principal’s report.
- Course overviews for middle school courses were created by the school to help families learn more about the curriculum. A copy is included in the principal’s report.

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

Dr. Rose was not present for the Board meeting. Ms. Carter reported on the following items.

- Amy Tepper provided professional learning for the administration team on September 26, 2023, at North Canaan Elementary School.
- The Humanities Curriculum is currently being implemented in grade 4 and 5, with some additional pilots in grade 2 (Salisbury), and grade 6 (Cornwall, Kent, and NCES).

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

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

- The Blackline Report, which gives the enrollment and is due to the Department of Education this month, was completed. The data is displayed in the Superintendent’s report. The blackline numbers are important in determining the amount of ECS and grant funding that is received by each school district in CT.

- In late September, Joanne Borduas, the CEO of Community Health and Wellness, communicated that HVRHS, North Canaan Elementary School, and Sharon Center School all received funding to begin to implement school-based health centers. The next step in the process is to complete the proper paperwork for the CT DPH, which could take at least 90 days.
- On Wednesday, September 27, The ABC Committee approved the Superintendent's goals for the 2023-2024 school year and beyond.

XI. Public Comment: None

XII. Adjournment: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: November 14, 2023