



North Canaan Board of Education

MEETING MINUTES

90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018

www.nceschool.org

*The North Canaan Board of Education met at
7pm on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, virtually through Zoom.*

A virtual meeting was held using Zoom: Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge (arrived at 7:36), Christopher Jacques, Maribeth Marchi, and Kristine Simmons.

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent; Dr. Scott Fellows and Jill Pace, Assistant Superintendents.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

II. Consent Agenda

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 11, 2022, Regular Meeting and the January 25, 2022, Special Meeting as written. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. Public Comment - Mrs. Hinman, a parent of students at North Canaan Elementary read a list of concerns and asked questions she had about the budget. Mrs. Drislane thanked her for bringing them to the Board and to follow up with Dr. Roy. Dr. Roy stated that she would be answering some of her questions when she presented the budget later in the meeting.

IV. Communications

A letter of resignation was received from J. LaCoss, Literacy Interventionist.

V. Region One Report

Mr. Gow reported that a full day of Interviews were conducted for the Region One legal advisors. In the end Region One Board decided to stay with Chinni and Meuser.

Ms. Carter reported on the January 18th Region One Board meeting as follows:

- The Board approved the acquisition of a small piece of land adjacent to the high school from the State of CT. This land will be used by the Ag Department.
- Six teacher retirements were accepted from the Special Education department.
- Students who attended the trip to the Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica discussed their experiences and what they learned. The trips were impacted and cut short due to COVID.

Ms. Carter added that in the February 7th Board meeting Mike Lazarro announced his resignation and Darlene Membrino announced her retirement, both from the HVRHS math department.

VI. All Boards Chair Report

Mrs. Drislane reported on the January 26th ABC meeting as follows:

- Officers for the ABC Board were nominated.
- Ms. Carter reviewed the progress of each of her three goals.

- Discussion was held regarding the RSSC budget overview for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Herrick presented a draft proposed budget and reviewed anticipated changes to the budget from the current year.

VII. 2022-2023 Draft NCES BoE Budget (1st presentation)

A. Projected Enrollment 2022-2023

Dr. Roy presented an enrollment projection for 2022-2023. Dr. Roy reported for the next two years, Grade 3 will have approximately 14-16 students, which will not support the need for two teachers. Dr. Roy will recommend having one teacher for Grade 3 for 2022-2023 and possibly 2023-2024, unless enrollment increases for 2023-2024.

B. 2022-2023 Draft NCES BoE Budget (1st presentation)

Dr. Roy gave a presentation of the budget and explained how and why costs have fluctuated. There were some considerable changes from the previous years' budget. Some of the changes reported were Health and Dental Insurance increased 8%, Bus Transportation will increase 3%, Oil costs are higher (Mr. Herrick has locked the Region into a per gallon price, but the costs have increased). The Board did not have any questions. Action will be taken at the March 8, 2022, Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Roy noted that the Board of Finance Budget Presentation will be Wednesday, March 16th, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall.

VIII. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of the following policies: 0200 Purposes-Goals-Objectives, 1110.1 Communications with the Public, 3542.43 Food Service Charging Policy, 4118.11/4218.11 Nondiscrimination, 5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal, 5113.2 Truancy, 5141.22 Communicable and Infectious Diseases, 5145 Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities, and 6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the March 8, 2022, Board of Education meeting.

IX. Action Items

A-G. Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of policies 1325 Advertising, 2112 Professional Development, 2133.13 Notice to Students Regarding Discipline, 2300 Statement of Ethics for Administrators, 2400 Evaluation of Administrators, 3524.2 Green Cleaning Program and 3543.31 Retention of Electronic Records. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

H. NCES 2022-2023 School Calendar

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the North Canaan Elementary School Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year as presented. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

I. Teacher and Student Surveys from Region 1 Counselors

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the three surveys prepared by the counselors in the region: one for teachers, one for students in grades 3-5, and one for students in grades 6-8 as presented. Dr. Roy explained the Teacher survey will allow the counselors to understand student's needs from the faculty/staff viewpoint. This will allow staff to address specific issues through group and individual counseling sessions. The two student surveys will

list questions that will ask students how they feel at school and what they may need or want from the school counselor and trusted adults. The surveys do not ask for names of students. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

J. Appointment of Board of Education member

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of Stephannie Grant to serve on the Board of Education as a Democrat until the next town election. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

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

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

- Dr. Roy reported that at the faculty meeting last week, we reviewed the expectations of the Strategic Action Plan and are pleased that they are being met. The plan focuses on data management systems to support a multi-tiered system of support and high quality learning practices.
- Dr. Roy is working with the Library Media Specialist to promote reading with a Reading Challenge for the month of February and part of March.
- Special thanks to the Canaan Northwest Lions Club for helping to diversify our library collection with several new titles.

Assistant Superintendents' Report: (A copy is available through the links on the February agenda.) Dr. Fellows and Mrs. Pace provided a brief overview of their monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- Students throughout the Region are completing winter benchmark assessments in ELA and math in January and early February. This data provides a snapshot of student performance, and is just one piece of information that we look at when we review student learning progress.
- Near the end of January, teachers were provided with time in their buildings to continue unpacking the newly revised Continuum of Professional Practice (CPP) to ensure that all teachers have had some exposure to the CPP and its new language prior to the 2022-2023 school year when it will officially replace the older version of the CPP.

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

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

- COVID-19 cases spiked in early January, but fell dramatically by the end of the month, consistent with the trends in the State.
- Welcome to Stacey Calo as the new Principal of the Lee H. Kellogg. Stacey comes to the Canaan School district from Region 14 with a strong background in instruction, intervention and curriculum.
- Region 1 BOE conducted a review of the law firms to ensure that it is receiving the best service possible for all schools in the Region. After the interviews, the Region One Board decided to stay with the current firm.

Ms. Carter reported that more guidance will come regarding the new mask mandates from Governor Lamont once the administration, lawyers and Ms. Carter can meet to discuss, at which time decisions will be made for Region One by February 28th.

XI. Public Comment:

Mrs. Drislane acknowledged Ms. Carter for all the hard work she does making decisions that affect the Region One School District on snow days. Mrs. Drislane went on to thank Ms. Carter for keeping the Region One School District safe in the winter and making the safest calls regarding whether to be in session or not, considering what a large district it is from North Canaan to Kent.

V. Hinman asked how you acquire a Board member position. Dr. Roy answered her with instructions on how to go through the Town Hall. Mrs. Hinman also added she still has concerns regarding her comments earlier in the meeting. Dr. Roy will follow up with her.

XII. Adjournment: Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 8:32 pm. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: March 8, 2022