



**North Canaan Board of Education**  
MEETING MINUTES  
90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018    [www.nceschool.org](http://www.nceschool.org)

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*The North Canaan Board of Education met in the library  
at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 12, 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 7:02 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

**II. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 13, 2023, Regular Meeting, as written. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

**III. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation (action anticipated)**

Mrs. Drislane invited Lisa Carter, Dr. Roy, Beth Johnson, and Attorney Alex Voccio into the Executive Session at 7:04 pm.

At 7:17 pm the Board came out of the Executive Session and returned to the regular meeting.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the proposed settlement of two related CHRO matters, case numbers 2230549 and 2230550, and to authorize Dr. Alicia Roy to execute the settlement agreement on the Board's behalf. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

**IV. Public Comment - None**

**V. Communications - Written**

A letter of resignation was received from Dr. Sarah Braun, 7th & 8th grade Science teacher. Dr. Braun transferred to the Housatonic Valley Regional High School to teach science.

**VI. Region One Report**

Mr. Gow reported on the September 11, 2023, meeting as follows:

- A resignation was acknowledged from Nur Abdulhayoglu, HVRHS Science, and a retirement was announced for Warren Prindle for the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- New hires were announced: Sarah Braun, HVRHS Science; Samantha Flunory, Pupil Services; Colleen O'Reilly, HVRHS Math; and Abigail Thompson, Pupil Services.
- The field trip to the National FFA Convention was approved.
- The FFA Fort Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo field trip will be postponed for a year.
- Policies were approved and additional policies had first readings.

## **VII. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report**

The ABC Board has not met since the last report in June.

## **VIII. Action Items**

### **A. Kindergarten plan in response to Public Act 23-208, Section 1**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the Region 1 response to Public Act 23-208, Section 1, and to continue Early Kindergarten, allowing students who turn age 5 after September 1st and before January 1st, the possibility of attending school following the plan presented by administration. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

### **B. Acceptance of Donation**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board to accept the donation of \$ 7,500.00 from Mr. Ben Wohlfert for the purchase of the gaga ball pit and playground equipment. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

### **C. Hiring of an assistant head custodian**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the hiring of Damian Gwinn as assistant head custodian beginning July 24, 2023, at the first-year level rate of \$21.53 per hour. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

### **D. Hiring of a middle school science teacher**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the hiring of Alison Hasenbein as middle school science teacher, grades 7 and 8, beginning August 23, 2023, at master's step 10 to be paid according to step 10.5 at \$74,236. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

### **E. Hiring of a teacher assistant**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the hiring of Jennifer Dunn as a teacher assistant, beginning August 23, 2023, at the first-year rate of \$17.47 per hour, working 22.5 hours per week. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

### **F. Updated Middle School Athletics & Activities Committee Agreement**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the Updated Middle School Athletics & Activities Committee Agreement as presented by administration. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

## **IX. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the links on the September agenda.)**

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

- Wednesday, August 23, was the opening day for staff. The school theme for the year revolves around the answer to this question: How will we grow together this year?
- During the summer a science teacher and para were hired.
- During the 2022-2023 school year, 18.32% of our general education students (35 students) and 36.36% of our students with special education plans (12 students) were deemed

chronically absent by the state. Beginning this year we will mail monthly letters to any student who has been absent from school two days in any month.

- Due to the generous donation of Mr. Ben Wohlfert, we were able to purchase a gaga ball pit that students are enjoying.
- AHA kept the school garden going all summer and was very plentiful with vegetables and flowers.
- PTO offered a free ice cream sundae to all students and staff at the end of the school day on Friday, Sept. 8th.

***Assistant Superintendent's Report:*** (A copy is available through the links on the September agenda.) Dr. Rose was not present for the Board meeting. Ms. Carter reported on the following items.

- Region One opened the year with two regional professional learning days. The first was given to teachers to complete mandated compliance training. The second allowed for regional collaboration across building and grade levels.
- Region One's Elementary schools were awarded the Right to Read grants which provide funds for districts to purchase one of the state-approved reading programs found to use approved science of reading strategies.

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

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

- Region One is pleased and fortunate to start the school year fully staffed with an impressive group of new teachers, staff and two new administrators, who have hit the ground running this summer and into the new school year.
- An outcome of the spring legislative session of the General Assembly was the mandate that all schools revise the educator (teacher and administrator) evaluation process to become effective in 2024-2025. Dr. Rose and Ms. Carter will be working with the Region 1 Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) and our consultant, Amy Tepper, to make the appropriate revisions.
- In October, all Region 1 schools will undergo threat assessment training. This training provides a specific protocol to be followed when students exhibit anxiety or stress that may negatively affect their behavior toward themselves or others.
- Middle School Sports moved to the high school so it's a central location for students to travel to practice and an easier pick up for parents.

#### **X. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations (action anticipated)**

Mrs. Drislane invited Lisa Carter, Dr. Roy, and Beth Johnson into the Executive Session at 8 pm.

At 8:05 pm the Board came out of the Executive Session and returned to the regular meeting.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to the full Board the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Faculty Association presented by administration and discussed in executive session. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

**XI. Public Comment: None**

**XII. Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Mrs. Simmons seconded.  
Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Rooney

Approved: October 10, 2023