



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, December 10, 2024.*

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

Others present: Beth Johnson, Principal; Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent (virtually); Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent (virtually).

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Superintendent Brady-Shanley.

II. Election of Officers: Superintendent Brady-Shanley led the election for the Chair of the Board. Superintendent Brady-Shanley accepted nominations for Chairperson of the Board.

- Mr. Jacques nominated Mrs. Dodge for Chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Crane seconded. With no other nominations, Mr. Jacques made a motion to close nominations for Chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons. 1-Abstain Mrs. Dodge.

Newly re-elected Chair, Amy Dodge resumed the meeting.

Mrs. Dodge accepted nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

- Mrs. Grant nominated Mr. Jacques for Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Dodge seconded. With no other nominations, Mrs. Grant made a motion to close nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Crane seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons. 1-Abstain Mr. Jacques.

Mrs. Dodge accepted nominations for Secretary of the Board.

- Mrs. Grant nominated Mrs. Helminiak for Secretary of the Board. Mr. Jacques seconded. Mrs. Grant nominated Mrs. Riva. Mrs. Riva declined the motion. Mrs. Grant nominated Mrs. Crane. Mrs. Crane declined the motion. With no other nominations, Mr. Jacques made a motion to close nominations for Secretary of the Board. Mrs. Crane seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons. 1-Abstain Mrs. Helminiak.

III. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Grant made a motion to approve the November 13, 2024 Minutes, as written. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

IV. Public Comment - None

V. Communications - None

VI. Region One Report -

Superintendent Brady-Shanley reported there was a first reading on the policies that are on our agenda, work continues on the Region One Budget, and administrators are working closely with the HVRHS staff for recertifications.

VII. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

Mrs. Dodge reported that Mr. Herrick provided a draft of the proposed 2025-2026 Region 1 budget, including all anticipated updates and changes and discussion was held regarding the possibility of a Board of Education goal setting meeting to be held in the spring/summer of 2025 for all seven Boards of Education.

VIII. Board Policies (first reading)

There was a first reading of Policy 3542.43 - Food Service Charging Policy; Policy 5131.81 - Cellular Phones/Electronic Communication Devices; and Policy 6148 - FAFSA Completion Program. Superintendent Brady-Shanley explained all the revisions from the previous policies. The Board didn't have any requests for changes. The policies will be voted on in the January Board of Education meeting.

IX. Action Items

1. Approval of the North Canaan Elementary School Credit Card
Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the North Canaan Elementary School Credit Card. Mrs. Johnson explained that there would be two people using the card for specific usages. The card would be locked on school premises and only used when needed. Mrs. Johnson will bring the paperwork back to the January Board of Education meeting to further the process of acquiring the card. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.
2. Increase the Student Milk Price 2024-2025
Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board the approval to increase the student milk price to \$.40 (an increase of \$.05) beginning January 6, 2025 to be in compliance with the federal requirement as calculated through the paid lunch equity tool. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

X. Administrative Reports

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

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

- Students in grades Pre-K-2 were treated to a free book from the Ready to Grow Bookmobile. Students were allowed to choose a book to bring home.
- The Crane family had a float again in the North Canaan Parade of Lights for NCES staff and families to ride in.
- Community Groups met in November to share NCES kindness with the community. Students decorated placemats that were used at the North Canaan Community

Thanksgiving dinner as well as Geer and Geer village. They also created tissue paper poppies to share at the VFW and with our Veterans at the Thankful for Veterans assembly.

- The second grade hosted our annual Thankful for Veterans assembly on November 26th. Twenty-one veterans were honored at the ceremony. They were serenaded by their branches' medley as well as other patriotic songs. Second graders also wrote letters thanking past and present members of the armed forces for their service.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the December agenda.) Dr. Rose provided a brief overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- The interviewing process is almost complete for candidates that will be in the Collaborative Team Lead positions, as approved by the Region One Board last month. In cooperation with our K-8 principals, there will be a monthly collaborative meeting for each K-8 grade level/content area.
- Applications for the Title grants provided by the federal government have been completed and awarded to Region One District schools.

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

Superintendent Brady-Shanley provided an overview of the Next Generation School Accountability 2024 Results. Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System is a broad set of 12 indicators that help tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers, and life. It provides a holistic, multi-factor perspective of district and school performance. Districts/schools earn points on a broad set of 12 indicators (achievement, growth, chronic absenteeism, college and career readiness, high school graduation, postsecondary entrance, physical fitness, and the arts). Superintendent Brady-Shanley explained NCES has done a wonderful job of lowering their chronic absenteeism rate for all subgroups of students. Also, while we do see some drops, their overall proficiency level is very high.

XI. Public Comment - None

XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. Mrs. Jacques seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: January 14, 2025