



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 8, 2024.*

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

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

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Mrs. Dodge.

II. Consent Agenda

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the September 10, 2024 Minutes, and the September 30, 2024 - Special Meeting minutes, as written. Mrs. Crane seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Communications - None

V. Region One Report

Mrs. Dodge was not present, Superintendent Brady-Shanley reported the following:

- 3 new courses (Introduction to ceramics, Introduction to acting, and AP Chemistry) were approved at the high school.
- There was an approval to direct the Superintendent of Schools to send out a Firearms Safety letter and to develop and send out a SRO/ARO interest survey.
- The renovations at the high school are almost completed and community members will be able to come to the Grand Opening on November 4, 2024.

VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

The ABC Committee met virtually on September 25, 2024 at 7pm. Superintendent Brady-Shanley reported the following:

- The Committee approved sending a school security (ARO/SRO) interest survey to parents, students and staff to each of the local Boards of Education for further discussion, with the exception of Kent, as they already have an ARO in place.
- Discussion was held regarding an update on the Summer Mountaineer Program.
- The Committee approved sending a firearm safety letter to families to each of the local Boards of Education for further discussion.

VII. Action Items

1. Board Policies -

Mrs. Dodge made a motion for the approval of the following policies: School Climate Policy 5131.911; Sexual Harassment/Title IX 4000.1/4200.1/5145.44; Non-Lapsing Education Fund 3171.1; Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process 5114; Nondiscrimination Policy and Notice 0521. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva. Vote: 1-abstain Mrs. Simmons.

2. PMT Training Stipend (Revolving Fund) - \$330 (K-8)

Mrs. Dodge made a motion for the approval of the The North Canaan Board of Education PMT Training Stipend in the amount of \$330.00. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

3. Hiring -

Mrs. Dodge made a motion for the approval of hiring Michael Spring as a full-time, night custodian September 23, 2024, at \$21.44/hour. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

4. USA Waste & Recycling Contract

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the USA Waste Recycling Contract for 1 10 YD FRONT LOAD SERVICE 1x per week for \$671.58 per month and 1 10 YD SINGLE STREAM Every 2 weeks for \$315.91 per month. Total \$987.49 plus delivery fees. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

5. Discussion and Possible Action - Firearms Safety Letter

There was a discussion about the distribution of a firearm safety letter in regards to families that have arms at home. Superintendent Brady-Shanley answered questions the Board had. The Board was assured that the letter would not contain a view or opinion either way, it would solely be about storing firearms and safety.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the letter about the distribution of a firearm safety letter in regards to families that have arms at home. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

6. Discussion and Possible Action - SRO/ARO Interest Survey

There was a discussion about sending a survey to staff and families regarding having a STO/ARO officer in Region One School Districts. Superintendent Brady-Shanley answered questions the Board had.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion for the approval of The North Canaan Board of Education to direct the Superintendent of School to send out an SRO/ARO Interest Survey. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

VIII. Administrative Reports

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

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

- On Friday, September 13, we held our first Community Group event in the auditorium. Mrs. Johnson began by reading *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller to the students, which sparked a discussion on the many ways we can show kindness. Mrs. Johnson introduced the NCES Kindness Chain challenge, encouraging students to see how far they could extend the kindness chain around the building. Students then split into Community Groups, where they traced each other's hands and drew friendship bracelets on them, creating markers for the kindness chain.
- Mrs. Erickson organized a StoryWalk outside the library, where enlarged pages of a book were displayed along a walking path, offering students a unique and interactive reading experience. Families were invited to enjoy the StoryWalk during the Open House, featuring *Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner.
- Open House was on Wednesday, September 18, which saw great attendance. Most teachers reported participation from 80-90% of their students and families.
- Mr. Nolan hosted a second Open House for our multilingual learner (ML) families, with eleven families in attendance. During the event, he addressed key topics such as the school calendar, schedules, chronic absenteeism, and grading practices. We were also joined by a representative from Community Health and Wellness, along with Mrs. Knutson, who organizes free English classes for non-native speakers.
- Beth Johnson made a slide show presentation with the SBAC data results. ELA: 58% of students in grades 3-8 met or exceeded the achievement standard. The school ranked 1st in the district reference group (DRG) for ELA by a small margin (1.1%). Students with high needs made tremendous growth. Mathematics: 54% of students met or exceeded the standard, ranking 2nd in the DRG. Science (NGSS): 77% of students in grades 5 and 8 met or exceeded the science standard.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the October agenda.) Dr. Rose was not present. Superintendent Brady-Shanley provided a brief overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- Schools will host 3 Sign and Sub events in October:
 - October 17, 2024 at Cornwall, 9:00-11:00
 - October 24, 2024 at Sharon Center School, 1:00-3:00
 - October 30, 2024 at North Canaan, 1:00-3:00
- Amy Tepper will provide professional learning for the administration team on October 22, 2024, hosted by Sharon Center School.
- Carolyn Corrado is working with each of the schools to support inclusive practices for all teachers and students.

- Bradley Williams of Clark Consulting is coaching teachers at HVRHS with a focus on Linguistically Oriented Discourse. This work supports teachers in asking questions in a fashion to draw out fuller and more grammatically complete responses from students.
- Twenty-two teachers and administrators attended a 3-day coaching workshop with Partners for Education during the month of September.

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

- I have prepared communications outlining how families, staff, and the broader community should report concerns, as well as how responses will be communicated within Region One.
- In late September, principals and their instructional leadership teams participated in a professional development and work session to assist in designing their school plans for the 2024-2025 school year.
- During September and October, we are negotiating several administrative and certified contracts in Region One. The following contracts are under negotiation: R1 Administrative, R1 Certified, Falls Village Certified, and North Canaan Certified.
- Construction at the high school is nearing completion. The cafeteria is approximately 95% finished, with only a few ceiling panels and lights remaining to be installed. The auditorium is expected to be completed by mid-October. We have tentatively scheduled a community Grand Opening Ceremony for Monday, November 4, 2024, from 5 PM to 7 PM. The evening will feature student-led tours and a food tasting event.

IX. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Board Clerk contract.

Mrs. Dodge invited Superintendent Brady-Shanley and Beth Johnson into the Executive Session at 7:22 pm.

At 7:24 pm the Board came out of the Executive Session and returned to the regular meeting.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion for the approval of the Board Clerk contract presented by administration and discussed in the executive session. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

X. Public Comment - None

XI. Adjournment

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Mrs. Helminiak seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: November 13, 2024