



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, September 10, 2024.*

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

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

Chairperson Amy Dodge and Vice Chair Stephannie Grant were not present during the Board meeting. Lindsey Crane nominated Mr. Jacques to run the Board of Education meeting.

Mrs. Simmons made a first motion to nominate Mr. Jacques to run the meeting. Mrs. Riva seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Mr. Jacques.

II. Consent Agenda

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the minutes for the Minutes, June 11, 2024 - Special Meeting Minutes and the August 1, 2024 - Special Meeting, as written. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

Mrs. Crane made a motion to subtract the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Board Clerk contract. Mrs. Riva seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, 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, nothing reported

VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

The ABC Board will be meeting virtually on September 25, 2024 at 7pm.

VII. Board Retreat

The Board was informed by Mrs. Brady-Shanley that there will be Board member trainings for Region One that will take place on September 30th at HVRHS and October 15th at Kent Central School. It is suggested that each school hold an additional training with EdAdvance during the school year. New Board members are required to attend training but it is helpful for all the Board

members to refresh as well.

VIII.

A. Board Policies

There was a first reading 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; and Nondiscrimination Policy and Notice 0521. The Board did not recommend any changes. The policies will be on the October Board meeting agenda for action.

IX. Action Items

1. Hiring - 7&8th Grade Math Teacher

Mrs. Riva made a motion to the Board for the approval to hire Melissa Greenwood as the 7 & 8 grade math teacher beginning August 20, 2024, at Master's step 9 to be paid at \$67,196. Mrs. Helminiak seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

2. 8th Grade DC Trip

Mrs. Crane made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the 8th Grade DC trip Contract. Mrs. Helminiak seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

3. Deposit the FY24 surplus amount of \$88,520.73 into the North Canaan Elementary School Excess Budget Fund for the North Canaan Board of Education.

Mrs. Riva made a motion to the Board for the approval of the FY24 surplus amount of \$88,520.73 to be deposited into the North Canaan School District North Canaan Elementary School Excess Budget Funds. Mrs. Helminiak seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

4. Calendar Adjustment - Discussion of additional half-day professional development to train staff on the selected literacy screener for K-3.

Mrs. Crane made a motion to adjust the 2024-2025 school year calendar for NCES to have February 14, 2025, as a half-day professional development day for staff. Mrs. Riva seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

5. School Nursing Consultant Contract

Mrs. Simmons made a motion to the Board for the approval of the hiring of Lois Mulhurn as the School Nursing Consultant for the North Canaan Elementary School in the amount of \$1,386.00. Mrs. Helminiak seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

6. Install new playground equipment

Mrs. Riva made a motion to the Board for the acceptance of the donation of \$34,401 from the North Canaan Education Foundation, courtesy of Mr. Ben Wohlfert, along with \$18,897.37 from the PTO, to install new playground equipment with wood chips in the grades 3-4 and 5-8 playgrounds. The equipment will be installed by ProPlaygrounds as discussed and shown in the attachments. Mrs. Helminiak seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

IX. Administrative Reports

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

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

- This summer we worked with members of the CT Coalition, EdAdvance and our NCES Safety Team to plan for a successful, safe reopening for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Pre-K-3 Teachers: Focused on unpacking and planning for the new reading program, Benchmark.
- Grades 4-8 Teachers: Collaborated with staff from the Western CT Coalition, planned meaningful, engaging Morning Meeting lessons, and reached out to all Morning Meeting families.
- The first day for students was August 27, 2024. This year's theme is Kindness, which is reflected in bulletin boards, Morning Meetings, and morning announcements.
- We have many students involved in regional sports this fall. This fall, the program has expanded and is offering cooking and baking classes for grade 6-8.

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

- We opened the year with 2 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.
- Year 1 implementation of Benchmark Advance Curriculum. The program includes intervention materials, materials for multilingual learners, assessment, decodable readers, take-home consumables, and online platform.
 1. K-8 Summer Program
Directors: Laurabeth Davidson and Lauren Montagna-Pierce
Included 91 students over 4 weeks
 2. 20 teachers and staff
Summer Mountaineer Experience
68 students over 2 weeks
3 staff and 6 junior counselors

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

- Theme for the Region One School District 24/25 school year: “WE ARE ONE”
Throughout the year, we will highlight the wonderful contributions of our communities and schools, celebrating how they unite to make us truly come together as “ONE.”
- On August 27, 2024, we celebrated the first day of school. Our RSSC Administrators visited all schools to greet and welcome staff and students into the school year. Across the district, we are able to celebrate that we had an average first day attendance rate of 98%.
- Nurses are now participating in professional development on the half day early dismissal days. They are being led by our School Nurse Consultant - Lois Mulhern and our newly hired School Medical Advisory - Dr. Ann Milanse, a Developmental Pediatrician out of CCMC.
- During the month of September, our school teams in partnership with our RSSC staff will work to develop academic and social emotional goals for the 24/25 school year. These goals will work to improve overall academic performance, experiential learning opportunities, and address attendance practices. The Strategic Plans will be presented during the October BOE meetings along with an extensive presentation on our standardized scores.
- Throughout the region, various schools have received significant upgrades to their facilities. These improvements include IT re-wiring, enhanced safety measures, updates to library media centers, air conditioning installations, and new playground equipment. Extensive renovations at the high school have transformed our large gathering spaces, including the cafeteria, auditorium, cupola, and HVAC systems, making them more comfortable and attractive for both students and the public.

X. Public Comment - None

XI. Adjournment

Mrs. Riva made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm. Mrs. Helminiak seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: October 8, 2024