



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, May 14, 2024.*

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

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Beth Johnson, Assistant Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent

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

II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Simmons made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 9, 2024, meeting, April 17, 2024 special meeting, April 29, 2024 special meeting, and May 6, 2024 special meeting, as written. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. CABA Leadership Award

Dr. Roy announced one of the winners for the CABA Student Leadership Award. She introduced C. Crane in 7th grade as one of the recipients. The student's family members were present. Dr. Roy read a biography describing the student's accomplishments, their commitment to be of service to their peers and their integrity in and out of school.

IV. Public Comment - None

V. Communications -

A letter for a waiver for early enrollment was received from a family with a child that would turn five years old in February of 2025 requesting to let their child start Kindergarten in September of 2024. Dr. Roy and Ms. Carter explained to the Board how they made their decision and why it was denied. The State of CT law states beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, children need to turn five years old on or before September 1 in order to be automatically eligible for kindergarten. This is a change from the current kindergarten cut off date of January 1. The Region One policy 5111 clearly states the new CT law as well. Dr. Roy went on to explain that North Canaan has an EK program which allows a child to enter if they turn five by December 31st of that school year. The Board agreed with a policy in place as well as the CT State law that this was something that would have to be adhered to without exception. Dr. Roy and Ms. Carter also reported that they consulted with the Region One's lawyer for additional guidance.

VI. Region One Report

Mrs. Keilty was not in attendance. Lisa Carter reported on the following from the previous May

Board meeting.

- The HVRHS physics position was filled.
- 8 policies were reviewed for a first reading.

VII. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

Mrs. Dodge reported that there was an Executive session. The ABC Board recommended to the Region One Board of Education to hire Melony Brady-Shanley as Superintendent of Schools with a start date of July 1, 2024.

VIII. June meeting location/end-of-year dinner

The board agreed that having the end of year dinner and Board meeting again at Geer would be the best place to have it. Dinner will be at 6pm and the meeting will start at 6:30 as scheduled.

IX. Update on NCES Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2024

Dr. Roy provided an overview of what has been accomplished in the NCES Strategic Action Plan for this school year. There has been a lot of progress and continues to be used as an effective guide every day.

X. Board Policies (first reading)

There was a first reading of the following policies: 1312 Public Complaints/General Complaint Procedures; 3280 Gifts/Grants/Bequests; 4118.2/4218.2 Code of Ethics; 5112 Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement; 5141 Student Health Services; 5141.21 Administering Medication; 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention; and 6148 FAFSA Completion Program. The Board did not recommend any changes. The policies will be on the June Board meeting agenda for action.

XI. Action Items

A. Educator Evaluation Draft Updated Document

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the Educator Evaluation Updated Document as presented by administration. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

B. Student Tuition Waiver - EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was not needed due to keeping the students' names confidential.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board to waive the tuition fee prescribed in Policy #5118.1 for the 2023-2024 school year for the nonresident student who is currently enrolled as a child of a staff member. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

C. Hiring

1. Head Custodian:

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Damian Gwinn as head custodian beginning May 1, 2024, at the entry level rate of \$26.97 per hour. Mr.

Jacques seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

2. Third Grade Teacher

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Abigail Cowles as a third grade teacher beginning August 22, 2024, at the BA step 4 salary rate of \$46,655. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

XII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Reviewing the Non-Certified Contract 2024-2027 with Action Anticipate.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to go into an Executive session at 7:09pm for the purpose of reviewing the Non-Certified contract 2024-2027. Mrs. Dodge invited Dr. Roy, Lisa Carter and Beth Johnson. Mrs. Crane seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

- At 7:10pm the Board came out of the Executive session and back to the regular meeting.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board the approval of the collective bargaining agreement between the North Canaan Board of Education and the North Canaan Elementary School Employees Local 1303-269 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027, as ratified by the union and discussed in executive session. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

XIII. Administrative Reports

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

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

- Friday, April 26th was the Arbor Day celebration, with students and their families assembled outside. The 5th grade students wrote poems and the Kindergarten and 1st graders sang songs. During that time students through grade 5 attended the Arbor Day Celebration. Students in grades 6 through 8 began cleaning some of the grounds and planting seeds that will be transferred to the garden beds next month.
- Students began taking the requisite tests on April 24th beginning with the science test (NGSS.) The SBAC tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics began on April 30th and continued through May 10th.
- The 8th graders went to Troutbeck and did a presentation on May 2nd. Every eighth grader created a clay tile and presented their project, Discovering Connecticut's Rich Indigenous History, to the audience of about 200.
- May 6-10 was Staff Appreciation Week. The PTO did a different theme everyday and supplied all staff with a breakfast to start off the week. They brought many treats and put fun interactions together for the staff.

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

Dr. Rose was not present for the Board meeting. Ms. Carter gave an overview of the Assistant Superintendent's report.

- There is still work being done to fill teaching positions, not many needed as of this time.
- Students at all schools have been busy taking their summative state assessments. Students in grades 3-8 are completing the SBAC math and ELA assessments.
- There is a good number of enrolled students in the summer programs.

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

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

- Melony Brady Shaley, the in-coming Superintendent joined Dr. Rose and Lisa Carter on a tour of Region 1 on Monday, May 13th.
- Tina Bunce and Ms. Carter created a first draft of a policy consolidation plan for Region 1.
- Ms. Carter met with the Region 1 School Safety Team, which consists of a group of Region 1 administrators and head custodians who have been trained by the CT Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) team. They have agreed that, rather than try to visit and review all of the Region 1 schools in any given year, the schools will be on a continuous safety audit cycle
- It was another great event at the Troutbeck Inn this year. The Region 1 school projects were outstanding examples of research, reflection and civic action. Many of the projects are on public display at the Salisbury Historical Society for those who would like to stop by and see them.
- All graduation dates are listed in Ms. Carter's report.
- Administrators are holding end-of-year meetings with teachers to discuss and document their performance for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Carter will be doing the same with the Administrators in May and June.

XIV. Public Comment

Vanessa Hinman, a parent of 3 children at NCES, stated that she was surprised parents didn't get notified that there was an issue at the dance and a couple weeks later an expulsion at the school. Dr. Roy explained that all incidents and expulsions are confidential to protect the student's rights. Mrs. Hinman said that she understands that and wasn't looking for any names but only information and communication from the school regarding something that serious so parents are aware of the facts instead of the rumors being passed around.

XV. Adjournment

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: June 11, 2024