



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, January 14, 2025.*

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

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 6:30 pm by Mrs. Dodge.

II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Crane made a motion to approve the December 10, 2024 Minutes, as written. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Communications -

Mrs. Dodge received a letter of resignation from Kristine Simmons, NCES Board member.

V. Region One Report -

Mrs. Dodge reported that she attended the meeting. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- Honors Chemistry students presented their research experiment on Hand Washing Science.
- Students attended the 30th Season of Academic Bowl. They recently finished 1st in CT, 1st in New England, and 31st in the United States.
- Early College Acceptances were announced and presented to the Board.
- Student representatives presented the student representatives report. They are hoping to start working on Housatonic's Next Top Mountaineer.
- Superintendent Brady-Shanley presented the data from the School Security Survey Results.

VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

Mrs. Dodge reported that there was no meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 22, 2025.

VII. 2025-2026 Projected Enrollment -

Mrs. Johnson reported how many students are expected in each grade for the 2025-2026 school

year. Mrs. Johnson explained that the PreK, EK, and K numbers will change according to new enrollments. She also stated that there is currently one fourth grade teacher and NCES will need to hire a second fourth grade teacher next year to accommodate the larger incoming class.

VIII. Correspondence to the Board -

Superintendent Brady-Shanley reported on the CAPSS 2025 legislative proposals and CAPSS Priorities 2025 which will keep the Region updated on public policy priorities as well as its proposals for legislative action.

IX. Action Items

1. Policies -

Mrs. Dodge recommended to the Board the approval of the following policies: Food Service Charging Policy; Policy 5131.81 - Cellular Phones/Electronic Communication Devices; and Policy 6148 - FAFSA Completion Program. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

X. Administrative Reports

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

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

- Students in grades 1-3 had the opportunity to visit the Mahaiwe Theatre to see My Father's Dragon. Lisa Bradley, a teacher at NCES, applied for and received a \$1,000 grant from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation for the trip.
- Mr. Nolan and Mrs. Erickson hosted an event on December 19th. Our Spanish-speaking community was invited to a Literacy Night in the library, followed by a potluck in the cafeteria. NCES will host a whole-school literacy night January 29th at 5:30.
- On December 20, we hosted our Trimester One Celebration. Grades EK, 1st, 3rd and 8th shared their classroom presentations. The 5th-8th grade students that were on the honor roll were also celebrated.
- The Middle School Olympics, held the day before break, featured a snowman-making contest, a gift-wrapping challenge, Ring Around the Gift, and holiday trivia. In the closest competition yet, the 7th grade edged out the 8th grade by just 5 points!

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

- Dr. Rose is continuing to conduct a curriculum review in Rubicon Atlas, the Region's curriculum platform, focusing on getting the Benchmark K-3 reading and Humanities curriculum into the platform. This will be linked into the new Curriculum website for public access. As well as, working with the high school department leadership to ensure that up-to-date curriculum Scope and Sequence for all core courses is in place for public access and in preparation for our NEASC visit in 2028.

- Melony Brady-Shanley, Rebecca Gaschel-Clark and Dr. Rose will resume classroom walkthroughs with the building principals in January with data collection to inform professional learning and school improvement plan goals.
- The Winter Assessment window runs from January 6 through January 24, 2025. During this 3-week period, all students in grades K-10 will be assessed in reading and math using the FASTBridge universal assessment screening tool. Students in grades 3-12 will also be assessed using an Social-Emotional screener.
- As of July 1, 2024, the CSDE will allow PE teachers to obtain Health certification by completing the Health Praxis assessment. Principals will have a plan to support the teachers who do not currently have their Health certification in preparing for the Health Praxis assessment. The goal is to have all certifications in place for the 2025–26 school year.

Superintendent’s Report: (A copy is available through the links on the January agenda.) Superintendent Brady-Shanley provided an overview of the School Security Survey December 2024 Results. A slide show presentation was presented with data results for the Region along with a breakdown for NCES.

XI. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing the AHA Lease Agreement

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to move into an Executive Session at 7:12pm for the Purpose of Discussing the AHA Lease Agreement. Mrs. Dodge invited Beth Johnson and Superintendent Brady-Shanley into the executive session. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

The Executive session ended at 7:15pm and the regular Board meeting continued. Mrs. Dodge recommended to the Board the approval of the AHA Lease Agreement. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Public Comment - None

XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: February 11, 2025