



North Canaan Board of Education
MEETING MINUTES
90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 www.nceschool.org

*The North Canaan Board of Education met at
7pm on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at NCES.*

A regular meeting was held: Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Stephannie Grant, Christopher Jacques, Maribeth Marchi, and Kristine Simmons.

Others present: Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent; Ned Gow, North Canaan Town Representative; Vanessa Hinman

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 14, 2022, Regular Meeting, as written. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. Public Comment - Mrs. Hinman, a parent of three students, read a list of concerns she had on policy 6172.1, Gifted and Talented Students Program, including how many students are in this program. Mrs. Hinman also wanted to know from the assistant superintendent's report how the two regional math coaches will be used. She was inquiring with which schools the math coaches will be working.

IV. Communications - Written

Dr. Roy stated these are the resignations from the teachers or staff members who resigned after the June Board meeting. We are proud that two of the resignations are paras who are working to become certified teachers. Others accepted jobs closer to home, are moving, or have made other life choices.

- A. A Harrington letter of resignation
- B. K Earley letter of resignation
- C. A Cataldo letter of resignation
- D. K Brennan letter of resignation
- E. K Hunt letter of resignation
- F. A VanDeusen letter of registration
- G. B Devino letter of resignation
- H. C Papa letter of resignation

V. Region One Report

Mr. Gow reported on the Region One Board Meeting and provided a brief overview of the meeting as follows:

- There were two resignations, one in pupil services and one in agricultural education.
- Approved the addendum between Region One Board of Education and the Federation of School Administrators, which added some specific vacation periods.
- New hires: Amanda Richard in North Canaan for Pupil Services, Sheri Lloyd for agricultural education, and Katherine Pulmo in Sharon for pupil services.
- Approved fall coaches for the regional sports programs.
- The long-term plans for the high school meetings, whether virtual, in person, hybrid, or both are being considered.
- The following policies were approved: 6141.51 - Advances Courses or Programs, Eligibility Criteria for Enrollment; 6141.52 - Challenging Curriculum Policy; and 6172.1 - Gifted and Talented Students Program.
- Athletic director, Anne MacNeil, spoke about enrollment in the regional sports programs.

VI. All Boards Chair Report

Mrs. Drislane reported on the All Boards Chair Meeting in June and provided a brief overview as follows:

- Superintendent Lisa Carter's self-evaluation: Ms. Carter does goals every year, a mid-year check-in, then we have a final year wrap up on her goals and progress. Ms. Carter then sends the report to the All Boards Chair. Erin will forward the report to the board members, then re-submit it to the All Boards Chair. If there are any questions, members can ask Erin or Lisa.
- Erin suggested North Canaan Board Members come to an All Boards Chair Meeting to meet the assistant superintendent if they have not yet.
- In need of a middle school sports representative.

VII. Action Items

A-B. Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of policies 6141.52 Challenging Curriculum Policy (Criteria for Identification of Eligible Grade 8, 9 Students) and 6172.1 Gifted and Talented Students Program. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

- Dr. Roy stated there isn't a specific percentage or number of students who would be identified as gifted and talented. It is criteria based. Once criteria are established, we hold planning and placement team (PPT) meetings to identify students.

C. Hiring of Math, Part-Time Music, Science, and Social Studies Teachers

- Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Kevin Briggs as a 1.0 FTE grades 7-8 mathematics teacher at a bachelor's degree step 4 with a salary of \$45,618 for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

- Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Danielle O’Neil as a .6 FTE grades K-8 music teacher at a master’s degree step 11 with a salary of \$45,605.40 for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.
- Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Melissa Asselin as a 1.0 FTE grades 5-6 science teacher at a master’s degree step 9 with a salary of \$65,702 for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Devino seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.
- Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Robert “Jack” Weber as a 1.0 FTE grades 5-8 social studies teacher at a master’s degree step 2 with a salary of \$46,837 for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

D. Hiring of three Teacher Assistants

- Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Nina Campus (30 hours per week), Caitlin Hickey-Simboli (22.5 hours per week), and Heather Zucco (30 hours per week) each as a part-time teacher assistant 1 at the entry rate of \$15.88 per hour. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

E. Hiring of a Permanent Building Substitute

- Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the hiring of Brittany Spear-Baron as the permanent building substitute for the 2022-2023 school year at the rate of \$115 per day. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

VIII. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the links on the September agenda.)

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

- It was a busy Summer with Summer school being held in the building.
- Invited new families in August to come visit the school as well as held orientation for Prek, early kindergarten, and kindergarten students. Our Open House is this Thursday, September 15th from 6:30-7:30.
- Our enrollment is pretty much what it was last year.
- The new kitchen oven came. It is very efficient and much easier for cooking.

- Opening day assembly was held and included a focus for the year on kindness, reminding students to welcome new students and invite them to join us in school activities, including lunch and recess.

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

Ms. Carter provided a brief overview of the monthly report as Dr. Rose was unable to attend. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- Throughout the region we hired 31 new teachers. Generally, 10-12 are hired per year, a high number for this year due to a large number of retirements in special education and teachers moving closer to home to have a shorter commute. We still have a couple of openings in Spanish, physical education, and a school counselor.
- Audit of curriculum: looking at what needs to be updated internally. Mainly looking at the high school.
- First professional learning day on Friday, September 2: teach reading applying the science of reading.
- Rollout of Illustrative Math: Coaches are full-time teachers in Cornwall. They provide teachers in the region with a monthly newsletter that targets a particular strategy that everyone should try in their classroom. They participate in conferences and on professional learning days they meet with math teachers throughout the region.

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

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

- Not official enrollment numbers but gives an idea.
- COVID, we are learning to live with it. Still can be disruptive with the 5 day isolation. Some could be out 5-10 days depending on symptoms. We are following the protocols that have been handed down to us. Will be scheduling vaccine clinics again.
- Student Achievement link anybody can look at. It is on edsite. For North Canaan for ELA, not only did they meet grade level targets, but also surpassed earlier pre-pandemic performance. North Canaan also surpassed its pre-pandemic performance in Math which is unusual for most schools in Connecticut.
- Educator evaluation: 94% of our teachers are proficient or exemplary. Those who are not we understand they are either new or will need some support.
- Planning for the future: working with the board to look down the road to the high school needs to be the destination high school for our area, looking at how to expand what we are currently doing to make it more contemporary or engaging.
- Troop B will do walk-throughs. Narcan is available in all schools and all schools have someone who is trained to administer it.
- Central office staff have worked so hard to put the central office almost into the 21st century. There is a central program, Frontline, that everyone has access to and that will be used for personnel files and for staff evaluations.
- EdAdvance is looking for Board membership. Mr. Gow has volunteered. Ms. Carter will pass his name along.

IX. Executive Session for the Purpose of Reviewing and Discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation for the 21-22 School Year

- Ms. Drislane will send the Board members the evaluation and place this item on the agenda for next month.

X. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Pending Litigation

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to go into executive session at 7:53 pm for the Purpose of Discussing Pending Litigation, inviting Dr. Roy and Lisa Carter. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:24 pm.

XI. Public Comment - None

XII. Adjournment: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 pm. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandy Devino

Approved: October 11, 2022