



*The North Canaan Board of Education met at  
7pm on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at NCES.*

**A regular meeting was held:** Matt Devino, Erin Drislane, Stephannie Grant, Christopher Jacques, Maribeth Marchi, and Kristine Simmons, Amy Dodge (arrived at 8:45pm.)

**Others present:** Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent, (via zoom); Dr. Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent; Melissa Bachetti

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Devino made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting, as written. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

**III. Public Comment - None**

## **IV. Communications - Written**

- Dr. Roy handed out letters written by various 6th graders about their experience at Nature's Classroom in the Fall. Though Mrs. Fleming had reported at a previous meeting about their experience, it is nice to hear from students and what they liked. Dr. Roy stated she would like to keep funds in the budget to help defray the cost of this trip for families.

## **V. Region One Report**

Ms. Carter reported on the Region One Board Meeting and provided a brief overview of their January 2, 2023, meeting as follows:

- The high school hired a consultant to inquire about creating the ability to hold hybrid meetings. Initial quote was a little under \$5000 without speakers at each of the tables. If North Canaan is interested in doing the same, they can contact consultant Graham Stone.
- The High School travel club will attend two trips. In April they will go to Spain/Portugal and in July they will go to Ireland.

## **VI. All Boards Chair Report**

Mrs. Drislane reported that the All Boards Chair did not meet. Their next meeting will be held on January 25, 2023.

## **VII. Results from the 2021-2022 Next Generation Accountability System**

- Dr. Roy gave a screenshot of Performance Indexes from the state and from North Canaan for the last four years it was created.

- Only two schools in Region 1 had numbers higher than the state index score of 69.7, and NCES was one of them with a score of 76. We are proud of these scores because we did not have a full complement of staff and have been working hard with students who missed some learning while they were at home in prior years.
- Anyone can go on the website to see all the scores.
- ELA scores the state target is 75 or higher, NCES is currently at 64.2. We are also closing the gap with the high needs students at a greater rate than the state average. Our ELA high needs score is 54.2.
- The Math scores gap has decreased as well, with credit given to the teachers for their implementation of the Bridges program with fidelity.
- Literacy scores are also going up.
- Physical fitness is not where it should be. The school has purchased electronic monitors for students to track target heart rates while doing activities. They get to choose their own code name for the device and monitor their progress.
- Attendance is another area where we could earn more points. Chronic absenteeism is defined as any student with 18 or more absences. High numbers of absences have been due to illness as well as families taking vacations.

## **VIII. Action Item**

### **A. Middle School Athletics and Activities**

There was a discussion regarding the Middle School Athletics and Activities program. Many members of the board expressed their concerns over the increased cost as well as the lack of participation from North Canaan students. The following were brought up for discussion:

- Cost was not based on participation for the school. If all the schools can participate then why aren't we all charged equally?
- Dr. Roy commented that next year we have a very large 7th grade class who we hope will participate. Dr. Roy sent information to both parents and students hoping to gain involvement for the winter session, with no success.
- Ms. Carter reported the way we calculate all budget components is that the schools with the larger population generally have the largest participation, so they pay the most. This can be discussed with the MS Athletics and Activities Committee to look at changing for future years.
- The Board was under the impression the cost of the program was supposed to decrease after the first year since there would be no equipment to buy.
- Ms. Carter stated there are plans to add new activities and sports within the program in the future, adding additional staffing costs.
- The Board would like to find out why North Canaan students are not participating. Is it due to the activities and sports being held at other schools? Is it because students don't want to wait for a bus to finish a route or ride on a bus that long?
- North Canaan may not need the regional program but North Canaan is paying the most for the program with the least amount of participants.
- The funding has to be decided in advance, before knowing how many students

will participate. The Board would not mind funding the program if North Canaan had the participation. If the program is voted down at this meeting, North Canaan students might not have any sports/activities available to them for the fall of 2023. With the next meeting of the Middle School Athletics and Activities committee being held on January 25, 2023, the action will need to be voted on at this Board meeting.

- It was suggested that the Board vote on the action item tonight, but to send Board members to the next Middle School Athletics and Activities Committee Meeting to voice the Board's concerns.
- Ms. Carter will send invites to the meeting as it is a zoom meeting. Mrs. Marchi will attend as an alternate for Mrs. Drislane.

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of North Canaan Elementary School's participation in the middle school athletics and activities program for 2023-2024 as presented with an estimated cost of \$49,132, an increase of \$9,494. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 4-yes; Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, 2-opposed; Mrs. Marchi, Mrs. Simmons

#### **IX. Administrative Reports** (A copy is available through the links on the December agenda.)

***Principal's Report:*** Dr. Roy provided a brief overview of her monthly report, stating some special events held in December.

- Early K had their winter concert as well as went to Geer to sing for the residents.
- The students had an end-of-the-year celebration. PTO donated gingerbread cookies for each student to decorate.
- Dr. Roy spent time in classrooms reading to students.

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

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

- The region has conducted three substitute sign-up events. The community response was overwhelming. There were over 30 people between all the events, including college students, retirees, stay-at-home moms.
- January 3, 2023, was a regional professional development day. All principals ran and facilitated groups with positive feedback from teachers.

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

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

- The region is working on the regional consolidation of Google suite services, as suggested by Datahal. There are some concerns from staff on losing their school domains, (nceschool.org, salisburycentral.org) This consolidation would give the opportunity to recycle computers and to make security easier to maintain.

- There will be a regional meeting to go over the regional calendar on Tuesday, January, 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

**X. Public Comment - None**

**XI. Executive Session for the Purpose of discussing contract negotiations**

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to enter an Executive Session for the Purpose of discussing contract negotiations and invited Ms. Carter and Dr. Roy to the Executive Session.

Mr. Devino seconded at 8:23 pm. Vote: 6-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

The Board came back to the regular meeting at 8:55pm.

**XII. Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 7-yes Mr. Devino, Mrs. Dodge (arrived at 8:45 pm), Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Marchi, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brandy Devino

Approved: February 14, 2023