



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 7 pm on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.*

A regular meeting was held: Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Stephannie Grant, Christopher Jacques, 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 7:00 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

II. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 10, 2023, Regular Meeting, as written. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. Public Comment - Vanessa Hinman, parent of students at NCES, stated some concerns she had regarding student-led conferences. She would like to see a different format in the middle school so she is able to meet with other teachers and not just the morning meeting teacher. In addition, Mrs. Hinman thanked the board for their work on pushing to redesign how we pay into the Middle School Athletics and Activities program. She also wanted to make the Board aware that she thinks there needs to be some modifications to the middle school sports program. She requested the program be improved so all students have the same opportunity to play all games.

IV. Communications - Written

A letter of resignation was received from Rececca Cahill resigning from the Board of Education effective immediately.

V. Region One Report

Mr. Gow was not present. Ms. Carter reported on the November 6, 2023, meeting as follows:

- Ned Gow and Keith Moon were recognized for their service and commitment to the Region 1 Board of Education. Rosemary Keilty will be appointed to be the new North Canaan Town Representative.
- There was a presentation of student achievement data. The high school did not perform as well as the elementary schools. There is some discussion about whether or not there is still COVID-19 impact due to the high school being hybrid most of the 2020-2021 school year. There has been a lot of focus on their social and emotional well-being since COVID-19. Currently the high school is focusing on getting their classroom community back with engaging instruction, which Ms. Carter sees when she visits classrooms.

VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

North Canaan School did not have a Board member present at the ABC meeting. Ms. Carter

reported on the October 25, 2023, meeting as follows:

- Superintendent Lisa Carter announced she will be retiring at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. There was discussion about moving forward finding a search committee for a new superintendent.

VII. Policies (1st reading)

There was a first reading of the following policies: Regional School Service Center (RSSC) 7000 Series: 7000 Introduction; 7050 Amendment and Suspension of the 7000 Series Policies; 7100 Governing Body; 7111 Membership and Organization of the ABC Committee; 7112 Duties of the ABC Committee Officers; 7200 Powers and Duties of the Committee; 7300 Regional School Services Center Personnel; 7400 Requests for New Joint Programs or Services or Termination of Same; 7405 Preparation of Annual Budget by the Superintendent of Schools; 7410 Accounting, Billing and Payment Procedures; 7411 Basis for Cost Allocation among Members; 7500 Requests to Withdraw from the Regional Schools Services Center; 7510 Requests for Admittance/Re-Admittance to the Regional Schools Services Center; 7600 Appointment of Staff. The Board did not recommend any changes. The policies will be on the December Board meeting agenda for action.

VIII. Action Items

A. Approval of Policies

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of policy 5125 Student Records, Confidentiality; 6159 Education Program/Special Education Program; and 6162.51 Surveys of Students/Student Privacy as recommended by administration. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

B. Approval of the schematic drawings and outlined specifications for the North Canaan HVAC (Ductless Mini Split) Project at North Canaan Elementary School

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the schematic drawings and outlined specifications for the North Canaan Elementary School HVAC (Ductless Mini Split) Project. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

C. Approval of HVAC ductless mini split project funds

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of \$38,000 to begin the HVAC ductless mini split project. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

D. Approval of the 2024 Board of Education meeting dates

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the 2024 Board of Education meeting dates as presented. The Board discussed the current time of 7 pm for the Board meetings and inquired whether the time could be moved to 6:30 pm. The Board members agreed to the 6:30 pm start time. Mrs. Drislane amended the motion.

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of the 2024 Board of Education meeting dates as presented with the change to the 6:30 pm start time for all meetings. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

IX. Administrative Reports (A copy is available through the links on the November agenda.)

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

- The State of Connecticut extended free breakfast for all students in schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program. Dr. Roy also inquired about offering free lunch for all students and was granted the ability to offer both free and lunch for all students beginning Thursday, October 19th. Free breakfast and free lunch will be offered through June 2024.
- North Canaan Elementary School has been named a School of Distinction by the State of Connecticut for Highest Growth for Students with High Needs in English Language Arts.
- On Monday, October 16th, all students participated in Fire Prevention Day.
- Dr. Roy expressed thanks to Erin Drislane and Matt Devino, for their dedication to our students, staff, and community through your service on the Board of Education and to Ned Gow for his service on the Region 1 Board.
- Students shared what they are learning with families during fall conferences on Wednesday, October 25th, and Thursday, October 26th.

Assistant Superintendent's Report: (A copy is available through the links on the November agenda.) Dr. Rose was not present for the Board meeting. Ms. Carter reported on the following items.

- November 8th will be a district professional learning day. The teams will continue the work and the learning begun in September and reported on in the September Board report.
- Dr. Rose will continue working with the high school to ensure that a plan is in place to establish curriculum for all core classes in the 2024-2025 Program of Studies.
- A team from PDEC with representatives from each school has attended a workshop with EdAdvance to build our capacity to lead the Teacher Evaluation revision process.

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

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

- Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) released results from the 2022-2023 Next Generation Accountability System—a system where schools and districts earn points on a broad set of 12 indicators. This system moves beyond test scores and graduation rates to provide a more holistic perspective of district and school performance. Principals will present the report for each school at their BOE meetings. Dr. Roy presented the report during the meeting.
- School Safety - The Region 1 administrative team and staff has been working and focusing on training with respect to school safety. Safety training, security plans and safety audits have been implemented and utilized. Descriptions for each one are in Superintendent Carter's November report.
- The HVRHS team met with the EdAdvance team to continue to plan for students to participate in the EdAdvance program for Career and College Acceleration.

- Ms. Carter is working with Lilly Barnett to coordinate the Annual Grade 4 Arts Day on March 6, 2024. The Kent School will host the event at their facility.
- Ms. Carter has begun formal school visits, which are a part of each administrator's annual evaluation. Teachers are well prepared and actively follow best practices in the classroom to engage their students in higher order thinking, increased self-awareness and collaboration with peers.

X. Public Comment: None

XI. Adjournment: Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Mrs. Dodge seconded.
Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Drislane, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: December 12, 2023