



**North Canaan Board of Education**  
MEETING MINUTES  
90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018     [www.nceschool.org](http://www.nceschool.org)

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*The North Canaan Board of Education met virtually in a google meet  
at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.*

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

**Others present:** Beth Johnson, Principal; Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent; Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent.

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Mrs. Dodge.

Mrs. Crane made a motion to move the Superintendent Report and Executive session after the consent agenda. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

**II. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the January 14, 2025 minutes, as written. Mrs. Crane seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

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

Superintendent Brady-Shanley provided a brief overview of her monthly report. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- In January, each school administered a School Climate Survey to families, staff, and students in grades 3–12. Total Surveys Completed: 1,637
- On Friday, January 31, the FFA Club donated \$4,038 to four local non-profits, including three food banks and the Jane Lloyd Foundation.
- Region One staff has been working to develop preliminary budget figures. They continue to refine the numbers to ensure a fiscally responsible budget. Key budget drivers include a 10.5% increase in insurance premiums, contractual staffing wage increases, and rising electricity costs.
- Updates have been provided to staff, families, and the BOE regarding changes to immigration laws as they relate to the educational setting. Prior to January 20th, schools were considered “protected spaces.” However, an Executive Order issued on January 21st removed this designation. Staff has been provided with a detailed protocol outlining procedures should immigration agents enter a school setting.

**X. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations**

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to move into an Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing contract negotiations. Mrs. Dodge invited Superintendent Brady-Shanley into the executive

session. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

The Executive session ended at 6:46 pm and the regular Board meeting continued.

Mrs. Dodge recommended to the Board the approval of Beth Johnson's contract as principal for the 2025-2026 school year Beginning July 1, 2025. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

### **III. Public Comment - None**

### **IV. Communications -**

The Board of Education received 3 letters of retirement. G. Merrill, Spanish teacher; L. Peppe, Reading Interventionist; D. Selino, 3rd grade teacher.

### **V. Region One Report -**

Mrs. Dodge reported that there were general updates during the meeting.

### **VI. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report**

Mrs. Dodge reported that the Board met on January 22, 2025. There was an executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent Goals and mid year check in.

## **VII. Action Items**

### **A. BOE Summer Goals and Objectives Retreat**

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to recommend to the Board the approval to set a Special Meeting of the North Canaan Elementary School Board of Education on July 16, 2025, from 9 AM to 1 PM for the purpose of the Summer Goal Setting Retreat (location to be determined). Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

### **B. Approval of the North Canaan Elementary School Credit Card**

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the North Canaan Elementary School Credit Card. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

### **C. Student Tuition Waiver -**

Mrs. Dodge recommended to the 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. Mrs. Riva seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

## **VIII. Administrative Reports**

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

Principal Johnson provided a slide show presentation of her Mid-Year Progress Monitoring report with data results of students assessed to measure their academic performance and progress toward grade level proficiency. Staff uses these results to inform the instructional

programming for each child. Mrs. Johnson explained her School Improvement Plan Goals and strategies for Academic Excellence, Educational Equity, Communication, and Climate. The data from all the Assessment Results were also presented.

***Assistant Superintendent's Report:*** (A copy is available through the links on the February agenda.) Dr. Rose reported that families can now access the revamped Curriculum website from the Region One website by selecting Assistant Superintendent from the department drop down. All K-8 ELA/Humanities, reading and math is available. Character Strong has been started and science curriculum (OpenSciEd) is in place and needs to be entered into the curriculum platform. Rubicon Atlas provides a repository for our curriculum and helps in the process of providing a consistent and aligned curriculum across all of our schools.

**IX. Public Comment - None**

**XI. Adjournment**

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. Mrs. Crane seconded. Vote: 5-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Helminiak, Mr. Jacques, and Mrs. Riva.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Rooney

Approved: March 11, 2025