



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, December 12, 2023.*

A regular meeting was held: Lindsey Crane, Amy Dodge, Stephannie Grant, Christopher Jacques, Brooke Riva, 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 Superintendent Carter.

II. Election of Officers: Lisa Carter led the election for the Chair of the Board.

Ms. Carter accepted nominations for Chairperson of the Board.

- Mrs. Grant nominated Mrs. Dodge for Chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Simmons seconded. With no other nominations, Mr. Jacques made a motion to close nominations for Chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

Newly re-elected Chair, Amy Dodge resumed the meeting.

Mrs. Dodge accepted nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

- Mrs. Dodge nominated Mrs. Grant for Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Mrs. Grant nominated Mr. Jacques for Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Mrs. Simmons seconded. With no other nominations, Mrs. Dodge made a motion to close nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Mr. Jacques seconded. The whole Board voted for Stephanie to be the new Vice-Chairperson. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

Mrs. Dodge accepted nominations for Secretary of the Board.

- Mrs. Simmons nominated Mr. Jacques for Secretary of the Board. Mrs. Grant seconded. With no other nominations, Mr. Jacques made a motion to close nominations for Secretary of the Board. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

III. Consent Agenda

Dr. Roy reported to the Board that Vanessa Hinman had emailed her to ask if there could be an addition to the minutes concerning when she spoke during the November Board meeting's public comment. Mrs. Hinman expressed her thanks to the Board for their work redesigning how the Board pays into the Middle School Athletics and Activities program, now based on students participating per school. Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 14, 2023, Regular Meeting, as written with the addition from Mrs. Hinman. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

IV. Public Comment - None

V. Communications - Written

A letter from Amy Helminiak was written to the Board requesting to fill the vacant position on the North Canaan Board of Education. Mrs. Helminiak was introduced and gave a brief self-description: she stated that she is a teacher at the Colebrook Consolidated School and has been an elementary school educator in Region #7 for 22 years. Mrs. Helminiak also has two young children attending North Canaan Elementary School. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to accept Amy Helminiak for a position on the North Canaan Board of Education. Mrs. Simmons seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

VI. Region One Report

Ms. Carter reported on the District Meeting/Public Hearing that was held on Monday, December 4, 2023 meeting as follows:

The Region One Board of Education recommended the following:

- \$5,600,000 for costs of the planning, design, acquisition, construction, furnishing and equipping of various capital improvements and renovations to Housatonic Valley Regional High School, including the cafeteria and auditorium renovations, remodeling of boys and girls bathrooms in the science hall, inspection and repairs to all school masonry, installation of new fire alarm system, upgrades to all old circuit breaker boxes, and the replacement of cupola on main roof.
- \$5,600,000 bonds and temporary notes be authorized to finance the appropriation. The amount of the bonds or notes authorized would be reduced by the amount of grants or other available money received and not separately appropriated to pay additional project costs.
- Questions and concerns by those in attendance were addressed..

VII. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report

North Canaan School did not have a Board member present at the ABC meeting. Ms. Carter reported on the December 13, 2023, meeting as follows:

- The ABC Board elected officers.
- An executive session was held to move forward with the search committee for a new Superintendent.

VIII. NESDEC Enrollment Projections 2023-2024

Dr. Roy reported on the NESDEC Enrollment Projections Data and answered questions for the Board.

IX. Action Items

A. Approval of Policies

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board for the approval of the 7000 series of policies for the Regional School Service Center (RSSC) as recommended by administration. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

B. Hiring of a Spanish Teacher

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the full Board for the approval of Michael Nolan as a Spanish teacher beginning January 2, 2024, at a prorated masters step 13 salary of \$50,518.65. He will become the TESOL teacher at the same salary step as soon as he begins his program and is awarded his durational shortage certificate. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

X. 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. Some of the items she reported are listed below:

- The second graders honored 20 local veterans during our annual ceremony held before Thanksgiving break.
- North Canaan Elementary School together with Canaan Child Care raised \$452 for Connecticut Children's Hospital on Thursday, December 7th.
- PTO Painting and Popcorn night was held Thursday, November 16th and students were able to paint a snowman and have popcorn.
- Staff participated for another year in the town's Parade of Lights on Monday, November 28th.
- On Friday, December 8th, all students and teachers attended a performance of *The Nutcracker* created especially for Region 1 students. Dr. Roy wrote and was awarded a grant to cover the costs.
- On Monday, December 11, NCES held the Trimester 1 Celebration. Students in grades EK, 1, 3 and 8 shared some of their learning and honor roll certificates were awarded to students in the middle school. There were 65 honor roll certificates for outstanding achievement in middle school.

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

- Region 1 received two grants (Right to Read Grant and Small Town Right to Read grant) from the CSDE to support the purchase of a new program and to use toward professional learning to implement that program with fidelity.
- There was a breakdown of Title I, II & IV Grants awarded for each town.

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

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

- Ms. Carter attended the 2023 CABE/CAPSS conference in November.
- The administrative team has a draft of the 2024-2025 calendar and is now in the process of reviewing it with leadership teams and teachers. The calendar will be ready to present to the Boards of Education in January.
- All schools have begun to work on budgets for the 2024-2025 school year. Boards of Education should anticipate continued high cost estimates in many areas including, but not limited to, insurance, fuel, electricity, building repairs and maintenance, food and school

supplies. Additionally, it is time to negotiate a new transportation contract. All Star Transportation has indicated that we can expect a significant increase in the new proposed contract.

XI. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing an Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the North Canaan Faculty Association Regarding Transferring Sick Days.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to move into an Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing an Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the North Canaan Faculty Association Regarding Transferring Sick Days. Mrs. Dodge invited Dr. Roy, Lisa Carter and Beth Johnson into the executive session. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

The Executive session ended at 8:18 and everyone returned to the Board meeting. No vote was taken.

XII. Public Comment: None

XIII. Adjournment: Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 pm. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, and Mrs. Simmons.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: February 15, 2024