



**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 at  
6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, virtually through Zoom.*

**A virtual meeting was held using Zoom:** Becky Cahill, Matt Devin, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

**Others present:** Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent; Dr. Scott Fellows and Jill Pace, Assistant Superintendents.

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by Mrs. Drislane.

**II. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes for June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting; July 22, 2021 Special Meeting; and August 13, 2021, Special Meeting, as written. Mrs. Visconti seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

**III. Public Comment - None**

**IV. Communications - Written**

A letter of resignation was received by C. Dressel  
A letter of resignation was received by A. Jasmine  
A letter of resignation was received by A. Savage

**V. Region One Report**

Ms. Carter stated that the Region One Board meeting was September 13th. Ms. Carter summarized as follows:

- The Board approved an Athletic Director Assistant/Athletic Trainer salary position.
- The Board approved the fall coaches for Athletics.
- Director of Pupil Services Carl Gross announced his retirement, effective at the end of September.
- Martha Schwaikert will be appointed as Interim Director of Pupil Services, to be discussed further at the October meeting.
- There was an update on facilities regarding solar panels, updating LED lights and other cosmetic updates.

**VI. All Boards Chair Report - Mrs. Erin Drislane**

Mrs. Drislane reported that there has not been an ABC meeting yet this school year. One will be happening at the end of September.

## **VII. Policies (1st reading)**

There was a first reading of Policies 6162.7 Educational Software; 6180.1 Student Achievement; 7115 Developing Educational Specifications; 7221 Selection of Site; 7230.2 Indoor Air Quality; 7230.3 Acoustics; 7551 Naming of Facilities; 9000 Role of Board and Members (Powers, Purpose, Duties); 9012 Legal Responsibilities of Boards of Education; and 9250 Remuneration and Reimbursement. The Board will have a second reading with action to vote on the policies at the October 12, 2021, Board of Education meeting.

## **VIII. Action Items**

**A-K.** Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the approval of policies 0523 Equity and Diversity; 6141.21 Religion in the Public Schools; 6162.6 Copyright Law Compliance; 6164.11 Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco; 6164.12 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; 6171.2 Preschool Special Education; 6172 Alternative Education Programs; 6172.3 Parent Instruction of Children at Home; 6177 Use of Commercially Produced Video Recording; 6180 Evaluation of the Instructional Program; and 6181 Evaluation of the Special Education Program. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

## **L. Hiring**

### **School Counselor:**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the hiring of Charlotte Papa as a school counselor beginning August 13, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year at a master's degree step 5 with a salary rate of \$53,827. Mrs. Dodge Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

### **Music Teacher**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the hiring of Jeffrey Reed as a music teacher beginning August 30, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year at a master's degree step 5 with a salary rate of \$53,827, prorated to \$52,963.47. Mrs. Cahill Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

### **.60 Music Teacher**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the hiring of Michael Hritz as a .60 music teacher beginning August 30, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year at a master's degree step 5 with a salary rate of \$53,827, prorated to \$31,788.08. Mrs. Cahill Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

## **M. Student Tuition (3 students) Waivers**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board to waive the tuition fee prescribed in Policy #5118.1 for the 2021-2022 school year for the three nonresident students who are children of a staff member. Mrs. Cahill Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

## **N. Letter and Survey from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board to approve the survey created by the Berkshire Taconic Foundation for middle school students. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

- The data will be used to design and fund programs of interest to middle school students next summer. Ms. Carter stated that the Berkshire Taconic Foundation is working very hard to engage middle school students. Dr. Roy added that the survey questions will be in regards to what students find interesting and engaging.

## **IX. Executive Session for the Purpose of Reviewing two Memoranda of Agreement Regarding Hiring, one with the Teacher's Association and one with NCES Employees Local 1303-269 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO, with Action Anticipated**

Mrs. Drislane invited Dr. Roy, Ms. Carter, Dr. Fellows, and Jill Pace into the Executive Session. At 7:03 the Board came back to the regular meeting.

### **1. Memorandum of Agreement**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the acceptance of the Memorandum of Agreement regarding hiring with the North Canaan Faculty Association as discussed in executive session. Mrs. Cahill Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

### **5th and 6th Grade Science Teacher**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the hiring of Ashley Harrington as a grades 5-6 science teacher beginning August 24, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year at a master's degree step 7 with a salary rate of \$59,345. Mrs. Cahill Seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

### **2. Memorandum of Agreement**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the acceptance of the Memorandum of Agreement regarding hiring with the NCES Employees Local 1303-269 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO as discussed in executive session. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

### **Teacher Assistant**

Mrs. Drislane recommended to the full Board the hiring of Jean Taylor as a Teacher Assistant 1 beginning September 7, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year with the job rate of \$17.60 per hour. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

## **X. 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:

- Thursday Sept. 16th will be the Open House at the school and all will be following the protocols of Region One for safety. Dr. Roy stated that she is thankful for the community's help in keeping the school safe.
- Enrollment is currently 235 total students, which is four more students than predicted. There were 42 students who graduated in June and we now have an 8th grade class with 25 students.

- There are 38 new students at North Canaan Elementary School to start the school year.
- Elementary school students now have access to a sensory hall. It is a fun way for children to get some time for extra physical activity or to help unwind after a difficult challenge. A sensory hallway is designed to be colorful and inviting for students to take a few minutes as needed to help refocus.

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

Mrs. Pace and Dr. Fellows both provided an overview of their monthly report. Some of the items they reported are listed below:

- The ARP ESSER Grant applications received a positive response for three of our schools, North Canaan Elementary, Cornwall Consolidated, and Region One. We anticipate that the other four applications, about which we have heard nothing from the State, will be approved prior to the NCES October meeting.
- There are 20 new faculty members for the Region One Schools.
- Mrs. Pace noted that when visiting NCES, she was happy to see the new teachers and students so happy and comfortable.

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

- According to Executive Order No.13, all “covered workers” must be fully vaccinated, prove that they are in the process of becoming fully vaccinated, or apply for an exemption and must give vaccination status for the September 27th deadline. Ms. Carter reported that Region 1 is highly compliant with State expectations.
- More vaccination clinics to come
- COVID -19 Screening Tests - BOEs, Region 1 PreK-8 schools will have access to COVID-19 screening, using PCR testing, for the 2021-2022 school year. According to CSDE and CT DPH, we will be partnering with Quest laboratories for this activity.
- After a meeting with the Region 1 Faculty Associations, a draft of an MOU has been created to reflect the concerns regarding absence management due to quarantine, vaccination mandate requirements, and distance learning guidelines (should this become necessary at any point in the year)
- Ms. Carter will be working with the Region 1 Policy Committee as well as member district policy committees to review new CABE policies and help them adopt what is appropriate for each school in Region 1.

**XI. Public Comment:** None

**XII. Adjournment:** Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 pm. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: 5-yes Becky Cahill, Matt Devino, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, and Sarah Visconti.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Rooney

Approved: October 12, 2021