

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Board Chairperson, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington, Jayne Fagan-Cosentino, and Susan Warner

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Leila Hawken, *Lakeville Journal*

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, March 9, 2017 with one addition (add Erin Drislane). Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

#### Region One Report

Ms. Chamberlain reported on the last Region One meeting she attended. The major focus of the discussion was the budget, she said, which is now at a 1.8% increase. She reported that there will be a referendum to vote on the budget in each of the six Region One towns on May 2, 2017, from Noon until 8:00 P.M.

#### Principal's Report

Miss Keilty reported that both the certified and non-certified contracts expire next year (June 2018). She inquired if any Board member would like to be on a committee to help bargain for both contracts. Mrs. Dodge volunteered to be on the negotiation committee for the certified and non-certified contracts.

Miss Keilty reported that graduation will be held on June 16, 2017. She inquired if any Board member was interested in presenting diplomas at the graduation ceremony. Mrs. Riccardelli volunteered to confer the diplomas at graduation.

#### Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain reported that Dr. Vogel has been working hard on the high school schedule, and she has held several meetings with parents to get it finalized. She stated that the schedule will then be presented to several groups, including parents and teachers.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that because most of the certified and non-certified contracts in the region are set to expire in June 2018, negotiations may have to start in August 2017.

Ms. Chamberlain informed the Board that the high school graduation will be held on June 20, 2017.

Ms. Chamberlain told the Board that the Public Hearing for the North Canaan budget will be held on May 4, 2017.

#### New Business

Miss Keilty reported that as part of the Healthy Food Certification program a list of exceptions for foods sold to students, that do not comply with the certification requirements, must be approved by the Board. Miss Keilty sought approval to place food and beverages sold at the annual regional middle school dance on the list of exceptions. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the exception for the 2017-2018 regional dance. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Riccardelli reviewed with the Board a letter that she received from the Chairman of the Canaan Board of Education. Five (Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington, Jayne Fagan-Cosentino, Karen Riccardelli, and Susan Warner) Board members showed interest in attending a joint meeting. Mr. Ellington made a motion to approve writing a letter to the Canaan Board of Education, on behalf of the North Canaan Board, expressing interest in holding a joint meeting to explore the possibility of collaboration. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reviewed the 2016-2017 budget forecast with Board members. She stated that the total unexpended funds at this time is \$80,238.79. Some of reasons for the unexpended balance amount are listed below:

- There is one extra single and one extra family insurance plan built into the budget.
- There are funds left on the annuity line because of staff changes.
- Workmen's Compensation is less than the budgeted amount.
- Liability insurance is less this year because the town has contracted with a different insurance company.

Mrs. Warner made a motion to approve hiring Craig Meuser as the attorney for the certified and non-certified contract negotiations and to pay a retainer fee not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty made several additional spending requests to the Board to spend some of the unexpended funds. The requests that she stated are listed below:

- Top off the fuel oil tank in June.
- Purchase a new server.
- Purchase block time for technology services.
- Repair threshold and paths as part of the ADA compliance for approximately \$10,000.

Mr. Ellington made a motion to approve topping off the fuel oil tank up to \$2.00 per gallon and not to exceed \$12,000. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve purchasing a new server for \$13,246.33. Mrs. Warner seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Ellington made a motion to authorize spending \$3,500 to purchase five laptop computers for classroom use. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the changes to the 2017-2018 school budget. She reported that the budget started with a 5.1% increase and is now at 3.1%. Some of the line item reductions that she stated are listed below:

- \$10,000 was taken off of capital technology.
- \$16,000 was added to technical support.
- One reduction in non-certified staff.
- \$500 was subtracted from athletic officials.
- \$1,500 was subtracted from building service contracts.
- \$1,000 was taken off of care and upkeep of grounds.
- \$223 was removed from life insurance.
- \$541 was removed from dental insurance.
- \$30,000 was added to unemployment compensation line.

Mrs. Warner made a motion to approve sending the 2017-2018 Board of Education school budget with a 3.1% increase to the town. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

#### Old Business

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the administration will meet with the engineer to confirm the list of improvements to be made this spring and associated costs, concerning ADA Playground Compliance. She added that they will bring that information to next month's Board meeting.

Miss Keilty reported that there is no update concerning the proposed Building Project at this time.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 P.M. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous  
The meeting adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: May 11, 2017