

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, April 12, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Chairperson, Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington, Robert Hewins, and Sarah Visconti

Rosemary Keilty, Principal; Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent

Melissa Bachetti, Joseph Brennan, Mike Flint (CATV6), Jessica Gionfriddo, Vanessa Hinman, Rebecca Jasmine, June Kelly, Geoffrey Merrill, Leigh Ann Merrill, Douglas Murray, Linda Peppe, and Rebecca Roth

#### Board Recognition

Special recognition was given to employees nominated by the Board for their contributions to North Canaan Elementary School. Highlights of accomplishments include the following:

- Miss Keilty reported that Mr. Robson can do everything from building birdhouses, cupboards, shelves, and bookcases to plumbing and painting. He can fix anything and keeps the building well maintained. She also reported that Mrs. Gandolfo has reached 30 years of service in the office at North Canaan Elementary School. She described her as professional, caring, and able to solve any problem or deal with any situation. She can find coverage for classes if there is no substitute or if a teacher needs to attend a meeting or leave. If there is no one available, she goes to the classroom herself.
- Mrs. Riccardelli reported that she is proud of the effort Mr. Murray puts into the Quiz Bowl program. She stated that the students have fun learning and are excited to win matches. She added that it is a great after school activity for kids and a great way to learn all subjects.
- Mrs. Drislane reported that Mrs. Peppe, Mrs. Merrill and Mr. Merrill have done 20 years of drama plays and have worked with over 1,000 students. She stated that it is amazing what fun and excitement they have brought to even the shyest student.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the consent agenda as written. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: Unanimous

#### Focus on Student Learning - Early Kindergarten Presentation

Early Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Title I teachers made a presentation on the Early Kindergarten/Kindergarten programs. Some of the items that they discussed are listed below:

- Before the early kindergarten program, several children each year were retained in kindergarten because they were not developmentally ready for the typical kindergarten program. The early kindergarten program was started in 2011 for the students who are age eligible for kindergarten, and who turn five after October 1.
- At age four and five, some students need more structure, shorter teaching time blocks, and more hands on experiences.

- The Dial-4 Assessment of Learning is used from kindergarten registration to determine if the student is eligible for kindergarten. Teachers review the data from this assessment. To be ready for the kindergarten program a student must receive a score of 68 or above in this assessment.
- Students with birthdays in October, November and December are eligible for the early kindergarten program. Children are eligible for kindergarten in Connecticut if they turn five by December 31.
- The early kindergarten class uses the "Starting to Print Program" that includes learning to hold a pencil, cutting, writing letters, painting, and structured play.
- Early kindergarten students are first introduced to the school environment.
- Students are DRA Level 4 readers by the end of kindergarten. They also will know their upper and lower case letters, write with purpose, count to 100 by ones and tens, add and subtract word problems, know a bank of sight words and sounds, and write letters.
- There is more to do and learn in kindergarten than in the past.
- The goals of early kindergarten and kindergarten are to make a student successful throughout their school career, meet or exceed benchmark standards, and allow the early kindergarten students the gift of time to develop social skills, and fine and gross motor skills.
- Parent testimonials have proven that the early kindergarten program is wonderful and has made a difference in a child's learning.

### Region One Report

Ms. Carter reported for Mr. Humes on the last Region One Board of Education meeting. She discussed the following:

- Mr. Padua reported on the marketing of a cheese board at the Holiday tree and wreath sale. Students used marketing and Tech Ed skills to create and market this item.
- Dr. Vogel and Ms. Carter reported on the ASCD conference they attended. Thirty teachers from Region One also attended the workshops at this national conference.
- Jonathan Moore resigned as the Kent Board representative to the Region One Board.
- The first presentation to those who contribute to Housatonic Valley Regional High School were recognized.
- After an Executive Session discussion, it was announced that Mr. Strever would be Dr. Martinez's successor.
- Job descriptions were approved for the Business Manager and the Assistant Superintendent. The job description of the Superintendent needs the ABC Committee's approval.
- Ms. Chamberlain will be recognized by way of an award being presented to a male and female student for their achievements in the Arts at the high school graduation.
- The Region I budget will move to referendum with a 0% increase.

### 2018-2019 Estimation of Education Costs

Miss Keilty reported that the Board of Finance met last night and moved to bring the budget to a hearing. She stated that the public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 7:30 P.M. at

the town hall and the town vote on the budget will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 7:30 P.M. at the town hall. She also reported that the Region One referendum will be held on May 8, 2018.

#### Principal's Report

Miss Keilty reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Some of the items she discussed are listed below:

- The budget hearing and votes are outlined in her report.
- Amy Dodge will represent the Board at graduation and present diplomas to students.
- There was good feedback from the student led conferences, and it was impressive to see students talk about their goals and their work.
- Feedback from the conferences was reviewed at the faculty meeting yesterday.
- The "My Plate" musical assembly today was amazing. The third grade participated under the direction of Helen Butleroff.

#### Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Carter reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Some of the items she discussed are listed below:

- Teachers from all over Region One have been continuing curriculum work.
- The grading practice group has been working on modifying the NYP grade for next year so that it will be less confusing.
- There were many great discussions from the ASCD conference. The presenters were from all over the world.
- Dr. Mary O'Neill continued her career work on job shadows, workshops, and internships. She has a trip to New York City planned for Housatonic Valley Regional High School students for business in history.
- Mrs. Huber, the English learner coordinator for Region One has met with the high school Title I teacher and World Language teachers to strengthen the English Learner program.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 P.M. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: Unanimous  
The meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: May 10, 2018