

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, December 10, 2009.

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

Board members present: Dolores Perotti, Chairperson, Dorothy Cecchinato, Laura Freund, Richard Greco, Beth McGuire, Karen Riccardelli, Shelley Veronesi and Susan Warner

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Karen Bartomioli (*Lakeville Journal*), Jennifer Bergin, Donald Caranci, Douglas Murray and Patricia Palmer

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, November 12, 2009 as written. Mr. Greco seconded. Unanimous

Communications

Public Comment

Mr. Caranci reported to the Board that he was concerned why so many walkers in town are now riding the school bus. He stated that he has only had eight students all year walking where he is stationed as a crossing guard. Mrs. Dolores Perotti thanked Mr. Caranci for coming to the meeting and stating his concern. She reported that the Board discussed the transportation policy after parents expressed concern that a child in third grade could no longer ride the bus to school if they live within one mile of the school, especially if they have a younger child who is eligible to receive transportation. She stated that the policy allows parents to write a letter to the principal expressing a concern and request transportation. She added that the principal usually honors the request if the bus is not at full capacity.

Board Comment

Mrs. Dolores Perotti reported that she attended the All Board Chairs meeting at the high school on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. She said that after interviewing five insurance brokers, the committee recommended rehiring KONA HR of Westport, Connecticut as the Region I insurance plan broker. She also reported that the committee will bring their recommendation to the Regional Board for approval at their next meeting.

Region I Report

Ms. Freund reported on the last Region I meeting she attended. Some of the highlights of that meeting included the following:

- Election of officers for the Region I Board was held and Judge Manning will continue to be the chairman.
- Kaelan Paton's family accepted a varsity letter on his behalf at the high school sports banquet.
- The FFA is doing very well with sales of Christmas trees and wreaths.

- The high school band and chorus winter concert will be held on December 18, 2009.
- The building committee has been looking into needed repairs on the high school roof.
- A preliminary budget is being drafted for 2010-2011.
- The formation of a curriculum council was approved.
- The Long Range Planning Committee will complete their plan by January 2010.

Teacher Presentation

Mrs. Palmer presented the school's new website to the Board via the SmartBoard. She stated that the address of the new website is www.nceschool.org. She reported that three vendors asked to present their products, and the committee chose a company named Sharp School for cost and ease of use. She clicked the various pages on the site such as news, students, parents, forms, staff and school information/contact. From these pages she showed the Board how to get the following:

- A report on current/critical events happening at the school.
- View the handbook.
- Get a field trip permission form to fill out..
- See the monthly calendar.
- Email a teacher.
- View Board agendas and minutes.

Miss Keilty reported that since last spring Mrs. Palmer has worked very hard with training and getting the website up and running.

Principal's Report

Miss Keilty reported on the following additions to her principal's report:

- The average number of students absent has been 24.5 per day over the last month.
- This year will be the 25th Anniversary of Arbor Day at the school and a subcommittee to make plans for a celebration will be organized.
- An assembly will be held on December 18, 2009 in honor of Kyle Harris, an army specialist, with whom the second grade corresponded last year; he will visit the school for the day.
- The new a la carte breakfast items, sold each morning before school in the front lobby, are making approximately \$25. per day.
- \$1,250 was received from the Salisbury Winter Sports Association for North Canaan's ski club.
- The students continue to learn about positive behavior. In addition, the school addresses bullying topics through programs like Second Step, the BOSS program, Ed Thorney's dialogue program, and various sessions that the Susan B. Anthony Foundation provides.

Miss Keilty reviewed an Analysis Report from Region I on the 2009 Connecticut Mastery Tests. She explained the chart which contained State and North Canaan data for grades 3-8 in mathematics, writing and reading. It also included North Canaan's standing within the region. She stated that the teachers strive to have all students at goal or above and for those who are below that various interventions increase student achievement. This allows students to improve their skills and move from basic to proficiency to goal.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Some of the topics are highlighted below:

- She attended the CABE/CAPPS Convention and the keynote speaker was a principal from Philadelphia who was a teacher and coached chess.
- The student drop out age that a parent or guardian may consent to will go from age sixteen to seventeen.
- AlertNow was selected for a regional emergency communication system.
- Spring vacation will change to April 18-22 on the Region I 2010-2011 school calendar.
- A new Board member orientation will take place at the high school on December 15, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

Old Business

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to approve the Math Tutor job description with the changes stated. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve policy #5141.26 Students with Special Health Care Needs/Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs as written. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

New Business

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to approve the 2010 North Canaan Board meeting dates. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Board members had a brief discussion concerning Professional Development/Student Contact Day in February 2011. All Board members agreed that the principal should offer a report regarding use of the 2010 day. Based on the information, the Board will discuss the day, make a determination, and approve next year's calendar at the March Board meeting.

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the school lunch program. She stated that the program is \$164.00 to the good, and some State money has still not been received. She also reported that the kitchen manager is now using computer software to obtain a nutrient analysis of the homemade soups.

Board members had the first reading of policy #5141 Student Health Services, and they will have a second reading next month after it has been updated with corrections and changes.

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed the Nutmeg article concerning the Nutmeg Board dealing with curriculum issues and irate parents. She discussed some of the things that the families and Board did wrong.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous
The meeting adjourned at 9:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Gandolfo

Approved: January 14, 2010

