

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, December 9, 2010.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 P.M.

Board members present: Dolores Perotti, Chairperson, Dorothy Cecchinato, Richard Greco,  
Beth McGuire, Laurie Perotti, Karen Riccardelli, Shelley Veronesi

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to amend the agenda by adding Parenting Leave and Attendance Request under New Business. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

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

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, November 16, 2010, as written. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous Mrs. Laurie Perotti abstained.

#### Communications

##### Board Comment

Mrs. Dolores Perotti reported that Board members should read the letter they received, which was written to Judge Manning concerning a Regional sports team. She stated that she would appreciate any feedback Board members have after they review the letter, and suggestions as to who to send copies to for additional feedback.

##### Principal's Report

Miss Keilty made the following additions to her monthly report:

- On November 22nd, no boilers were running because the surge protector did its job when a panel burned out and caused no electricity in the furnace room. By 10:00 A.M. the problem couldn't be fixed, so a decision to close school early was made. This was great practice for the Reverse 911 system which reported what emails and telephone numbers worked or didn't work. We are pursuing and investigating a Webbase to hook up that can watch the boilers from your home.
- After meeting with the Regional Business manager, All-Star Transportation manager and parents concerning the New High Street bus stop, a letter will be sent to all Greenacres parents with a short term solution to the dangerous situation at this bus stop. The letter will state that parents should park their cars on the right side of the street only, whether your at New High Street or Lawrence Avenue. The letter also will suggest that

more parents should use the Lawrence Avenue stop so there will be less congestion at New High Street.

Miss Keilty reported on North Canaan's 2010 Connecticut Mastery Test results. Some of the highlights of the test results she addressed were:

- CMT's are a test on specific skills for each grade level
- Teachers analyze the results
- Interventions are made if students don't meet expectations
- We would like to see everyone at goal
- The faculty meets to discuss scores, improvements & strategies
- Comparing the scores in grades 3-8 with the state and other years in math, reading & writing and grades 5 & 8 in science
- Identifying each grades, District Reference Group in each subject

### Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain thanked Board members for their letter which was sent to the Region I Board supporting her and Miss Keilty for her input. She reported that Laura Freund read the letter at the last Region I meeting.

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed the Region I calendar for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 with Board members. Some Board members reported that they feel it's important to start school in August and end school in early June, and other members felt school should start after Labor Day. Ms. Chamberlain stated that she will take their input concerning the calendars back to the Region I Board.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the deadline for Assistant Principal applications is December 20<sup>th</sup>. She stated that only ten applications have been received, and if there is no strong candidate they will not hire anyone but will readvertise.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the State Department of Education is looking into changing the kindergarten starting date back to being five years old by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Old Business

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to approve the changes to the Board By-Laws with one addition (the – under #9240 Secretary). Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

### New Business

Miss Keilty reported that Mrs. Palmer reviewed the Internet policies but with technology changing rapidly a more thorough look at them is necessary. All Board members agreed to table the Internet policies until January.

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed an article with Board members concerning School Boards and Student Achievement. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Dolores Perotti recommended that the Board do their own

self review and come up with their own beliefs in students, teachers and the community during their June retreat.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that North Canaan's Non-Certified contract negotiations will begin in February. She stated that Board volunteers for the negotiations committee will be needed. Mrs. Laurie Perotti and Mrs. Riccardelli volunteered to be on the negotiations committee, and all Board members agreed with Ms. Chamberlain's recommendation that Mrs. Warner would like to be a part of the committee, too.

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to hire Attorney Greg Meusser for the upcoming Non-Certified negotiations. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Chamberlain read a letter she received from Shelby Diorio. The letter stated that she would like to request a parenting leave for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year, to begin immediately following her parenting leave. Ms. Chamberlain reported that she will send her a letter granting her the unpaid leave.

Ms. Chamberlain read a letter she received from Stacey Oates. The letter stated that she would like permission for her children, Tatum M. Oates and Italia C. Oates to attend North Canaan Elementary School even though her family lives in Southfield, Massachusetts near the Canaan, Connecticut border. The letter also stated that she pays taxes to the town and state because she owns a house and business in Canaan. Mrs. McGuire made a motion to have the administration send Stacey a letter along with a copy of the Board's policy #5118 Nonresident Students, stating that the Board appreciates all that she does in the community but they cannot grant her request. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous  
The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

The Board held a Non-Meeting for Purposes of Collective Bargaining from 9:30 P.M. until 10:00 P.M.

Approved: January 13, 2011