

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, December 8, 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Chairperson, Claudia Callinan, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Jane Fagan-Cosentino and Edwin Gow

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Pam Vogel, Assistant Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Alexandra Juch, Cynthia Hochswender (*Lakeville Journal*)

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

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, November 10, 2016 with one change (lead to feature). Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Region I Report

Mr. Gow reported that a very informative meeting was held with school schedule expert Dr. Robert Lynn Canady at the high school concerning a change in schedule and building a master schedule. He added that Dr. Canady continues to work with North Canaan on their master schedule.

Mr. Gow reported on the last Region I Board meeting he attended. Some of the highlights of that meeting that he stated are listed below:

- There were a few teacher presentations at the Board meeting.
- The VoAg has beautiful wreaths and trees for sale and they are open 7 days a week from 10:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.
- There was a good discussion on grading practices at the last Board meeting.
- A communication committee was established.
- A budget committee is being formed for the high school 2017-2018 budget.

Teacher Presentation

Mrs. Juch presented the Patterson Partnership Grant information to the Board. She applied for this grant and received \$2,243. Some of the highlights that she stated concerning the grant are listed below:

- She never wrote a grant before and this one was a great place to begin.
- Out of 62,000 schools and over 800 teachers who applied, North Canaan won one of the 476 grants that were awarded.

- Grant money will be used to purchase approximately 320 Mary Ruth books. These leveled readers will be part of the Early Literacy Groups project at the school.
- Not reading at or above grade level by the end of first grade is a risk factor in terms of future literacy success.
- Kindergarten students took books home during the summer 2016 to read with the Summer Reading Railroad Program, which she established.
- The reading program has been a great incentive to keep students engaged and celebrates their success.
- The program will be extended to the first grade team.
- These initiatives dovetail with the Patterson Grant that the school received.

Principal's Report

Miss Keilty reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Listed below are the updates she made to her report:

- Mrs. Peppe held an informational night for parents concerning her program.
- Rachael Gall is doing very well teaching Middle School science and math.
- Maria Bulson, retired teacher and principal of Lee H. Kellogg, is filling in for Carole Fraher as she had surgery before Thanksgiving.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain reported that she attended the CAFE/CAPSS Conference, and she learned a great deal from the workshops she attended, which included topics related to reimagining schools through innovation.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the Connecticut State Department of Education has recently issued guidance on how school districts can better serve students whose first language is not English. She stated that the region will have to change its policy next year.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Vogel reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Some of the highlights of the report that she stated are listed below:

- Dr. Canady met with Rosemary and North Canaan teachers to further discuss scheduling.
- Dr. Bena Kallick will meet with Region I administrators and faculty to help determine ways to best measure habits of work and know how to assess these separately from the grades/scores for academic achievement.
- The CultureMAX Grant Award was received and will be used for the six elementary districts to work with Michael Berkeley to develop musical concerts, which will be presented to senior citizens at various centers in the area.
- Conversations on grading are taking place at each Region I Board meeting; there is a wide range of beliefs concerning grading practices.

Old Business

Board members had a first reading of the Policy Mastery-Based Learning. All Board members agreed to have a second reading at their January meeting.

Ms. Chamberlain updated the Board on the ADA Playground Compliance. She reported that the next steps are to get a list from the engineer of the things that need to be completed, the cost associated with the changes, and a timeline of when the work will be completed.

Mrs. Callinan made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 P.M. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous
The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: January 12, 2017