

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, February 10, 2011.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

Board members present: Dolores Perotti, Dorothy Cecchinato, Beth McGuire,
Laurie Perotti, Karen Riccardelli and Susan Warner

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Diane Goncalves, Assistant Superintendent;
Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Karen Bartomioli (*Lakeville Journal*) and Bob Gray (Channel 6 Cable)

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded.

Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, January 13, 2011 with one change (adopt the agenda as amended). Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Communication

Written

Mrs. Dolores Perotti reviewed a Summary of the Freedom of Information Act with Board members. She stated that she received this information from Doug Humes.

Principal's Report

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

- She met with McGee Allyn to review the latest draft of the 2011-2012 budget. Mr. Allyn reported that the presentation of the budget will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 in the school cafeteria.
- The energy audit report for the town has been completed by Source One. There could be approximately \$29,000 of energy savings realized per year if windows are replaced and digital thermostats are installed. CL&P is offering a \$19,000 incentive for the thermostat project.
- Beth Johnson has a Masters Degree in Technology for grades K-6. She contacted Senator Andrew Roraback about her certification concern to teach computers and technology to middle school students in a K-8 school. She received a response by email stating that Senator Roraback has introduced a bill (199) in the legislation to try to help with this certification issue that potentially affects all technology teachers in K-8 schools, since the State no longer grants K-8 certification. If the bill passes, she will have the ability to teach in a computer lab with K-8 students.
- A structural engineer has inspected all the school roofs in Region I paying particular attention to the snow load. Snow was removed on Saturday and Sunday (February 12 and 13) on the north

and south ends of the building. Parents were notified by the Reverse 911 System that the building is safe and has been inspected. Ms. Keilty added that the roof has been monitored closely throughout the winter.

- MIRMA, a pool of municipalities, self insures to manage risks and the town is assessed according to the number of employees, facilities, past claims, etc. A formula is used to determine each town's payment. Assessments have fallen short of claims paid and hence, towns have been reassessed to make up for the shortfall. Since this insurance covers the entire town, not just the school, the town divides the invoice with the Board of Education.

Ms. Goncalves reported on the Kindergarten Mathematics and English State Standards and how teachers use the Common Core State Standards to inform and drive instruction of these young learners. Some of the highlights of her presentation are outlined below:

- All kindergarten teachers in the Region meet two or three times during the year to review the standards to see how they are using them, how far along in the curriculum they are, etc.
- These guides help teachers understand what they are required to teach all year.
- Region I teachers are very proactive concerning these standards.
- All Common Core State Standards are met by the end of the year.
- Schools use different books as a tool to teach the material within the standards. Textbooks should be thought of as tools since they are all different and do not necessarily include everything that is in the Connecticut Common Core document. Teachers cover topics and concepts and make selective use of the textbook.

Ms. Goncalves also reported that the Grades 3-8 Connecticut Mastery tests and the Grade 10 CAPT tests will be held in March.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain made the following announcements:

- North Canaan's enrollment is expected to stay the same next year and then go up according to the NESDEC projections.
- Summer school will be held at the high school and transportation will be provided this year.
- On the Region I 2011-2012 calendar professional development days will be held October 6 and 7 and February 17. The last day of school will be June 8 if there are no snow days.
- All Region I school roofs have been inspected and schools have been advised concerning the loads of snow.
- A committee is being formed for the high school principal search. (Dolores Perotti and Susan Warner have interest in joining the committee).

New Business

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to restructure policies #6141.322(a) Computers: Web Sites/Pages and #6146.111 Technology Competencies and bring them to the next meeting. Ms. McGuire seconded.

Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reported on the budget workshop held before the Board meeting. Some of the highlights from the workshop are listed below:

- Health insurance will increase 4%
- The cost of a summer school bus still needs to be added to the budget.
- The software license line is a firm number.
- The high school portion of the budget has been adjusted by \$18,000 in the Board's favor.
- The overall budget is at a decrease of 1.2%.

All Board members agreed to have one more budget workshop on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 7:30 P.M.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to allow the principal to pursue, with the town, replacement windows and digital thermostats for the school. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to approve purchasing a John Deere tractor and parts at the municipal rate. Mrs. Warner seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed an article concerning "Seven Conditions for School Renewal Central to Achievement" with Board members. Some of the activities that they felt are already being done by the school are listed below:

- March is the month that Board members are celebrated and appreciated.
- CMT Breakfast served before testing for two weeks in March
- PBIS Parent outreach and education
- Board Goal setting exercises
- Community involvement in the school
- Investment in staff development

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to go into Executive Session for the Purpose of Superintendent Evaluation and Collective Bargaining at 8:50 P.M. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous
Patricia Chamberlain, Diane Goncalves and Rosemary Keilty were invited for part of the meeting.

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 9:54P.M.

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 P.M. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: March 10, 2011