

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, January 14, 2010.
The meeting was called to order at 7:07 P.M.

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

Diane Goncalves, Assistant Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal
Christina Allyn, Steven Allyn, Karen Bartomioli (*Lakeville Journal*) and Donald Caranci

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to amend the agenda by adding (A. Canaan Fire Company Use of Building
and B. School Crossing Guard Change) 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, December 10, 2009 as written. Mrs.
McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Communications

Public Comment

Mr. Caranci reported that since his last visit to a Board meeting there is still a problem with students
crossing the road to get on the school bus in downtown Canaan. He showed a video he taped to the
Board chairperson and administration which showed parents and students crossing the street,
sometimes running to beat traffic that is possibly going over the speed limit. Mrs. Dolores Perotti
reported that the principal sent a reminder to parents in that area as to where they should safely cross
their children. She also stated that the Board will have a further discussion under New Business tonight
about a possible change in where the crossing guard should be located.

Region I Report

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

- The VoAg Christmas sales were a success.
- Many high school students have been accepted at various colleges.
- Dr. Foster reported on students inducted into the National Honor Society.
- The high school winter concert was wonderful.
- The Board approved KONA HR of Westport, CT. to serve Region I for health insurance benefits.
- The Board ratified the HVRHS Non-Certified Bargaining contract.
- The Board approved a retirement incentive plan for \$17,000 each year for three years, provided
enough employees retire to make a 1% savings in the 2010-2011 budget.

Principal's Report

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

- The school lunch program was audited and there are a few food related issues that are being addressed, such as sandwiches needing four tablespoons of peanut butter on them to comply with the protein requirement of an alternative to the entrée.
- A school safety meeting with the resident trooper will be held on Monday, January 25, 2010 to review emergency plans and address a few issues related to the fire marshal's review of the building such as adequate evening lighting outside the building.
- NCES ski club started yesterday and the students were very excited. Thirty-eight students are participating.
- Staff wellness, a piece of the school's overall wellness initiative, is a focus of this year's action plan. Josie Pratt, the school's Speech Pathologist, is leading this; a yoga class has been started with ten people and an aerobics or stretching class may begin soon, too. The hope is to achieve bronze recognition through the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Goncalves reviewed the monthly superintendent's report. Some of the highlights are listed below:

- Regional initiatives are continuing to be worked on.
- A grant is being worked on for renovation of the Clarke B. Wood Building.
- The high school was host to visitors learning about the PBIS program; the high school is a model site and schools interested in joining PBIS are being encouraged to visit HVRHS.
- One professional day was moved from August to October on the 2010-2011 school calendar.

Old Business

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to approve policy #5141 Student Health Services with the changes stated.

Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

New Business

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to approve moving the crossing guard in town to where the First Selectman and the principal determine the safest place to be in crossing the street downtown, per the Board's discussion. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to approve the North Canaan Fire Company's use of building form for a dance in February which includes use of alcohol. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Board members had a first reading of policy #5115 Homework. They will have a second reading next month after it has been updated with changes.

Miss Keilty reported that the school lunch program is doing fairly well financially with a profit of \$222.00 at this time.

Miss Keilty reviewed a preliminary budget preparation sheet for the 2010-2011 school year. Some of the highlights are listed below:

- Enrollment is at 332 students now and will be approximately 327 next year.
- Electricity will go up 3% but usage is down because of the heating conversion.
- Fuel oil is \$2.45 per gallon this year and will go to \$2.65 next year.
- Health insurance is expected to go up 18%.
- \$10,000 will be anticipated for legal fees for teacher contract negotiations.
- Property insurance will go up 5%.
- Transportation will go up 2.5% and diesel will go up to \$2.80 per gallon.

All Board members agreed to the following budget workshop dates:

- Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 6:30-8:00 P.M.
- Thursday, February 11, 2010 as part of the regular Board meeting
- Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 6:30-8:00 P.M.
- Thursday, March 11, 2010 as part of the regular Board meeting

Ms. Goncalves reviewed the C.A.B.E. Nutmeg article concerning the Nutmeg Board dealing with the district calendar, personal liability and FOIA with Board members. A few of the problems they discovered in the article involved phoning at 4:30 A.M., which is too early to make telephone calls to anyone. Additionally, the Board of Education doesn't get involved in school storm closings. Board members serve only as a Board of Education member in a Call to Order meeting with a quorum and not after the meeting is adjourned.

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Personnel and a Confidential Student Matter at 8:35 P.M. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous Ms. Goncalves and Miss Keilty were invited.

Mr. Greco made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:05 P.M. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 9:06 P.M.

Mrs. Veronesi made a motion to adjourn at 9:07 P.M. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous The meeting adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Gandolfo

Approved: February 11, 2010

