

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, January 13, 2011.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

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

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

Melissa Bachetti, JoEllen Belter, Ashley DeMazza, Leigh Ann Merrill, Karen Bartomioli (*Lakeville Journal*),
and Bob Gray (Channel 6 Cable)

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to amend the agenda by adding (Teacher's Child Attendance Request)
under New Business. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to approve the agenda as amended above. Mrs. Cecchinato
seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, December 9, 2010 as written. Mrs.
McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous Mrs. Warner abstained.

Communications

ABC Report

Mrs. Dolores Perotti reported on the All Boards Committee (ABC) meeting she attended. Some of the
highlights of the meeting are listed below:

- The Middle School athletic program was not a huge discussion but it was decided not to eliminate the Middle School teams, and a committee chaired by Andrea Downs has been formed to look into the matter further.
- Mr. Herrick reported on the high school budget. 2.48% is the increase to date for 2011-2012.
- Ms. Goncalves reported on the ninth grade transition program, curricula, and grade level teams.
- The superintendent evaluation forms will be distributed for the February Board meeting and will be discussed in Executive Session.
- Insurance is up 12% at this time.
- Fuel oil is at \$2.75 with hopes of locking in at \$2.45.

Region I Report

Ms. Freund reported on the last Region I meeting she attended. Below is a list of the topics discussed at the meeting:

- The robotics team will attend a competition in Hartford.
- The AgEd Department had a great Christmas season which included a fundraising pancake breakfast.
- A budget summary was reviewed for the 2011-2012 school year.
- The high school principal position was posted with a salary range of \$122,000 to \$132,000.
- Blanket emails to Board members were discussed.
- As a result of the independent review at the high school, the superintendent will come up with a plan of action.

Principal's Report

Miss Keilty updated the Board on her written report. Some of the additions included the following:

- According to the teachers' contract, any teacher who plans to retire must notify the Board by February 1st of the year they plan to retire in order to collect severance pay.
- Donna Whalen will have knee replacement surgery on January 19 and Lynn Meehan, a retired Region One teacher who taught in Cornwall, will take her place.
- Lisa Bousquet, teacher assistant, has taken a position in the physical therapy department at Sharon Hospital. Therefore, a full time teacher assistant position has been posted.
- Brandy Devino, receptionist/secretary, did not return from a parenting leave in order to be a full time mother. Therefore, a secretary position has been posted.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the administration of medication by school personnel has changed to include before and after school programs and school readiness programs. She stated that the school nurse should be made aware of the change in policy.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that C.A.B.E's Day on the Hill will be held on March 9, 2011 at the Bushnell in Hartford at 8:30 A.M. She stated that some of the 2011 Legislative Priorities are funding, achievement gap, secondary school reform, and maximizing resources.

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed the OLR Research Report with Board members. The highlights of the Education Cost Sharing requirements included in this report are listed below:

- Each town must spend ECS Grant money on education only.

- Towns may not cut budgets to realize more in ECS grant dollars.
- There is a minimum budget requirement each year.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that thirty applications have been received for the assistant principal position at the high school. She stated that the committee will meet next week to finalize the questions and choose candidates to interview.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the high school principal position will be posted for approximately six weeks. She stated that by mid-March the committee will know the number of applicants and will proceed to choosing candidates.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the Science/Technology building is progressing nicely. She stated that the cement is poured, the old roof is off, and the new roof is on. She also reported that a grant is being explored for solar panels.

New Business

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to approve policy #5131d Internet Use Policy and #4118.5 Acceptable Computer Network Use as revised. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to approve policy #4118.4 Electronic Mail as written. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to table policy #6141.322 Computers: Web Sites/Pages and policy #6146.111 Technology Competencies until the February Board meeting. Mrs. Warner seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to approve the Canaan Fire Company's request to use the building for their annual dance. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reported that the 2010-2011 budget forecast informs Board members about the current status of each line. She added that the teacher salary line will be affected by a maternity/parenting leave and a teacher having knee replacement surgery. The town and the Board of Education will still have some MIRMA liability, but the amount is unknown now. Miss Keilty noted that the 2011-2012 budget is a preliminary one, and work with Board members will begin at the first budget workshop. All Board members agreed to the following North Canaan Board of Education budget workshop dates: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. and Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 6:00P.M.

Mrs. Dolores Perotti reported that the next student achievement article, the "Seven Conditions for School Renewal," will be discussed in February.

Mrs. Dolores Perotti read a letter she received from Jennifer Bergin. The letter stated that she would like to thank the Board for allowing her daughter, Brynn to attend North Canaan Elementary School for

the past two years, and she would like her to continue for the 2011-2012 school year. She also requested that her son, Danny who turns five years old in February, be allowed to attend North Canaan. Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to approve the Bergin children, Brynn and Danny, to attend North Canaan Elementary School in the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The Board took a break from 8:50 P.M. until 9:00 P.M.

The Board held a Non meeting for the Purpose of Collective Bargaining at 9:01 P.M.

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 9:25 P.M.

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to ratify the 2011 - 2014 North Canaan Teacher Contract.

Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Greco made a motion to adjourn at 9:29 P.M. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Gandolfo

Approved: February 11, 2011