

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, January 12, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Chairperson, Claudia Callinan, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, Jane Fagan-Cosentino, and Susan Warner

Pam Vogel, Assistant Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Cynthia Hochswender (*Lakeville Journal*)

Mrs. Warner made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, December 8, 2016 as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous Mrs. Warner abstained.

Communications

Board Comment

Mrs. Warner reported to the Board on the first meeting of the Assistant Superintendent search. She stated that it was a preliminary meeting and that the interviews will start on January 24, 2017. She shared a list with Board members concerning community feedback on priorities for an Assistant Superintendent.

Region I Report

Dr. Vogel reported on the last Region One meeting she attended. The highlights from the meeting are listed below:

- Dr. Mary O'Neill presented Business Education and Career Exploration to the Region One Board. These will be two new programs offered in the fall (2017) at the high school.
- The Assistant Superintendent leadership profile was approved.

Principal's Report

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

- There were two water main breaks in town and a building fire, which may have caused a heavy discoloration in the school water. Aquarion Water Company advised avoiding the drinking of the water. Announcements were made to the school community and Berkshire Mountain Spring Water Company was contacted. Mr. Robson picked up five gallon containers of water from the company. School smoothie cups, that could be washed and re-used, were set

out for students and staff.

- A school bus was stuck in the airport driveway(a turnaround) on West Main Street this week. The bus slipped on ice and was then stuck in mud. Due to the quick actions of the town crew, the students were only 10 minutes late for school.
- David Thompson, of the high school technology department, was recommended by Mr. Ellington to help North Canaan with technology issues while Mr. Osborn recovers from surgery.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Vogel reviewed the major differences between the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Region One calendars with Board members. Some of the changes she stated are listed below:

- Jewish Holidays on September 21 and 22, 2017 were added.
- Professional Development days will occur separately instead of two consecutive days.
- September 5, 2017 and January 2, 2018 are proposed professional development days.
- Teachers will have more time to work together on grading practices and personalized learning on nine proposed early dismissal days.
- The last day of school is tentatively June 12, 2018.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Vogel briefly reviewed the two articles concerning *Blended Learning* and *Making Learning Personal* with Board members. She added that the state goals are for every student to succeed.

New Business

Miss Keilty reviewed the 2016-2017 budget forecast with Board members. The information she shared is listed below:

- The bottom line shows \$78,880.12 in anticipated unexpended funds at this time. She cautioned that it is still early for this to be a firm number.
- There has been a significant savings in demand and use of electricity, which she attributes to the new LED lighting that was installed.
- There is a savings on workman's compensation and other insurances due to a new insurance carrier.

Miss Keilty explained that the teacher salary line is over budget due to the Title One teacherline. The school had two Title One teachers and one retired. Currently, one Title One teacher remains on the line. A classroom teacher was deployed as an interventionist and she is being paid from the teacher salary line. She recommended that the Board move \$30,000.00 from the health insurance line and transfer it to the teacher salary line and take the remainder of the Title One line (\$61,002.48) and transfer it to the teacher salary line. Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to transfer \$30,000.00 from the health insurance line to the teacher salary line and transfer the remaining balance of \$61,002.48 on the Title One teacher line to the teacher salary line. Mrs. Fagan-Cosentino seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reported that she met with Bryan Johnson of Founders Insurance concerning a Pollution Liability insurance policy. She reported that the in ground fuel tank has a life expectancy of ten years remaining and to replace it would cost approximately \$100,000 in addition to very costly clean up due to leakage. Recently, the town hall added this coverage. She stated that the Pollution Liability insurance coverage has a cost effective two-year policy with a total premium of \$1,899.76 with a \$5,000 deductible. She recommended that the Board use the savings on the Workman's Compensation line to purchase this coverage. Mr. Ellington made a motion to use funds from the Workman's Compensation line to purchase the insurance. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reviewed some of the line items in the 2017-2018 school budget. Some of the items she discussed are listed below:

- The Health Insurance line will increase by 12%.
- Dental Insurance will increase 5%.
- No increase in life insurance at this time.
- There will be no step movement for teacher salaries next year, but there is approximately a 1.3% increase on each step in the salary scale.
- \$10,000 should be budgeted for teacher contract negotiations next year.

All Board members agreed to the following 2017-2018 budget workshop dates: Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 6:30 P.M., Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. and Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Mrs. Riccardelli reviewed the C.A.B.E. Nutmeg article with Board members concerning the Nutmeg Board's attempt to fire Tom Teacher for actions at a football game.

Old Business

Board members had a second reading of the policy on Mastery-Based Learning. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the policy on Mastery-Based Learning as written. Mrs. Drislane seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the ADA Playground Compliance. She stated that she, Mr. Herrick, Ms. Chamberlain, Attorney Meuser and Mr. Johannesen met to review a timeline and estimates to fix the playground. She outlined three phases of corrective action, which are listed below:

- Phase 1-Elevation to the primary playground to be addressed at a cost of \$4,000.
- Thresholds and sidewalk repairs will be made at exterior doorways. (Spring 2017)
- A new picnic table with ADA compliant seating for handicap accessibility will be purchased and installed. (Spring 2017)
- Phase 2 –Engineered wood fiber to be added to the grade 2/3 playground.
- Phase 3 –ADA compliant, smooth surface path to the Sam Eddy field will be added.(Summer 2017 or pending building project approval)

Miss Keilty also reported that there is still \$19,000 on the repair and maintenance line in the existing budget, which could help support some of the above improvements. Board attorney Craig Meuser

recommended adding \$20,000 to next year's capital budget for playground repairs.

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the Building Project. She reported that Mr. Humes has been exploring a variety of funding options. She stated that he has presented the Building Project at meetings with the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, the Rec Commission, the P.T.O., and the Board of Education. She reported that he will call next week to discuss funding options and the possibility of an informational night(s) to be held at the school concerning the building project.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 P.M. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: March 9, 2017