

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, June 10, 2010.

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 P.M.

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

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Bob Gray (*Channel 6 Cable*)

Mrs. Warner made a motion to amend the agenda by adding Executive Session for the Purpose of Teacher Contract Negotiations. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Warner 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, May 13, 2010 with one change (mulch to mow). Mrs. Warner seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Communications

Board Comment

Mr. Greco made a request on behalf of the Knights of Columbus to store meat in the school cooler until Railroad Days. Ms. Chamberlain suggested that a use of building request form be completed and given to Miss Keilty for approval.

Region I Report

Ms. Freund reported on the last Region I meeting she attended. Some of the highlights of that meeting are listed below:

- AgEd will hold their chicken barbecue on June 27, 2010.
- A capital grant for \$164,000 was approved.
- A field trip to Quebec was approved.
- A K-12 Curriculum Report was presented.
- The Freshman Initiative was discussed.
- The Board honored seven retirees before the meeting.

Principal's Report

Miss Keilty made the following additions to her monthly report:

- Field Day was successful and engendered spirit, sportsmanship, and cooperation among the multi-grade level teams of students. The entire school participated.
- World War II Veterans will be honored at the Flag Day ceremony on June 14.

- Eighth graders are doing well on their class trip to Pennsylvania and they will return tonight.
- Graduation will be held on June 17 at seven o'clock.

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the 2009-2010 school budget. Some of the budget highlights appear below:

- There is a salary savings because of a teacher leaving mid-year.
- Savings on the health insurance line is due to the death of an employee.
- There is an anticipated savings of \$15,000 in electricity due to lower rates and the heat conversion.
- \$34,000 was not used in fuel oil this year.
- The North Canaan portion of the budget to date has \$107,000 in unexpended funds to be returned to the town.

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to purchase a new steamer for the kitchen spending up to \$7,000. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reviewed an energy proposal from Universal Building Controls with the Board. Some of the highlights of the proposal are listed below:

- All thermostats and air handling units will be under global direct digital control.
- After the utility company studied the school's energy usage, it was determined that 7,000-9,000 gallons could be saved in fuel oil and 10% to 15% could be saved in electricity each year.
- The head custodian could do the wiring for each room's digital thermostat, which replaces all pneumatic thermostats.
- Universal Building Controls is the school's vendor. This has been a big savings over the previous vendor, Johnson Controls.
- The project will cost \$97,692.00 if the wiring is done by the custodian.
- The utility company as of this time will contribute \$19,900.00 toward the project.
- The use of ARRA funds was explored. Criteria of American made parts and prevailing wage must be met. This would add \$20,000 to the cost of the project. \$16,425 would be available through the ARRA funds. Therefore, applying for the ARRA funds is not practical.
- It will be a capital project that will require approval from the Board of Finance and a town vote.
- The project will take place over the summer and will take 4 to 6 weeks to complete.

All Board members agreed that the administration should go forward with getting more information concerning this energy saving project.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain updated the Board on the Race to the Top Grant. Some of the information concerning the RTTT funds is listed below:

- There is a 90 day window of time to apply for the grant if Connecticut receives funds.

- North Canaan could get \$107,737 over four years.
- Funds are for reading, mathematics and technology.
- Principals will need to think about it over the summer and be ready with a plan.
- It will need to be reviewed with teacher unions.
- Student data will need to be collected.
- The grant money has to be used to increase student achievement.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that over the summer Board members should read the preliminary summary of education legislation approved by the general assembly in the 2010 regular session. She stated that there are some new laws that could affect Board policies next year.

Ms. Chamberlain announced that effective July 1, 2010 the Region One schools and local towns will switch insurance carriers from Anthem to Aetna. She stated that employees will receive cards by July 1. She also reported that there will only be a 1.6% overall increase in health insurance in the region because of this change.

New Business

Miss Keilty reported that the school lunch program has approximately \$200 profit at this time but the final figure will not be known until school ends and all state reimbursements have been received.

Miss Keilty reported that the only change to the 2010-2011 school budget is health insurance and final costs have not been received by the business office yet. She stated that once the school receives the information, the total budget should be approximately -2.35% decrease over last year.

Mr. Greco made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Teacher Contract Negotiations at 6:50 P.M. Mrs. Warner seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Ms. Chamberlain and Miss Keilty were invited.

Mr. Greco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:02 P.M. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 7:03 P.M.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to pay 50% of the deductible on the High Deductible Health Plan/Health Savings (HDHP/HSA) during 2010-2011, for teachers who take this health insurance plan option. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Greco made a motion to adjourn at 7:06 P.M. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous
The meeting adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Gandolfo

Approved: September 21, 2010