

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, June 8, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Board Chairperson, Claudia Callinan, Dorothy Cecchinato, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington, Edwin Gow, and Susan Warner

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Pamela Vogel, Assistant Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Francine Lavoie, Nancy O'Connor, Rachel Gall

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to amend the agenda by dropping Principal Contract from Executive Session and moving Executive Session after Old Business. Mrs. Warner seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adopt the agenda as stated above. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, May 11, 2017 as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Region One Report

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

- The Superintendent's retirement was celebrated.
- Recognition was given to the 092 certification graduates.
- Region One retirees were announced.
- High School graduation will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Principal's Report

Miss Keilty stated that she had no additions to her monthly report as there were several items to discuss later in the agenda.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain reported that as a part of the Superintendent's transition plan for the new Superintendent, goals were established for the 2017-2018 school year.

Ms. Chamberlain made a recommendation to the Board to hire Rachel Gall for the North Canaan middle school science/math position at a salary of MA Step 5 at \$52,252. She stated that Rachel has been the long-term substitute since November of this year, and Region One science teachers have helped introduce her to the new science curriculum.

Mrs. Gall introduced herself and spoke about teaching science and working with three science teachers in the region to gain a better understanding of implementing the next generation science standards, which she said is inquiry based learning. She outlined for the Board the hands-on projects that she has been doing this year with students.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve hiring Rachel Gall as the North Canaan science/math teacher at a salary of MA Step 5 at \$52,252. Mrs. Warner seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Vogel reported that Linda Peppe and Melissa Bachetti, teachers who are part of the Early Literacy Groups, met with other ELG teachers in the region to skype with a school in Iowa. She stated that the Iowa school has been using Early Literacy Groups for the past six years, and the information our teachers received from them was very helpful.

Dr. Vogel reported that Dr. Allison Zmuda and Dr. Bena Kallick will come to the region next year to work with teachers on implementing personalized learning. She stated that they will also do classroom observations and coaching sessions with teachers.

Dr. Vogel also reported that new grading practices and policies will become effective in the fall of 2017. She added that these grading practices will be in the areas of no zero grades, homework/practice work, rubrics, and acceleration policies.

New Business

Miss Keilty reported that the State has not yet released the lunch reimbursement rates for 2017-2018. She recommended no increase in lunch prices and added that the Board may have to address the price during the next school year.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that there should be a good pool of money left in the town's general fund as the high school bill was \$97,000 less this year. Miss Keilty reported that the 2016-2017 budget surplus is \$46,523 at this time.

Miss Keilty reported that she spoke with Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Riccardelli this morning concerning the 2017-2018 budget and its failure to pass at the town meeting. She stated that everyone is very sensitive to the loss of revenue from the State as it is very difficult for a small community to make up a loss of \$1.4 million. Mrs. O'Connor, Chair of the Board of Finance, concurred.

Miss Keilty discussed ways to reduce spending at the school and said that she recommends the following as a start to reduce the budget:

- Eliminate the overnight program line. The two programs would continue; the Board would no longer subsidize them. (\$7,500)
- Reduce curriculum development, summer school, test scoring, textbooks, technology, and library books. (\$12,000)

Miss Keilty reported that needs for technology, library books, and textbooks for 2017-2018 were recently accomplished in the current budget. She added that the next area to be addressed is staffing and that the Board would have to meet to discuss this. She said that the Board should consider all possibilities in both the teaching staff and the support personnel.

Mrs. O'Connor reported that the Town has already reduced staff and that they too will meet to consider other reductions. She also stated that the Town will proceed cautiously and carefully this summer.

Ms. Chamberlain suggested that the Board hold a Budget Workshop later in the month.

All Board members agreed to meet with the Board of Finance at their regular meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 7:30 P.M., and to hold a Board of Education Budget Workshop in the school cafeteria on Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at 7:00 P.M.

Old Business

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the ADA Playground Compliance. She stated that Mr. Robson has built a new sandbox for the playground which can accommodate a wheelchair. She also stated that an access path to the second and third grade playground will have to be completed this summer but no quote has been received yet. She reported that the remainder of the surplus funds may have to be used to do the path. She also reported that the path to the tennis courts and Sam Eddy field is a future project.

Miss Keilty reported that there is no news on the building project at this time.

Mr. Ellington made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel at 8:55 P.M. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Ellington made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:38 P.M. Mrs. Callinan seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 9:39 P.M.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: September 14, 2017

