

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, March 11, 2010.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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; Rosemary Keilty, Principal, Karen Lindstrom, School Psychologist
and Diane Goncalves, Assistant Superintendent

Karen Bartomioli (*Lakeville Journal*), Ruth Epstein (*Waterbury Republican*) and Bob Gray (*CABLE News
Channel 6*)

Mr. Greco made a motion to amend the agenda by making the following changes under New Business:
Additions: (A. Letter of Resignation, E. Public Comment, F. Public Comment, X. Executive Session for
Purpose of Personnel) Remove: (J. C.A.B.E. Nutmeg Article). Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Greco made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended above. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote:
Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, February 11, 2010 as written. Mrs. McGuire
seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, March 2, 2010 as written. Mrs. Laurie
Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Communications

Written

Mrs. Dolores Perotti read a letter she received from Chris Crane (Greenacres Landscaping). He thanked the Board for the opportunity to bid on the lawn/landscape contract, and noted several concerns as a result of walking the school grounds with the custodian in the pre-bid walk through. he has concerns that many things are not being executed as to meet requirements in the bid contract. The letter also stated that he hopes the Board takes into consideration the experience, certification and equipment of all the bidders when coming to a conclusion regarding the contract.

Ms. Chamberlain recommended that the Head Custodian walk the grounds to look into Mr. Crane's concerns. Mrs. Dolores Perotti and Mrs. Warner as the Board's grounds committee members agreed to walk the grounds with Mr. Robson.

Region I Report

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

- Judge Manning introduced a new Board member, Jonathan Moore
- Diane Goncalves reported on spring workshops
- The Freshman Transition Team has been doing a great job with incoming eighth grade students.
- Mr. Herrick reported on the high school 2010-2011 budget which has a 1.76% increase over last year and the public hearing will be held on April 6, 2010
- The Curriculum Policies Team held a meeting at Education Connection
- A trip to Germany was approved for the high school world language department
- Coaches were approved for spring sports

Principal's Report

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

- A certificate of achievement was received from CONNCAN for making the top ten list in most improved middle schools in the state for the second year in a row
- North Canaan's graduation will be held on June 17, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. which is also the last day of school as of this meeting.
- High School graduation will be held on June 18, 2010
- The Faculty Association reported that they would like to make up the February Workshop Day in June, the day after the last student day of school
- Thank you to all Board members for agreeing to bag the CMT breakfast after the meeting tonight

Miss Keilty reported that any Board member who would like to help with distributing diplomas on graduation along with Laurie Perotti should let her know.

Superintendent' Report

Ms. Chamberlain introduced Diane Goncalves, Assistant Superintendent and reported that they both appreciate how much Board members volunteer their time and the daffodils are just a small token to thank them.

Ms. Chamberlain reported on a new act in the General Assembly that may require the installation and use of seat safety belts on school buses. She stated that the bus company is following this act closely, too.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the All Board's meeting took place here at North Canaan and one of the topics for discussion was insurance. She stated that they will still explore for alternate bids on health insurance and the figures received back from Anthem were 19% for HSA and 9% for PPO.

Ms. Chamberlain announced that the high school musical will be *Grease* and it will be held on March 18, 19 and 20 at 7:30 P.M.

Ms. Chamberlain announced that the 4th Grade Arts Day was a great success and a wonderful experience for the students.

Old Business

Miss Keilty reported that Diane Cieslowski, kindergarten teacher has accepted the early retirement incentive for teachers. She stated that she only received the one response.

New Business

Ms. Chamberlain reported that she received a letter of resignation from Carole Armen, eighth grade teacher. Ms. Chamberlain stated that she recommends the Board accept her resignation and she wishes her well. Mr. Greco made a motion to accept the resignation of Carole Armen. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Lindstrom reported on the school lunch program. She stated that the program is still in the black with a balance of little over \$400 and approximately 214 lunches are being served daily. She stated that as a result of students receiving 9,000 positive behavior recognition slips from the PBIS program the entire school watched the movie *Aladdin* with popcorn and water for a snack. She also reported that the kitchen staff is using their new software to analyze popcorn to see if it meets state requirements to sell.

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to authorize the superintendent to sign and renew the Healthy Food Certification for the 2010-2011 school year. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to continue having a Professional Development Day for teachers in February (February 22, 2011). Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reviewed the 2010-2011 school budget with Board members. Some of the highlights she discussed are listed below:

- The bottom line of the budget is now below 0%
- Busing (\$2,332.48) will be taken out of summer school as a result of the ABC meeting recently—summer school will not provide transportation.
- Health insurance will now be a 10% increase.
- The budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7:30 P.M.
- Most figures in the budget are firm at this time except fuel oil could still be reduced
- The substitute line could be reduced by \$17,208 if the Time Out position is eliminated but there could be a unemployment expense .

Public Comment

Ruth Epstein inquired whether the present budget printout would be reduced by \$2,300 with busing removed from the summer school program. Karen Bartomioli also inquired whether the budget would be adjusted by 10% for health insurance. Miss Keilty reported that the health insurance line had been updated and the summer school line would be updated for the Board of Finance meeting on March 24.

Principal's Report continued

Miss Keilty reported that she received a call from Trooper Promotico. She stated that the trooper has monitored the crossing situation downtown on several occasions and he feels that crossing in the center of town is dangerous. His recommendation is to bus the six or so students who live in the center of town. Ms. Chamberlain reported that she agrees with his recommendation to bus the students, and stated that the principal should send a letter to the parents making a suggestion to ride the bus with the bus pickup and drop off times.

Miss Keilty inquired whether Board members would like her to look further into a Noncertified Retirement Incentive. Mrs. Laurie Perotti stated that she would like further information on a Retirement Incentive for the Noncertified staff, and Mrs. Dolores Perotti reported that it will be on the agenda again next month.

Miss Keilty reported that three lawn bids were received. She stated that the Sebben Lawn Service bid was for \$6,200 for the first year and \$6,500 for the second year, the Greenacres Landscaping bid was for \$6,000 for two years and Foley Lawn Service was for \$4,800 for two years. Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to hire Foley Lawn Service, the lowest bidder at \$4,800 for two years. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Mr. Greco suggested that Mr. Foley walk the property with Mr. Robson and Board members.

The Board took a break from 8:35 P.M. until 8:45 P.M.

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel at 8:45 P.M. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous Ms. Chamberlain, Ms. Goncalves and Miss Keilty were invited.

Mr. Greco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:15 P.M. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 9:16 P.M.

Mr. Greco made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 P.M. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous
The meeting adjourned at 9:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Gandolfo

Approved: April 8, 2010