

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, March 9, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Chairperson, Claudia Callinan, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane and Edwin Gow.

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Gabe Lefferts, *Lakeville Journal*

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

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, January 12, 2017 with one change (2017 to 2016). Mrs. Callinan seconded. Vote: Unanimous

#### Communications

Mrs. Riccardelli read a letter the Board received from Justin Hajek, requesting that his daughter, Julia Hajek be allowed to continue her education next year (2017-2018) at North Canaan Elementary School. Currently, (2016-2017), Julia is enrolled in Early Kindergarten at North Canaan Elementary School. The letter also stated that he and his wife, Melissa Hajek, have really enjoyed Julia's year so far and greatly appreciate how much she has learned. Justin is a Special Education Paraprofessional assigned to North Canaan Elementary School. Mrs. Callinan made a motion to allow Julia Hajek to attend Kindergarten at North Canaan Elementary School for the school year 2017-2018 as long as Justin Hajek is employed at the school. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Riccardelli read a letter the Board received from Claire and James Walton, requesting approval for their children to continue their schooling at North Canaan Elementary School for the 2017-2018 school year. They wrote that their sons, Joshua and Brayden Walton, have enjoyed their years at North Canaan Elementary School and their daughter Callie Walton has had a great start to school in Early Kindergarten this year (2016-2017). Mrs. Dodge made a motion to allow the three Walton children (Braydon, Justin, and Callie) to continue their education at North Canaan Elementary School for the school year 2017-2018. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

#### Region I Report

Mr. Gow reported on the joint Region One and ABC Committee meeting held on Monday night, March 6, 2017. The highlights from the meeting are listed below:

- A welcome reception was held for the new Assistant Superintendent, Lisa Carter. It was a very nice reception and she was very surprised.
- Becky Seney presented information on the need for an English Language Learner

program. As a result of the presentation, the originally proposed English Language Learner program position at the high school was put back into the budget.

- The Robotics team did a great job at their convention this year.
- For the first time, the Girls Basketball team will go to the State finals this Friday, March 10, 2017, at Simsbury High School at 7:00 P.M.
- *The Drowsy Chaperone* high school musical, theatrical production will be presented at HVRHS on March 16, 17, and 18, 2017.
- The Region One budget has a 1.93% increase at this time. Lack of state funding is causing the increase in the budget.
- Meetings have been held to discuss parent and student questions and concerns related to the new block schedule.

### Principal's Report

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

- She explained and answered questions concerning the Healthy School Food Certification program which will be voted on later in the meeting.
- She presented an analysis of the number of teacher absences and reasons to date using Frontline data, the administrative software that is used to record any time away from the classroom. She stated that much of the list of curriculum work has been accomplished, and the need for professional development and professional meeting days for the remainder of the school year should be much fewer.

### Superintendent's Report

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

- Volunteers are always welcome at the high school musical to sell tickets or food. It proves to be a great show every year.
- Fourth Grade Arts Day will be held on March 15, 2017 at The Hotchkiss School.
- Alexis Galgano is this year's recipient from North Canaan for the Superintendent Award.
- March is Board Appreciation month and all Board members are highly regarded and appreciated for their dedicated service.
- Lisa Carter, the new Assistant Superintendent, brings great knowledge of business and education to Region One. She is wished well in her new position.

### New Business

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to continue the Healthy School Food Certification program for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reported that the 2016-2017 school budget has a surplus of approximately \$70,000 at this time.

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the 2017-2018 school budget. Some of the highlights that she mentioned are listed below:

- Transportation costs have been reduced, as four buses will be utilized in 2017-2018.
- Instructional supplies have a 9% decrease based on need.
- Fuel oil has very little increase due to the lock-in price of the consortium to which the Region belongs.
- Textbooks will have a 0% increase; textbook replacements for old or worn books will continue as well as the purchase of updated editions.
- Library books will have a minimal increase because there are more digital subscriptions available.
- Some new desks and chairs will be replaced under instructional purchases.
- The school safety line will decrease by \$2,000 as a contract will be discontinued and only minimal hardware purchases will be necessary.
- A server will need to be replaced this summer.
- Chromebooks will be purchased with REAP Grant funds.

All Board members agreed to hold a Budget Workshop evening meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 7:00 o'clock at North Canaan Elementary School.

#### Old Business

Ms. Chamberlain updated the Board on the last discussion and meeting concerning the ADA Playground Compliance issue. She stated that it was discussed what work could be done in the spring and what work would have to wait until summer. It was recommended that some budget money be allotted for the playground repairs. Miss Keilty reported that Mr. Johannesen estimated the spring work costs to be \$7,000 to \$10,000, and she reported that part of the \$70,000 unexpended funds from this year's budget could be used toward this expense.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 P.M. Mrs. Callinan seconded. Vote: Unanimous  
The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Gandolfo

Approved: April 20, 2017