

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, March 8, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Chairperson, Rebecca Cahill, Dorothy Cecchinato,
Amy Dodge, Erin Drislane, Michael Ellington, Robert Hewins, Sarah Visconti

Rosemary Keilty, Principal; Pamela Vogel, Superintendent; Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent

Shelby Diorio, Dr. Alicia Roy, Christopher Sorrell, Denise Sorrell, Craig Whiting, and Mike Flint (CATV6)

The Board held a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Mrs. Riccardelli asked for recommendations from Board members of those who have contributed to North Canaan Elementary School. The following persons were chosen for recognition:

- Mr. Murray - Quiz Bowl Coach
- Mr. Robson- Head Custodian
- Mrs. Peppe, Mrs. Merrill, Mr. Merrill - Drama Club Directors
- Mrs. Gandolfo - Administrative Secretary

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

Focus on Student Learning

Miss Keilty introduced Mrs. Diorio as the speaker for the focus on student achievement. Mrs. Diorio spoke about the math intervention/enrichment program at North Canaan. Mrs. Diorio, who has been teaching since 1999 in special education, grade four classrooms, made the following points about the new math intervention/enrichment program:

- She follows a schedule for early literacy (ELG groups), IE and math support.
- Benchmark data is used to create groups, which consist of 5 to 12 students.
- She sees very few students one on one.
- The data team works with recommendations based on Connecticut State Standards.
- Progress monitoring results are printed for students to give them feedback on how they are doing.
- The Front Row program is used to give students practice.
- Students work for approximately six weeks to master concepts.
- Data is shared with classroom teachers.

Region I Report

Dr. Vogel read a report she received from Mr. Humes concerning the Region One Board meeting. Some of the highlights of his report are listed below:

- It was a lengthy meeting but a great deal was accomplished.
- A joint meeting was held with the All Boards Chair Committee.
- No action was taken on a replacement for Dr. Martinez, retiring principal of the high school. More time is necessary for input on the changes to the principal and vice principal's job descriptions.
- There was a discussion on the job descriptions of the administrators and business manager. No action was taken at this time, as suggested changes may be added.
- The budget committee worked many hours and presented a zero increase at this time.

Estimation of Educational Costs

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the 2018-2019 proposal. Some of the line items that she covered are listed below:

- 5/6 language arts teacher wages are off the teacher salary line.
- Interviews will be conducted tomorrow for Mrs. Walton's replacement.
- The 5/6 math position will be filled by existing staff.
- It is uncertain whether the librarian will return to North Canaan next year.
- Dollars were reinstated on the Nature's Classroom overnight program line.
- The health insurance line is now \$586,665.
- The teacher salary line is down \$49,580 from last year.
- Non-certified staff negotiations have not yet begun.
- There is a 1.16% increase over all at this time. Further reductions are anticipated which could lead toward a zero increase.

Healthy Food Certification 2018 - 2019

Miss Keilty recommended to the Board to renew the Healthy Food certification program, as the lunch program receives an additional 10 cents per meal from the state. She also reported that two motions must be made in order to renew it: (1. To implement the healthy food option and 2. To allow food exemptions for events).

Mr. Ellington made a motion to continue the Healthy Food Certification program for the 2018-2019 school year with healthy food options. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to allow food exemptions for events concerning the Healthy Food Certification program. Mrs. Visconti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Nature's Classroom Program

Miss Keilty reported that grade six, which has forty students, would attend Nature's Classroom in the fall. She stated that a deposit is required for the program of \$100 per student, which equals \$4,000. She recommended that the Board use unexpended funds to pay this deposit now. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to send the deposit of \$4,000 to the Nature's Classroom program. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Principal's Report

Miss Keilty reviewed two items she included in her monthly report with Board members. She reported that the school's oil tank needs to be replaced by 2020 because according to state law, thirty years is the life limit for a tank, even if it is not leaking. Recent testing confirms that the tank is not leaking. She reported that it is a 20,000 gallon tank, and the state reimbursement rate is 60+ percent of the cost. She made a recommendation to the Board to hire George Johannesen, the town's engineer, to start drawings so that replacement occurs during the summer of 2019. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to contact George Johannesen to get the drawings started. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty also reported that First Selectman, Charlie Perotti told her that he would like to reduce the cost of tipping fees for having trash brought to Torrington. The town pays tipping fees in excess of \$80,000 per year. She stated that the school pays \$617.00 per month to the trash hauler. She reported that Mr. Perotti suggested getting a price from a local hauler, and that Mr. Herrick would help sort out the process. Results will be discussed at the next meeting.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Carter reviews her monthly report with Board members. Some of the highlights that she stated from the report are listed below:

- A group of science teachers assembled by CREC will write science curriculum for purchase by all schools in Connecticut.
- It was very exciting to have approximately twenty students from China visit the high school in February.
- Five different workshops on Personalized Learning were sponsored by CAS and CAPSS; the region was able to take advantage of both.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Vogel reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Some of the highlights that she stated from the report are listed below.

- At the administrator's meeting today the opioid crisis and tragic school shooting were discussed.
- A video conference session was held for administrators on February 15, 2018 with Park City, Utah's superintendent. She shared their tragedy of losing two students in one week from opioids.
- On March 16, 2018 as part of the professional development, counselors will work on developing a crisis team.

- A presentation on the STOP!T phone app occurred at today's administrator meeting (March 8, 2018). The cost of the program is approximately \$500 per year for the region.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Riccardelli reported that Mr. Ellington made a presentation at the ABC committee meeting on regional technology. Mr. Ellington stated that there was a very good discussion on what technology we use well, what could be explored for the future in terms of what is best, and the educational impact that technology has. He also stated that the goal is to bring the whole region together.

Mr. Ellington made a motion to go into Executive Session for Administrative Search at 8:07 P.M. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous Dr. Vogel and Ms. Carter were invited.

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:32 P.M. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 8:35 P.M.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to hire Dr. Alicia M. Roy as new principal of North Canaan Elementary School with a 3-year contract, which includes 215 days, 100% paid health and life Insurance, and a salary of \$130,000. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 P.M. Mrs. Cahill seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: April 12, 2018