

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, May 13, 2010.

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

Board members present: Dolores Perotti, Chairperson, Dorothy Cecchinato, Beth McGuire,  
Laurie Perotti, Karen Riccardelli and Susan Warner  
Richard Greco arrived at 8:15 P.M.

Diane Goncalves, Assistant Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Bob Gray (*Cable Channel 6*), Lisa Carter, Leigh Colavecchio and Jacquie Rice

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded.

Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, April 8, 2010 with one change (MERMA to MIRMA). Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Mrs. Warner and Mrs. Laurie Perotti abstained.

### Communications

#### Written

Mrs. Dolores Perotti read a letter she received from Mr. Humes, First Selectman. The letter stated that he met with Mr. Caranci and discussed the crossing guard's job description. Mr. Humes agrees that the school should decide where a crossing guard is needed, and he will take care of any other matters concerning a crossing guard.

Ms. Goncalves introduced Lisa Carter, Leigh Colavecchio and Jacquie Rice to the Board. She explained that they have been visiting every Board of Education in the Region and reporting on the Freshman Focus Group. She reported that they went to Tennessee for training on the program, and they will go to California in August for more training. Highlights of the report on the Freshman Focus Group are listed below:

- Students will experience a positive, better transition from eighth grade to the high school.
- They visited elementary schools to become familiar with students and their present environment.
- Eighth grade students will visit their high school teachers ahead of time to avoid anxiety and apprehension over entrance to high school.
- Data teams will meet in August to review Connecticut Mastery Test scores of present eighth grade students and get input from guidance counselors in order to ensure each student's placement/schedule is appropriate and correct before the school year begins.
- Freshman Orientation will be held at the high school before school begins.
- The initiative is a ten year plan and the faculty will receive ongoing training.

- A dinner meeting will be held in August and middle school teachers in the Region, along with parents of seventh and eighth grade students, will learn about the program. All Board members in the Region will also be invited.

#### Region I Report

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

- The Board voted to have Ms. Chamberlain and Mr. Herrick continue working with Aetna concerning a new health insurance carrier.
- The AgEd Department will hold a rabies clinic and Open House next week.
- Mr. Housatonic will be chosen next week.
- Linda DiCorleto will retire in June.
- The high school band/chorus performed in Florida and the students reported that 24 hours on the bus each way was too long.

#### Principal's Report

Miss Keilty made the following additions to her principal's report:

- Tom Zetterstrom did a great job organizing the Arbor Day program.
- Dillon Roth has a great interest in the Arboretum and helped Mr. Zetterstrom do preliminary work leading up to the school program.
- Second and Third Selectmen Charlie Perotti and Susan Clayton watered the tree that was planted ahead of time for the Arbor Day ceremony.
- This was the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Arbor Day at the school.
- Tuesday, May 18, 2010 is the North Canaan budget vote at the annual town meeting.
- Flag Day is June 14 and Soldier Kyle will return for a visit and be part of the patriotic ceremony.
- Pop Open a Book and Read was held last Friday as part of the PBIS program and students read outside on the playground and received Push Pop ice cream.
- October is Walk to School month and there are a number of websites that have many ideas for walking and bicycling to school. The ideas will be reviewed with the school's Wellness Council.
- Friday, June 11, 2010 a staff appreciation breakfast will be sponsored by the Board of Education.
- Laurie Perotti and Karen Riccardelli will represent the Board by conferring diplomas at this year's graduation exercises.

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the 2009-2010 school budget forecast. Some of those updates are listed below:

- There will be a surplus of approximately \$138,036 in the total budget.
- Only 21,000 gallons of fuel oil has been purchased so far this year, with an anticipated load of 7,000 gallons to be taken before the school year ends. In the past, before the heating conversion, 42,000 gallons have been taken. This represents a savings of approximately \$34,140.
- There will be a surplus of approximately \$11,913 in electricity.

- The building repair line is over budget because the walk-in cooler had to be replaced and that was shortly followed by the freezer. Replacement was not planned in 2009-2010.
- There is a savings in salary and health insurance because of one teacher resignation and a loss of a teacher assistant.

Miss Keilty reviewed a building maintenance repair list with the Board that she created with Mr. Robson. The list included the following repairs to the building: \$1,800 Lighting, \$7,400 Flooring, \$3,500 Locks, \$5,000 Painting, \$4,500 Clocks, \$8,000 Blinds and \$2,000 Hallway Signs. She recommended paying for this maintenance from the 2009-2010 budget. Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to approve purchasing the Building Maintenance Project List of \$32,200. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reported that she has been working with Universal Building Controls and the utility company on an energy proposal concerning the school thermostats. Further fuel and electricity savings could be realized in moving from pneumatic to digital controls. A proposal and recommendation will be brought to the June meeting.

#### Superintendent's Report

Ms. Goncalves stated that the Regional School District 1 Annual Report is a first draft for review but more information may be added at a later date.

Ms. Goncalves reported that Connecticut did not get awarded any money from phase I of the Race to the Top grant, but the Region could receive funds from phase II. She stated that Board members should read the report, and it will be put on next month's agenda for further discussion.

#### Old Business

Mrs. Dolores Perotti reported that she, Mrs. Cecchinato, and Mr. Foley walked the school grounds. Some of the suggestions the grounds committee recommends from this walk through are listed below:

- Mow and weed closer to the town hall.
- Put mulch under the courtyard trees.
- Mr. Zetterstrom has the tree expertise and is consulted as needed.
- Trim limbs off trees by the science room.
- Prune the juniper plant.
- Put plants in the boxes outside of the library windows.

Miss Keilty also suggested making a memorial garden near the cafeteria picnic tables with perennials, birdhouses, and a bench in memory of Sue Segalla.

Mrs. Dolores Perotti reported that she met with Mr. Humes, First Selectman, regarding the crossing guard position. She stated that Mr. Humes reported he reviewed with Mr. Caranci his job description and told him that all complaints will be reported to him and he will report traffic problems and violations to the resident trooper.

Mrs. Laurie Perotti made a motion to have the crossing guard move from the stop light in town to the crosswalk closest to the flag pole near the school. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to amend the motion above to state that the crossing guard remain at his position at the crosswalk closest to the school flag pole throughout the remainder of the year. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

#### New Business

Miss Keilty reported that the school lunch program has a profit of \$190.51 to date. She stated that some of the profit is from the a la carte breakfast program which made \$282.81.

Miss Keilty reported on the 2010-2011 school budget. Changes concerning the budget are listed below:

- Fuel Oil will reflect a decrease of -24.20%.
- Health insurance for certified staff will be \$367,998, an 11.17% increase.
- Health insurance for non-certified will be \$187,506, a decrease of - 17.74%.
- North Canaan Board of Education's total budget will reflect a decrease of -\$42,558 /-1.03%.

Ms. Goncalves reviewed the C.A.B.E. Nutmeg article concerning the Nutmeg Board dealing with union concessions. Board members agreed that they would never have a secret meeting like the Nutmeg Board did. Pay raises do not have to be given back and the whole meeting outlined in the article was a complete nightmare.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to go into executive session at 8:50 P.M. Mr. Greco seconded.  
Vote: Unanimous Miss Keilty and Ms. Goncalves were invited.

Mr. Greco made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:40 P.M. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded.  
Vote: Unanimous

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 9:41 P.M.

Mr. Greco made a motion to adjourn at 9:42 P.M. Mrs. Laurie Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: June 10, 2010