

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, May 14, 2015.

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

Board members present: Dolores Perotti, Chairperson, Claudia Callinan, Dorothy Cecchinato,  
Amy Dodge, Edwin Gow, Beth McGuire, Karen Riccardelli and Susan Warner

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Alexandra Juch and John Budge, Acting Principal

Jayne Fagan-Cosentino, Beth Johnson and Catherine Mechare (CATV6)

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to amend the agenda by adding (E. New Board Member, F. Technology Proposal, G. Reading Proposal) under New Business. Mrs. Callinan seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended above. Mrs. Callinan seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 21, 2015 as written. Mrs. Riccardelli seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 23, 2015 as written. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

### Communication

#### Written

Mrs. Perotti read a letter she received from Lucas McMillan, a fifth grade student. The letter stated that the great experience he had there changed his life, and he thanked the Board for funding Nature's Classroom.

#### Board Comment

Mrs. Cecchinato announced that the school is doing a great job with the children running on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Mrs. Perotti reported on the All Board Chairs Committee meeting held on April 29, 2015. Some of the topics that were discussed are listed below:

- Superintendent's Contract
- Regionalization
- Jane Lloyd Fund

### Region I Report

Mr. Gow reported on the last Region I meeting he attended. Some of the items that were discussed are listed below:

- Athletic Director's Report
- Student College Acceptance and Attendance

He also reported that the AgEd Open House was held last night and it always has a great turnout.

### Principal's Report

Mrs. Juch reported that Miss Keilty, Mr. Budge and she met with Maria Johndro and (Stuart Monroe by conference call) from Viridian Solar to discuss the use of solar panels. She explained that the North Canaan Elementary School footprint was too small for Solar City but a subsidiary company called 64 Solar was recommended. She reported that many possibilities were discussed including location, installation, costs, and maintenance. The next step is to conduct a site walk with the principal and head custodian.

Mrs. Juch reported that at a recent faculty meeting an idea was discussed to adopt a trimester grading system which would divide the year into thirds, to align with longer units of study in a project based curriculum. She also reported that there was a discussion to keep the fall parent/teacher conferences in November and move the April conferences to March.

Mr. Budge reported on a new two year compacted math course which teaches three years of mathematics content in two years. He stated that it would start in grade seven and the student would begin with seventh and eighth grade math topics, and then move to Algebra I by grade eight. He reported that eligible students will be moving at a fast pace and that the program will start next year.

Mr. Budge reported that using Chromebooks in math class daily will allow students to learn how math is used around them. He added that online textbooks and mathematics websites will also enhance student learning.

Mr. Budge reported that the school received a \$520.00 check from Mountainside for the D.A.R.E. program which is taught by the resident trooper. He added that Mountainside is a great supporter of the program, and a thank you note has been sent to them. The D.A.R.E. graduation will be held on Monday, June 1, 2015.

### Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Some of the items she discussed are listed below:

- The Region I budget passed on May 5.
- Beginning teachers and mentors attended a Module 5 program to complete a portion of their professional development.

- Summer curriculum writing teams are being identified and needs have been posted.
- Interviews for open positions in Region I schools have commenced.
- The assistant superintendent position has been filled and approved.
- Graduation dates have been announced.
- The last two days of school (June 22 and 23) will be early dismissal days.

### New Business

Mrs. Juch reported that the 2014-2015 budget surplus at this time is \$49,000 after the \$11,000 retirement incentive is paid out.

Mrs. Juch reported that the 2015-2016 North Canaan budget passed at the town meeting on Tuesday, May 12.

Mrs. Juch reported on the Patriot Safety Group service proposal. She recommended the proposal because Mr. Ohler has worked hard with the safety committee, the new CrisisGo app, and has met with the principal on several occasions to revise the security plan. He will be able to monitor the building at evening events. She also reported that the contract should have a 2015-2016 fiscal year model of July 1 - June 30 and come off the safety line in the budget.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to accept the Patriot Safety proposal for the 2015-2016 fiscal year July 1st-June 30th, with the expenditure to go against the safety line in the budget with a cap of \$3,600, to include the extra days stated (Graduation, Open House, School Drama and other community events) and that there be an annual evaluation of the contract.

Mrs. McGuire amended the motion stated above to accept the Patriot Safety proposal for the fiscal year July 1 - June 30, with the expenditure to go against the safety line in the budget with a cap of \$4,000, to include the extra days stated (Graduation, Open House, School Drama and other community events) and that there be an annual evaluation of the contract. Mrs. Riccardelli seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Chamberlain reviewed the C.A.B.E. nutmeg article with Board members concerning the Nutmeg Board vs. the Residents Against New Taxes (RANT) - Who's right?

Mrs. Perotti announced that Jane Fagan-Cosentino was recommended by the Democratic Town committee as a new Board member to fill the vacancy by Mrs. Laurie Perotti. Mrs. Fagan-Cosentino stated a few things about herself which are listed below:

- Has three children; two are in the school.
- Is a social worker.
- A member of the Canaan Child Care Center Board.
- Vice-chairperson of the Democratic Town committee.
- Coaches kindergarten soccer.

Mrs. Fagan-Cosentino stated that she looks forward to working with the Board as Canaan is a nice town with great people.

Mrs. Warner made a motion to appoint Jane Fagan-Cosentino to fill the current vacancy of the North Canaan Board of Education until the end of the term. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Johnson reported that she applied for a technology grant from the State of Connecticut in February but no district received any funds. She stated that the grant will be available again in 45 days, and she will reapply. Mrs. Johnson stated that she would like to purchase thirty Chromebooks for \$6,000 and \$1,800 will be covered by the balance of grant dollars. She recommends \$4,200 come from the 2014-2015 budget surplus. Mrs. McGuire made a motion to approve the proposal for thirty Chromebooks for \$4,200. Mrs. Callinan seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Juch reported that there has been great growth in reading achievement K-2. Teachers are using Houghton Mifflin's *Journeys* reading program in those three grades. Extending the program to grade three is part of the 2015-2016 budget. She recommended to the Board to purchase Journeys for grade four with 2014-2015 budget surplus money. Mrs. McGuire made a motion to approve the purchase of Journeys for \$3,858.00 to include grade four. Mrs. Callinan seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25 P.M. Mrs. Callinan seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Alexandra Golden and John Budge were invited to attend the beginning of the meeting.

Mrs. Callinan made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:57 P.M. Mrs. Riccardelli seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 8:58 P.M.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adjourn at 8:59 P.M. Mrs. Callinan seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: June 11, 2015