

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, October 12, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Board Chairperson, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington, and Susan Warner

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

Mike Flint (CATV6)

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

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated August 31, 2017 as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated September 20, 2017 as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Principal's Report

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

- North Canaan's enrollment at this time is 283 students.
- A power surge in town today affected a heat sensor in the attic and the fire alarm sounded. Students and staff evacuated the building, stood outdoors for a short time, and then went into the town hall until it was safe to re-enter the building.
- The school will participate in the Parade of Lights, which will be held on Sunday, November 26, 2017.

Miss Keilty presented the results of the 2017 SBAC testing to the Board. Some of the topics she discussed in her presentation are listed below:

- The test is required by law each year and assesses Language Arts and Math skills.
- The assessment is one snapshot of student achievement.
- The State Assessment is not a sole measure of student or school achievement, and it is not a substitute for other relevant ways to assess student learning.
- Smarter Balanced Assessment adapts to a student's responses and uses performance tasks.
- There are four levels of scoring from 1-4, starting with level four, which exceeds the expected level to level one which does not meet the achievement level.
- Students also receive a "performance indicator" for each area of knowledge and skills within a subject.
- Schools want scores at the 3 or 4 level.
- North Canaan's participation is 100%.

- This is year three of the SBAC assessment.
- The school is taking steps to review curriculum, map it, and strengthen assessments. In addition, all schools in the region will use the available interim assessments provided by the State.

Miss Keilty announced that all Region I schools are moving toward standards based grading and new grading practices went into effect at the start of the school year, for grades five through eight. She reported that the scores are A-Exceeding, B-Mastery, C-Basic Understanding, and NYP-Not Yet Proficient in a standard. She added that the first report card will be issued in December using the new grading system.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Vogel reviewed her monthly report with Board members. Listed below are updates she made to her report:

- At a Forum in Cromwell, Dr. Vogel along with other superintendents, spoke on how our schools use the *Next Generation Accountability* report. Ms. Carter also attended the conference.
- Dr. Vogel attended a meeting of the CAPSS Legislative Committee where they discussed the budget that was proposed in September. Educators are concerned that schools have to rely on the town to approve expenditures considered “cost-saving” measures. This could include purchases such as software programs, technology, and other contracted services.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

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

- Curriculum Mapping for grades kindergarten through twelve in math and language arts will be completed by the end of the month.
- Instructional Coaches for North Canaan are Linda Peppe and Melissa Bachetti.
- There will be a regional science coach for all of Region One schools.
- Contract negotiations for certified staff are currently taking place in four of our K-8 schools.
- Dr. Paul Maida, a professor of mathematics will be conducting math workshops in the region with K-3 teachers.
- Celina Huber had a busy month completing the LAS Placement Tests and Pre-LAS for new students and kindergarten children in Salisbury, North Canaan, and Cornwall schools. She will be sending out a notification letter so parents will be aware of the services provided to EL students in Region One schools.

New Business

All Board members agreed to revisit goals for the 2017-2018 school year next month after reviewing the sample goals they received.

Mrs. Warner made a motion to approve revising the authorized signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Dodge made a motion that North Canaan Elementary School will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Dodge made a motion that North Canaan Elementary School will allow exemptions for food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Old Business

Miss Keilty reported that kindergarten and first grade students should get a good start in reading and math. Miss Keilty announced that a part-time paraprofessional was hired for first grade and she recommends that a second part-time paraprofessional be hired for kindergarten. Mr. Ellington made a motion to approve hiring a part time paraprofessional for kindergarten. Mrs. Warner seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty updated the Board on the school playground project. She stated that after she, Les, and a contractor that Progressive uses to prep sites for ADA compliance walked the grounds, it was determined that the steps to the grade 2/3 play area, that are built-in to the retaining wall, have been deteriorating and need replacing. In addition, the landing near the library exit needed a new pad. The new path attaches to the pad, so she said that it seemed prudent to replace it while the path work was being completed. These additions to the project have added to the cost. She reported that since the budget figures could not be changed between the meeting with the Board of Finance and the September budget vote, there are extra funds on the teacher salary line. She recommended that the Board approve a transfer of \$30,000 from the teacher salary line to the building repair line. Mrs. Warner made a motion to approve transferring \$30,000 from the teacher salary line to the building repair and maintenance line. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 P.M. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous
The meeting adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: November 9, 2017

