

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Board Chairperson, Dorothy Cecchinato, Erin Drislane, Amy Dodge, Jayne Fagan-Cosentino and Edwin Gow

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

Dr. R. L. Canady, Cynthia Hochswender (*Lakeville Journal*), Mike Flint (*CATV6*), Stephanie Bosio, Joseph Brennan, Lindsey Crane, Dan Howe, Pam Howe, Tammy Replogle, Denise Sorrell and Gina Terwilliger

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, June 8, 2017 with two changes (insert spaces between two words). Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

#### Communications

Mrs. Riccardelli read a letter to the Board that she received from Craig Minor, State Senator, 30th district. The letter stated that if Governor Malloy's proposal for Educational Cost Sharing goes into effect, it would devastate municipalities throughout the state, including towns in Northwestern Connecticut. State Senator Miner added that he understands the importance of fair funding for education, and he will continue to fight for the communities he represents.

Mrs. Riccardelli read a thank you note she received from Patricia Chamberlain. The letter stated that she wishes to thank the Board for the special tribute given to her for her many years of work in Region One. She stated it has been a pleasure working with everyone on the Board.

#### Teacher Presentation

Miss Keilty made a presentation to the Board on math. She announced that Dr. Canady would also continue speaking on math following her presentation. Miss Keilty first addressed the concern of hiring a long term substitute. Listed below are the steps that were taken when interviewing candidates:

- The goal was to set out looking for a grade 5/6 math teacher.
- Most candidates that applied held K-6 certifications with literacy backgrounds.
- The decision was made to go with the candidate who had a math background.
- The long-term substitute that was hired lives in North Canaan, she is working on getting 4-8 math certification, and she was hired at a BA1 Salary (per diem rate) with no benefits of a certified teacher.

Miss Keilty discussed many items concerning math with the Board. Some of those items are listed below:

- Effective use of time and mapping the curriculum or what will be taught all year.
- Traditional schedules were built by placing the specialist in it first and then letting classroom teachers know when they go to them. Creating a master schedule allows greater flexibility for grouping of students and meeting student needs.
- Making the most of the 390 minutes in the school day.
- If students are not at the proper reading level in grades K-1, reading will be harder for them later.
- Title I, Math Specialist and Special Education teachers can go into classrooms to help students during scheduled blocks.
- Longer blocks of 80 minutes were created in the schedule for math.
- In grade 6 the students master the number system which is divided into units.
- All Region One teachers closely monitor student progress.

Miss Keilty introduced Dr. Canady to the Board and reported that he is a professor emeritus from the University of Virginia, author and national speaker. He presented plans for grouping students in math and ways to help students progress in math. Some of the items he covered in his presentation are listed below:

- He continues to help North Canaan to create a new master schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
- He explained the Standards-Based Instructional Cycle, which is to teach, assess, analyze, and act.
- He reported that Algebra is the most failed course in the United States and fractions are the hardest for ninth graders.
- He reviewed the two-way parallel teaching model.
- He explained four different scheduling strategies the school can use to accommodate Standards-based Learning which are listed below:
  1. Provide a block of time so interventions can occur during class time.
  2. Provide a block of time with two teachers working parallel.
  3. Provide a math team.
  4. Provide a block of time with controlled heterogeneous groupings.

### Region One Report

Dr. Vogel reported to the Board on the last Region One meeting she attended. Some of the highlights of the meeting that she stated are listed below:

- There was positive news on the new schedule including two students who reported they liked the built in flex time.
- There was a discussion on testing in AP classes and that participation is low in Region One.
- Out of 104 graduates at the high school last year, 61 went on to a four year college, 16 to 17 went to a two year college, 16 or 17 went on to a trade, 6 joined the military, and a few did a gap year.

### Principal's Report

Miss Keilty added to her report that she will report on the new grading practices at the October Board meeting.

### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Vogel reported to the Board. Some of the additions that she stated are listed below:

- It was a nice start to the school year.
- All Region One teachers came back on August 23, 2017.
- Ms. Carter welcomed new teachers and mentors to Region One.
- Dr. Vogel addressed teachers on bigotry, happiness, and the importance of kindness.
- Alexia Curtis spoke on her college experience after being a recipient of the Derwin Scholarship.
- Dr. Vogel reported that she and Mr. Herrick welcomed back bus drivers, custodians, and secretaries by holding a meeting with each group to listen to their needs.
- Increasing parent and public communication in Region One will continue this year.
- A regional newsletter will be created. The first issue will be published in October.
- Every four to five weeks the *Lakeville Journal* and the Region One website will have an article written by the superintendent. Her first article was published on Leadership and Smarter Balanced testing.
- On September 12, 2017 at a panel discussion on 2017 Performance Matters, the high school was chosen as the best in Connecticut.
- New North Canaan teachers hired this year are Rachel Gall, seventh and eighth grade science and Lindsey Olownia, fifth grade math.

### Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Carter reported to the Board. Some of the topics she reviewed from her report are listed below:

- It was a very busy summer with teachers working on curriculum mapping and a successful start to the school year.
- Professional Development will start with Dr. Leslie Grant leading a workshop for teachers to review assessment practices. It will continue with reviewing and progress in personalized learning.
- There will be training for 12 selected teachers to do co-evaluations.
- Grading practices have been successfully launched and the grading scale went from number points to letter grades.
- There is an increase in ELL students with North Canaan and Salisbury having the largest populations.
- Dr. Mary O'Neill created an Advisory Board of business people to help students with jobs, shadowing, internship, and college.

### New Business

Miss Keilty reported that to help teachers to become more effective an instructional coach position was created. She stated that teachers went through training to become a coach, and that any teacher can

request a coach. Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the Instructional Coach - Job Description and Compensation of \$1,200 per year. Mrs. Fagan-Cosentino seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Riccardelli read a draft of a resolution concerning ECS funding. She recommended that the Board use this draft to send a letter to the State General Assembly. Mrs. Drislane made a motion to approve the Board writing a letter to the State General Assembly concerning ECS Funding. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Dr. Vogel reported that the Discussion of School Board Election Forum will not be needed, as there are two vacant seats on the North Canaan Board that will be voted on in November.

#### Old Business

Miss Keilty reported to the Board that after working many, long hours on the budget, there was a vote on the town and school budgets on September 5, 2017. She stated that both budgets passed.

Mrs. Drislane made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 P.M. Mrs. Fagan-Cosentino seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: October 12, 2017