

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, April 8, 2010.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01P.M.

Board members present: Dolores Perotti, Chairperson, Dorothy Cecchinato, Laura Freund,
Richard Greco, Beth McGuire, Karen Riccardelli and Shelley Veronesi

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Karen Bartomioli (*Lakeville Journal*), Don Caranci, Bob Gray (*Cable Channel 6*)

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adopt the agenda with one addition (Teacher Request for Student Attendance) under New Business. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to approve the agenda as amended above. Mr. Greco seconded.
Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, March 11, 2010 as written. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Communications

Written

Mrs. Dolores Perotti reported that she received many thank you notes from fifth grade students concerning their Nature's Classroom trip. She read a quote she was touched by from Kyra Cullerton's letter which stated, "Learning in a fun way helps kids learn."

Public Comment

Mr. Caranci reported that he was disappointed in the decision to move his crossing guard location to where he feels there is no need for a crossing guard. He said many people are driving through the stop signs, traveling down a one way street at the wrong time of day, and parking in the fire zones. He made these observations while he was crossing students near the school for the last five days. Mrs. Dolores Perotti thanked Mr. Caranci for coming and making the Board aware of his concerns. Ms. Chamberlain reported that Mr. Caranci should discuss his concerns with the town's First Selectman because the town is his employer.

Mrs. Bartomioli asked three questions concerning the crossing guard issues. Those questions are listed below:

1. Why was the crossing guard moved to a crosswalk where no cars drive?
2. When was the decision to move the crossing guard made?
3. Why are people parking in the fire zone lanes?

Mrs. Bartomioli stated that she would like answers to these three questions. Mrs. Dolores Perotti reported that the Board's Transportation committee will get together with Miss Keilty and Mr. Humes .

Region I Report

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

- Damon Osora and Diane Goncalves read their letters to the Board concerning an email sent out to Board members.
- AgEd Open House will be held on May 19 and May 20.
- A Rabies Clinic will be held at HVRHS.
- "Mr. Housatonic" will be held at the end of May.
- Student art work will be displayed in the Hunt library.
- The music department will travel to Florida.
- U.S. Rep. Christopher Murphy visited HVRHS on April 6, 2010.
- Dr. Buchanan gave a Power Point presentation on the success of the PBIS program.
- Mr. Manning reported on health insurance which was discussed at two ABC meetings.
- The Long Range Plan has now been completed.
- A Sourwood Tree was planted for the class of 1951.
- Ms. Goncalves reported on the K-2 Curriculum Council.
- Rebecca Gaschel-Clark gave a Power Point presentation on the Region I Preschool program.
- Carl Gross reported on Pupil Services staff attending seminars and conferences on Special Education Law and Regulation Changes.
- Dr. Foster reported that CAPT testing was completed during March.
- Ms. Goncalves recognized Cindy Fuller for her support with the HVRHS Robotics Team.

Principal's Report

Miss Keilty reviewed with the Board a letter she had written concerning safety issues that are being addressed with the Fire Marshal.

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

- A letter was received from Raynard & Pierce Insurance Company concerning a forthcoming MIRMA assessment dated July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2009 and the Board of Finance suggests that the Board may have to pay for part of this bill.

- \$34,140 in Heating Supplies may not be spent because the school will not use the budgeted amount of fuel oil.
- There will be approximately \$9,913 in savings on the electricity line.
- \$1,227 will be used on the curriculum development line for teachers finishing courses.
- Attorney fees for upcoming negotiation of the teacher contract will be paid from the Board of Education Services line.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain stated that April is Autism Awareness Month, and she reported that the odds of diagnosis on the autism spectrum is 1 in every 150 births and continues to rise.

Ms. Chamberlain reported to the Board that CAFE has reported that The Connecticut Supreme Court has ruled in favor of the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding claim that students have a right to "*educational adequacy*" and is an appropriate issue for the courts to address.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the ABC committee has met and explored insurance bids and Aetna sounds very interesting. She stated that there could be \$400,000 in savings if all of the Region I groups participate and work in this area is ongoing and evolving.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that if the Seat Belts on School Buses bill passes all new buses will require seatbelts.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that the high school budget has a 1.79% increase overall and the vote will be on May 4, 2010.

Ms. Chamberlain reported that "Grease" went well and every night was sold out.

Ms. Chamberlain announced that high school graduation will be held on Friday, June 18, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. and North Canaan's graduation will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

New Business

Mrs. Dolores Perotti read a letter she received from Geoff and LeighAnn Merrill. The letter stated that they would like their children Victoria and Patrick to have the opportunity to be enrolled at North Canaan for the 2010-2011 school year. Mrs. McGuire made a motion to allow Patrick and Victoria Merrill to attend North Canaan Elementary School for the next school year (2010-2011) as long as their class sizes can accommodate them. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Miss Keilty reported that the school lunch program is in balance and making a small profit. Salaries are being reimbursed to the town regularly. An average of 214 lunches per day are being served.

Mrs. Bartomioli questioned the Board as to why the Principal's Report is not read at the public meeting. Miss Keilty reported that Board members read it ahead to save time at the meeting, and she will be glad to provide extra copies at future meetings for the public.

Miss Keilty reported that the 2010-2011 school budget is complete except final insurance figures and fuel oil.

Miss Keilty reported that she did some research concerning a Non-certified Staff Retirement Incentive. She stated that she found it would not be cost effective because the contract does not have salary steps, and therefore, that a new employee would be hired at the same salary. She reported that one employee was interested and health insurance would be an incentive.

All Board members agreed to have a Board Retreat and Meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. at Geer Village. Patricia Chamberlain, Laura Freund, Marjorie Gandolfo, Francine Lavoie, Martha Scott, Rosemary Keilty, Sam Herrick, Diane Goncalves, Carl Gross and Martha Schwaikert were invited to attend.

Ms. Chamberlain made a recommendation to the Board to appoint at least two Board members for the upcoming North Canaan Teacher Contract Negotiations Committee. She also made a recommendation to appoint Craig Meuser as the Board's attorney for the negotiation of the contract. Mrs. McGuire made a motion to appoint Craig Meuser to be the Board's attorney for the North Canaan Teacher Negotiations. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Mrs. McGuire made a motion to appoint the Board's team members (Laurie Perotti, Karen Riccardelli, Shelley Veronesi and Susan Warner) and invite a Board of Finance committee member for the negotiating of the contract. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed the C.A.B.E. Nutmeg article concerning the Nutmeg Board dealing with transportation of students to private schools. Some of the things that the Nutmeg Board did wrong were discussed and are listed below:

- Held a meeting without posting it.
- Sent email with questions and answers, which is an illegal meeting.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 P.M. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous
The meeting adjourned at 8:21P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Gandolfo

Approved: May 1, 2010

