

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M.

Board members present: Karen Riccardelli, Chairperson, Dorothy Cecchinato, Amy Dodge, Michael Ellington, Jane Fagan-Cosentino, Edwin Gow, and Susan Warner

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Pamela Vogel, Assistant Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to amend the agenda under New Business to read, E. Motion to Request from the Town the services of a Civil Engineer and Surveyor. Mrs. Fagan-Cosentino seconded. Vote: Unanimous

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

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes, dated May 31, 2016 as written. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Communication

Board

Mrs. Warner made a suggestion to the principal on behalf of the Canaan Beautification members to have students paint the windows of businesses in the downtown area. Miss Keilty reported that she will have the art teacher contact a member to discuss the project.

Mrs. Fagan-Cosentino made a suggestion that it would be a good idea to close off traffic in the West Main Street neighborhood so children can enjoy Halloween safely. She also recommended that the school and the community get together to donate candy for Halloween to families in this neighborhood and other high trick or treat traffic areas of town. Ms. Chamberlain said that the town would have to make the decision to close roads but forming a committee with a teacher and students to have a candy collection would be acceptable.

Region I Report

Mr. Gow reported that no Region I meeting has been held yet in September, and it has been a very busy summer working on the Lighthouse Project. He also shared that he read a very good book called "*Our Iceberg is Melting*" by John Kotter, and he would be glad to loan it to any Board member.

Principal's Report

Miss Keilty added to her monthly report that Dolores Perotti and the "beautification babes" did a wonderful job weeding the front of the school and the courtyard. She suggested sending a thank you letter to Dolores and the group on behalf of the Board. All Board members agreed a thank you letter would be kind.

Superintendent/Assistant's Report

Ms. Chamberlain noted that the monthly reports of the superintendent and assistant superintendent will be combined this year, as Dr. Vogel works to get ready for her new position as superintendent.

Ms. Chamberlain recommended to the Board that Mellisa Melaragno be hired as a grade 5/6 math teacher at a BA1 salary of \$39,918. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to hire Mellisa Melaragno at BA1 \$39,918. Mr. Ellington seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Chamberlain recommended to the Board that Laurabeth Davidson be hired as a grade 4 teacher at a BA1 salary of \$39,918. Mrs. Warner made a motion to hire Laurabeth Davidson at BA1 \$39,918. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Dr. Vogel reported that it was a very busy summer working with the Early Literacy Groups of each school in the Region as well as curriculum work that was completed. Mrs. Warner and Board members congratulated Dr. Vogel on her new upcoming position as superintendent.

Old Business

Miss Keilty reported that the school counselor completed course work, an internship, and fulfilled the requirements for state certification. She received the license from the State in late August. Miss Keilty added that she is working with the Teacher's Certified Bargaining Unit to place the counselor on the salary scale. More information on the salary will be brought to the next Board meeting.

Miss Keilty reported that when finalizing the middle school schedule in late June, after reviewing end of year data, it became clear that three instructional groups in one grade would be most effective as opposed to the planned two groups. Consequently, the .75 position would carry the same teaching load as a full time (FTE 1) teacher. She requested a motion to restore social studies to a full time position. Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to restore social studies to a full time (FTE 1) position. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

New Business

Miss Keilty reported that the 2016-2017 Interschool Agreement for the school lunch/breakfast program needs the superintendent's signature to verify that the school is following the state policy statement. Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve participating in the National School Lunch/Breakfast Program and having the superintendent sign the agreement. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed the C.A.B.E. Nutmeg Article concerning the Nutmeg Board dealing with a breach of its computer system.

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion for the principal to write a letter to the First Selectman requesting that the town utilize the services of the Civil Engineer and Surveyor it retains for other projects. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 P.M. Mrs. Cecchinato seconded. Vote: Unanimous
The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Gandolfo

Approved: October 13, 2016