

The North Canaan Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, October 8, 2009.

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

Board members present: Martha Scott, Chairperson, Dorothy Cecchinato, Laura Freund, Richard Greco, Beth McGuire, Laurie Perotti, Dolores Perotti and Susan Warner

Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Rosemary Keilty, Principal

Karen Bartomioli (*Lakeville Journal*), Amanda Bierce, Juliana Bonett, Evan Bosio, Stephanie Bosio, Ryan Brown, Trevor Dakers, Krista Flynn-Padelli, Damen Futrell, Patrick Gordon, Linda Gould, Tristan Heath, Alyssa Labbadia, Nicholas Labbadia, Christine Opgenorth, Gary Orrell, Matthew Orrell, Christopher Pratt, Sonia Sawtelle-Padelli, Tiffany Schmidt, Jenifer Serna, Jessica Serna, Tristan Soule, Kelly Sprague and Kenneth Weaver

Mrs. Warner made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Mrs. McGuire seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Cecchinato made a motion to approve the minutes dated, September 10, 2009 as written. Mrs. Dolores Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous Mrs. Warner abstained.

Communications

Board Comment

Mrs. Warner reported that she read many articles in the newspaper concerning the controversy over Region I students listening to the president's speech to students. She inquired how the staff at North Canaan Elementary School handled the situation. Miss Keilty reported that by the time she heard about the speech (from a parent who called to ask if there was an opt out), it was dismissal time on Thursday and Friday was the start of a long holiday weekend. It was therefore too late to notify parents before showing the speech live. In addition, the news websites initially said the broadcast would take place at Noon and would run about 45 minutes. More advance warning would be needed to change student lunches, set up the technology to have the entire school view it, etc.. She stated that the school made it available to the staff and teachers decided when to show it to their classes after parent notification. Ms. Chamberlain reported that lack of information and time was also the factor in the decision not to show the speech live at the high school.

Region I Report

Ms. Freund reported on the last Region I meeting she attended. Some of the highlights of that meeting included the following:

- Student representatives reported on activities such as the Big E, Goshen Fair and fundraising.
- A tree will be planted in memory of Kaelan Paton near the science wing.
- High school graduation will be held on June 18, 2010.
- The homecoming game and dance will be held on October 24, 2009.

- The long range planning report will be edited and then publicized soon.
- Mr. Gross reported on professional development for special education.
- Dr. Foster reported on NEASC.
- CAPT scores continue to improve at the high school.
- PBIS is going well.
- A field trip was approved for the high school travel club to go to Switzerland and Italy in July 2010.
- A new course has been added to the high school curriculum called Career Pathways.

Education Connection

Mrs. Scott reported on the last Education Connection meeting she attended. She stated that it was a very interesting meeting as they discussed new grants. She reported that a grant writer had been hired because grants are so competitive today and there is an art to writing them.

Principal's Report

Miss Keilty reported that PBS is working well at North Canaan Elementary. She stated that the school is in the second year of the program and is promoting safety, respect and responsibility as its core values. She also announced that students have been trying really hard to get slips for good behavior so they can be in the prize drawing which occurs every Friday afternoon.

Miss Keilty made a smart board presentation on North Canaan's 2009 Connecticut Mastery Test scores. Some of the highlights of her presentation included the following:

- The faculty meets as a whole, a grade level, and as a team to review the scores.
- The results are discussed with students.
- The breakfast and pep rally will continue.
- Teachers strive to get all students to goal or advanced.
- Grades 5 and 8 also have a science test.
- Within the DRG (District Reference Group) North Canaan is one of 16 school districts and is compared with other schools/scores in the DRG.

Miss Keilty reviewed the scores in comparison to last year in each grade level for math, reading and writing. She stated that she will continue her presentation on Connecticut Mastery Tests at the November Board meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Chamberlain added to her written monthly report. Some of the items she discussed are noted below:

- North Canaan does very well with the State's Education Cost Sharing grant.
- A list of new teachers at the high school for the 2009-2010 school year was reviewed.
- The athletic fund did well with the Steve Blass golf and dinner tournament.
- Board members are invited to the CABA/CAPPS convention which will be held on November 20-21, 2009.

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed the 2010-2011 regional calendar with Board members. She stated that they could give her input on the calendar, and she will take it back to the Region I Board. She also reported that she will discuss the 2010-2011 calendar again at the November Board meeting. Mrs. Dolores Perotti noted that there should be a day off in March by moving a teacher workshop day to that month.

New Business

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to table policy #5141.26 Students with Special Health Care Needs until next month. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The Board had a first reading on policy #5117 Attendance at Out-of-District High Schools, policy #5121 Care of Books, Supplies and Equipment, policy #5122 Assignment to Groups and policy #5143 Insurance.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to table policy #5141a Vaccination and Immunization until next month. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Dolores Perotti made a motion to approve renewing the Authorized Signers of the ED -099 Agreement for the Child Nutrition Program. Mrs. Warner seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Chamberlain reviewed the C.A.B.E. article concerning attempts to supplement budget shortfalls. She reported that because of State Statute students are not required to buy supplies and teachers cannot be charged for parking unless the fee is negotiated.

The Board took a break from 8:42 P.M. until 8:55 P.M.

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to go into executive session at 8:56 P.M. Mrs. Dolores Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous Miss Keilty and Ms. Chamberlain were invited.

Mr. Greco made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:20 P.M. Mrs. Dolores Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The Board reconvened to its regular meeting at 9:21 P.M.

Mrs. Dolores Perotti made a motion to ratify the AFSCME, AFL-CIO Collective Bargaining Agreement dated July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011. Mr. Greco seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adjourn at 9:23 P.M. Mrs. Dolores Perotti seconded. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Gandolfo

Approved: November 12, 2009

