



**North Canaan Board of Education**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 [www.nceschool.org](http://www.nceschool.org)

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*The North Canaan Board of Education met in the library  
at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.*

**A meeting was held:** Lindsey Crane, Amy Dodge, Stephannie Grant, Christopher Jacques, Gina Terwilliger, and Caitlin Tomko

**Others present:** Beth Johnson, Principal; Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent (Virtually); and Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent (Virtually).

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mrs. Dodge.

**II. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the November 18, 2025 and December 9, 2025, meeting minutes, as written. Mrs. Grant seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Gina Terwilliger, and Caitlin Tomko.

**III. Public Comment - None**

**IV. Communications - None**

**V. Benchmark presentation by Dena Noubleau -**

Dena Noubleau, a teacher at NCES, provided a slide presentation explaining the Benchmark curriculum. Benchmark is currently being taught in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 4 at NCES. Mrs. Noubleau explained that every grade level focuses on the same core content within each unit. Beginning in Pre-kindergarten, students learn basic concepts, and as they move to higher grade levels, the information becomes more detailed and challenging. This layered approach helps students build understanding over time. Some of the content areas included in these benchmark lessons are life science, government, technology, history, geography, and earth science. These concepts are learned through whole group instruction, small group differentiated, and independent practice.

**VI. Region One Report - There were no inquiries by the Board from previous meetings.**

**VII. All Boards Chair (ABC) Report - There were no inquiries by the Board from previous meetings.**

**XIII. Projected Enrollment 2026-2027**

Mrs. Johnson reported how many students are expected in each grade for the 2026-2027 school year. Mrs. Johnson explained that the PreK, EK, and K numbers will change

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according to new enrollments. NCES will have Kindergarten registration in February this year instead of April in order to determine how many teachers will be needed in the coming year.

#### **IX. NESDEC Enrollment Projections Reports for 25-26**

Superintendent Brady-Shanley presented virtually to report on the NESDEC enrollment projections.

#### **X. Presentation on the Region-Wide K-8 Transition to Common Emails by Mike Ellington and Superintendent Brady-Shanley.**

Mr. Ellington presented a video to the Board regarding the transition for all the Region One schools to have a common email. He presented pros and cons of the transition. Some of the benefits to have a common email for all students and staff would be to have a unified digital campus; purchasing bulk discounts and saving money for software and technology purchases; continuity for staff movement throughout the Region One schools; students being able to keep all their portfolios throughout their elementary and high school years; and for security purposes. Mr. Ellington and Superintendent Brady-Shanley answered questions from the Board. The costs involved for this fiscal year would be \$417.00 and the 2026-2027 school year would have to be budgeted for a \$7,938 one time cost to switch licenses to the new platform. The Board discussed and decided to place a vote to move forward with transitioning NCES to a common email with Region One.

Mr. Jacques made a motion to the Board to transition North Canaan Elementary School to the Region-Wide common emails. Mrs. Dodge seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Gina Terwilliger, and Caitlin Tomko.

#### **XI. Action**

##### **A. Student Tuition Waiver -**

Mrs Dodge made a motion to the Board to waive the tuition fee prescribed in Policy #5118 for the 2026-2027 school year for the nonresident student who is currently enrolled as a child of a staff member. Mrs. Grant seconded. The vote was approved if the nonresident student does not make the classroom require another teacher due to enrollment size. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Gina Terwilliger, and Caitlin Tomko.

##### **B. Establishment of the North Canaan Building Committee -**

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the Board to establish a North Canaan Building Committee. Mrs. Johnson discussed the need for a structured, long-term approach to maintenance and improvements. Mrs. Johnson went on to explain the importance of prioritizing building needs based on safety, urgency, and budgetary considerations, as well as the value of transparency and thoughtful planning. As a result, she requested the formation of a Building Committee composed of Board members and local community members that are knowledgeable to evaluate the school and develop a comprehensive five-year facilities plan. This plan will identify projects and repairs that need to be addressed within the current year, within the next two years, and within the next five years. The committee will be responsible for assessing facility conditions, establishing priorities, estimating costs, and presenting recommendations to the Board to guide future decision-making. Mrs. Grant seconded.

Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Gina Terwilliger, and Caitlin Tomko.

**XII. Administrative Reports -**

The links for the Principal's Report, Assistant Superintendent's Report, and the Superintendent's Report are listed in the agenda. The Board did not have any questions.

**XIII. Public Comment -**

Superintendent Brady-Shanley wanted to remind families, staff and the grade-appointed students to continue to participate in the four separate Grading Practices Surveys that are currently being administered: one for parents/guardians, one for staff, one for current students, and one for post-graduates. To date there have been 224 families, 58 post graduates, 407 Middle school/high school students and 95 staff members that have participated.

**XIV. Adjournment -**

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Grant, Mr. Jacques, Gina Terwilliger, and Caitlin Tomko.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Rooney

Approved: February 19, 2026