



North Canaan Board of Education
MEETING MINUTES
90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 www.nceschool.org

*The North Canaan Board of Education met in the library
at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 19, 2026.*

A meeting was held: Lindsey Crane, Amy Dodge, Christopher Jacques, Brooke Riva, Gina Terwilliger, and Caitlin Tomko.

Others present: Beth Johnson, Principal and Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Mrs. Dodge.

II. Consent Agenda

Mr. Jacques made a motion to approve the January 13, 2026 meeting minutes, as written. Mrs. Riva seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, Mrs. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Tomko.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Communications - None

V. Bridges presentation by Sarah Ponkos -

Sarah Ponkos, a teacher at NCES, provided a slide presentation explaining the Bridges curriculum. Bridges is currently being taught in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 4 at NCES. Mrs. Ponkos outlined the goals and philosophy of the Bridges Curriculum, emphasizing conceptual understanding and problem-solving. Mrs. Ponkos also explained that Bridges emphasizes a balanced approach to mathematics instruction. The curriculum integrates hands-on learning, visual models and interactive mini lessons during daily instruction. It encourages students to explain their thinking and develop multiple strategies for solving problems.

VI. Region One Reports - There were no questions from the Board

VII. All Boards Chair Report - There were no questions from the Board.

VIII. Discussion to pick a date for Board members to attend a Budget workshop for the North Canaan Elementary School Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.

The Board decided to meet on February 26, 2026 at 6:30pm at the NCES School Library.

IX. Board Policies (first reading) -

There was a first reading for policies 5113.13 Work-Study Student Employment Work Release; Service Animals and the Transitions Policies for Region One - 2131 Superintendent of

Schools; 2200 Administrative Operations; 2220 Representative and Deliberate Groups; 2230 Control and Communication Channels & Systems; 2231 Policy and Regulations Systems; and 2410 Administrative Organization. Mrs. Dodge made a motion to approve the above Transition Policies for Region One, 2000 Series for Adoption. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, Mrs. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Tomko.

X. Action

A. Student Tuition Waiver -

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to waive the tuition fee prescribed in Policy #5118 for the 2026-2027 school year for the nonresident student who is currently enrolled in PreK as a child of a staff member if it doesn't require hiring another teacher. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, Mrs. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Tomko.

B. North Canaan Building Committee Board member assignment -

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to assign Lindsey Crane and Gina Terwilliger to be appointed to the North Canaan Building Committee. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, Mrs. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Tomko.

C. New Hire

1. Hiring of a 3rd grade teacher

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the Board to hire Christine Lauretano with a BA 7 Step as a 3rd grade teacher. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, Mrs. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Tomko.

2. Hiring of a School Counselor

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the Board to hire Hunter Merrill as a School Counselor as a .4 FTE. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, Mrs. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Tomko.

D. Policies -

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to the Board to approve policies 4152.6 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), 0521 Nondiscrimination, 6161.12 Library Material Review and Reconsideration, 6161.13 Library Collection Development and Maintenance, 2100 Administrative Staff Organization, 2112 Professional Development, 2121 Lines of Responsibility, 2210 Administrative Leeway in Absence of Board Policy, and 2300 Code of Ethics. Mr. Jacques seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, Mrs. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Tomko.

XI. 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.

XII. Public Comment - None

XIII. Adjournment -

Mrs. Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. Mrs. Riva seconded. Vote: 6-yes Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Dodge, Mr. Jacques, Mrs. Riva, Mrs. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Tomko.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Rooney

Approved: March 10, 2026