

NEW CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

GENERAL MEETING

NEW CANAAN HIGH SCHOOL ~ WAGNER ROOM/HYBRID

June 7, 2021

7:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair, Mr.. Hayes, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Attendance:

	Carlson	Gardiner	Hayes	Naughton	Parkhill	Rashin	Reeves	Richardson	West
Present	✓ (remote)	✓	✓	✓ (remote)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Absent					✓				

II. Minutes Approval

May 17, 2021 - Regular Meeting

Ms. Richardson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Rashin.

	Carlson	Gardiner	Hayes	Naughton	Parkhill	Rashin	Reeves	Richardson	West
Yes		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
No									
Abstain	✓								

III. Review and approve Agenda: June 7, 2021

Ms. Rashin moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Reeves.

	Carlson	Gardiner	Hayes	Naughton	Parkhill	Rashin	Reeves	Richardson	West
Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
No									
Abstain									

IV. Public Comments

A member of the public requested that the Board come to a resolution on School Start Times that has no school starting earlier than 8:00am.

V. Reports and Recognition

A. CABA Award Recognition

Dr. Bryan Luizzi

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education recognizes two seniors for their Student Leadership each year.

The first winner was Edmund “Teddy” DeClue. He is an AP Scholar with Honors and is described as an intelligent, engaged and dynamic student. He was a Captain of the football team and volunteered for the Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He is an amazing role model for others and will be attending Colby College in the fall.

The second winner was Valentina Zamora. She has completed a rigorous course of studies over her high school career and is described as prepared, knowledgeable and having a “can-do” attitude. She is a talented violin player, Captain of the Model UN team, Co-President of the Human Rights Club and volunteers for the League of Women’s Voters. She will be attending Tufts University in the fall.

B. Recognition of 2021 Retirees

Dr. Luizzi

Dr. Luizzi recognized three retirees this year. The first was Laura Craighead, Social Worker at West School. Since 2016, she has helped students develop tools for emotional intelligence. She will continue to help children through her private practice.

Diance Murphy-Kevell has been the athletic trainer at the high school since 1982. She was a pioneer, mentored many interns, and advised and assisted many families and students. Her colleagues, students and their families created a video to thank her for all her hard work and efforts over the years.

Lastly, he recognized Jeanne McDonagh. She began at the high school in 1981 as an art teacher and became a master teacher and trustworthy advisor to her students and colleagues. Her accomplishments as a teacher and an artist were captured in a video by students and staff.

C. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Luizzi, Cabinet, Ms. Vivian Birdsall

The district continues to see great trends and the vaccines have definitely contributed. After weeks of no COVID cases, there is one positive staff case at the high school but the staff member had not had contact with students. Vaccines are still being offered for those who would still like to receive it.

Ms. Birdsall, President of the NCEA, spoke about the last year as it related to teaching. Echoing Dr. Luizzi’s praise of the partnership between the Board and the NCEA, she expressed how the teachers and administration have worked together with respect, professionalism and trust. It was an exhausting year for everyone, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. She thanked the Board for their support through the pandemic and for their commitment that all students would have a top level education through all the difficulties.

D. Statement of Accounts

Dr. Jo-Ann Keating

As of May 31, 2021 80.6 percent of the budget has been expended with 15.5 percent of the budget encumbered. Salaries make up 75 percent of the encumbered funds. The 3.9 percent of the budget that is not spent will cover substitute teachers, stipends, utilities and overtime. Dr. Keating estimates that one million dollars will be returned to the Town. In the report are \$404,681 in expenditures and another \$5,543 encumbered for COVID-related expenses which have been booked against the operating budget. Transfers include \$61,920 for new Science Furniture at the middle school and a transfer of \$68,750 to fund the replacement of 25 Smart Digital Boards. A transfer of \$10,000 was also made from Facilities Supplies to Technology Equipment for a STEM pilot project.

VI. Action Items

Food Services Agreement

Move to accept the tentative agreement with the New Canaan Food Services Association.

Mr. Gardiner moved to approve, seconded by Ms. Rashin.

	Carlson	Gardiner	Hayes	Naughton	Parkhill	Rashin	Reeves	Richardson	West
Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
No									
Abstain									

Administrative Assistant’s Agreement

Move to accept the tentative agreement with the New Canaan Administrative Assistants’ Association.

Ms. Reeves moved to approve, seconded by Ms. Richardson.

	Carlson	Gardiner	Hayes	Naughton	Parkhill	Rashin	Reeves	Richardson	West
Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
No									
Abstain									

XII. Adjournment

Ms. Richardson moved to adjourn at 10:25 P.M. seconded by Ms. Rashin.

	Carlson	Gardiner	Hayes	Naughton	Parkhill	Rashin	Reeves	Richardson	West
Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
No									
Abstain									

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Julie Reeves
Board of Education Secretary