

**NEW CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL MEETING  
NEW CANAAN HIGH SCHOOL ~ WAGNER ROOM  
June 21, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair, Ms. Parkhill, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Attendance:

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

**II. Action Item:**

*Election of Board of Education Secretary to serve unexpired term due to Ms. Reeves' departure from the Board, who is moving out of state and is unable to serve.*

**Call for nominations Dr. Bryan Luizzi**

**Ms. Parkhill nominated Ms. Richardson for Secretary, seconded by Ms. Rashin.**

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

**III. Minutes Approval**

**May 25, 2021, May 26, 2021 and June 7, 2021**

*May 25, 2021*

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

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

*May 26, 2021*

Mr. Naughton moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Rashin.

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

Abstain	✓								
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June 7, 2021

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

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

**IV. Review and approve Agenda: June 21, 2021**

Ms. Carlson moved to amend the agenda to remove the motion for the New Board of Education Policy #1101, “Electronic Meeting Policy,” for a first reading. Seconded by Mr. Naughton.

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

Ms. Carlson moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ms. West..

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

**V. Public Comments**

Members of the public spoke about masks being optional when school begins next year. They felt the side effects of wearing masks were both physical and psychological and that wearing a mask could be socially prohibitive. In addition, they felt students should not be segregated by those wearing masks and those who are not. Requirements for parents to be able to volunteer in schools was a topic of conversation and it was discussed that it should not be limited to those who are vaccinated.

**VI. Reports and Recognition**

**A. COVID-19 Year End Report**

**Dr. Luizzi**

Dr. Luizzi gave an overview of the draft of the COVID-19 Year End Report. The data highlighted 371 COVID cases, 2,234 Quarantines, 16 Testing Events, 15 Vaccination Clinics, more than 50 communications, and an overall staff vaccination rate of 92%. Overall, there was a low community spread student to student with a few exceptions. There were 150,000 hits on the COVID website and mitigation strategies were extremely important in keeping the numbers low. The district used 2,000 units of hand sanitizer, 4,700 face shields, 30,000 masks, 4,500 feet of custom partitions, and 5,100 tubs of wipes. There were 660 unique permanent distance learners and schools were fully closed only 3% of the time. The district adjusted the quarantine guidelines as the CDC updated their recommendations. The data was also broken down by school with a letter from each principal

and student reflections were also included. Dr. Luizzi would like to have all the information disseminated by the end of the week and published to the website.

**B. Enrollment Update**

**Dr. Correnty**

As of May, the parent data verification rate is 94% which is important for the enrollment process. The administration is meeting bi-weekly with the elementary principals to discuss enrollment and possible increases in sections where necessary. The elementary school enrollment is monitored closely.

The overall enrollment for the district is currently at 4,070 which is 25 less than NESDEC projections. At the elementary schools, they are keeping an eye on kindergarten enrollment which is currently eight students under enrollment projections. At the middle school, Grade 5 enrollment is up 20 students over projections and six over projected in Grades 5 -8. At the high school, the incoming freshman enrollment is 351 which is still seven under projected enrollment. The high school currently has 27 students under enrollment projections.

**C. Preliminary Considerations for 2021-22**

**Dr. Luizzi & Cabinet**

Dr. Luizzi presented the COVID-19 Community Service Plan for 2021-22 which is a living document that is continuously evolving. Mitigation strategies will continue to follow Health Department requirements and will follow mandates as required by law, but hopeful that masks will not be required in school as long as COVID numbers remain low. Physical distancing will continue in all classrooms as best practice, but students will return to specialized classrooms (art, music, PE). Students will be cohorted where possible and sanitation stations will still be available for students. Cleaning will be maintained and the improved ventilation will continue in all classrooms. Contact tracing, isolation and quarantining will continue but fully vaccinated individuals are not expected to quarantine or isolate if they remain asymptomatic. Diagnostic screening will continue to be offered to staff and students and vaccination efforts will continue for any staff or student who is eligible. There will be no need for remote learning next year and the weekly schedule will no longer have a half day Wednesday for professional development. For lunch, students will be back in the cafeteria and no longer using the gyms. Space will be maximized and cohorts will be encouraged to remain together. For outdoor recess, masks will not be required and playground equipment can once again be shared (and will be cleaned). Bus transportation will resume to typical capacity, windows will remain open and highly touched areas will be cleaned. Requirements for parent volunteers in schools continue to be developed so that all parents wishing to assist can be included.

**D. School Start & End Times Update**

**Dr. Luizzi & Cabinet**

Mr. Walder and the administration continued to work on the problem with the first tier and are trying to get them to the 8:00 am start time. Dr. Luizzi announced that he is confident that we can get to an 8:00 am start. This does move the high school to 8:35, Grade 7/8 to 8:40 am and Grade 5/6 to 9:20 am.

The administration will be riding the different bus routes over the summer and the district is looking to purchase two Type 2 buses (smaller buses). Purchasing the two additional smaller buses will allow us to use In-House drivers and Dattco will still be able to service the buses. These buses can also be used for sport transportation and for the LAUNCH program transportation.

The district is still working on getting the 5/6 route closer to 9:00 am and the high school closer to 8:30 am. The transition time of physically getting on and off the bus is very important and high school students will be asked to opt out of the bus if they choose not to ride it.

**VII. Action Items**

- A. *Move to adopt letter from Chairman Parkhill as an official statement from the New Canaan Board of Education to the faculty and staff of the New Canaan Public School in recognition of their efforts throughout the pandemic.*

Ms. Rashin moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ms. Richardson..

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

- B. *Move to transfer \$126,000 to the Equipment Object for the purchase of two Type II buses from the Salary Object; \$100,000 from the teachers account and \$26,000 from the stipends account.*

Ms. West moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ms. Richardson..

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

**VIII. Public Comments**

Members of the public asked that additional data be added to the COVID report including the number of student cases that were asymptomatic, number of students that were hospitalized and that no students died. They asked the Board to look into the data behind natural immunity and how it would affect vaccination rates and parent volunteers that would like to volunteer in the school. They thanked the Board for being flexible as CDC requirements change and COVID data becomes more available.

**VII. Announcements and Future Business**

Next BOE Meeting: July 12, 2021

**VIII. Adjournment**

Ms. West moved to adjourn at 9:02 PM, seconded by Ms. Rashin.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Jennifer Richardson  
Board of Education Secretary