



Canaan Community Academy
Board Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Mission Statement: To Ensure Proper and Effective School Management

1. **Call to Order** – The board meeting was called to order by Board President David Herring at 6:35 p.m.
 - A. **Verify Quorum** – David Herring, Julie Stockman, Nickie Backus, Kenny Miller
 - B. **Moment of Silence**
 - C. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Routine Matters**
 - A. **Approval of Agenda, May 21, 2019, Regular Meeting** – Kenny Miller made a motion to approve the agenda for the May 21, 2019 Regular Meeting. Nickie Backus seconded the motion to approve the agenda for the May 21, 2019 Regular Meeting. Approved 3-0
 - B. **Approval of May 9, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes** – Julie Stockman moved the motion to approve the May 9, 2019, Board Meeting Minutes; Nickie Backus seconded the motion to approve the May 9, 2019, Board Meeting Minutes: Approved 3-0
3. **Presentation by Brent Comer, Equitable Education Solutions for School Improvement Grant** – Brent Comer works with Equitable Education Solutions and serves our consultant for the School Improvement Grant.

Brent has had the blessing to go into lots of different schools and believes that this is an amazing place and there is no place like Canaan. Brent believes that the school has everything here and ready to go. Canaan has qualified for a grant and for that grant certain areas of improvement need to be identified. Brent is here to help facilitate the plan and willing to give advice and recommendations. The definite identified areas of improvement (concern) are Math and English Language Arts. The test scores and areas of assessment have continued to show a steady decline over the past three years. Test scores have had a 30% decline over the past three years. Proficiency has declined, we need to see growth. We don't need all students to pass the tests, we just need to have the belief set that all students can grow. We should have high expectations for all students to show growth (including high ability, average, and special education students). There is an issue with curriculum. The three main things that schools need to focus on is: what you teach, how you teach, and reading.

What You Teach: The curriculum is fragmented; a better flowing of curriculum is needed. Curriculum needs to reflect the ideas and vision of the staff and where they want kids to go.

How You Teach: Schools must look at instructional practices with kids, students need to have higher level thinking skills. We have to get the kids back to being true thinkers instead of just repeating knowledges and facts. Teachers work hard and love all students in their classrooms. Failure is a necessary component of learning. Investigating instruction is the second area that Canaan needs to work on. There are key elements to instruction that make things soar. The beauty of a small school is that it doesn't take much change in instruction to show growth.

The school has a unique governing board that pitches in whenever help is needed.

Curriculum should be aligned and is key in the progress and revisiting instruction is also needed. Classroom teachers will need to decide what grades will introduce, reteach, and master topics of instruction. We will have to meet the students where they are to show growth. The teachers will need to meet to discuss horizontal alignment of curriculum. The difficult part is aligning project-based learning and meeting the instructional needs of students. A well-aligned curriculum shouldn't have to be supplemented with a textbook series. Teachers cannot teach all the state standards to mastery level in a

year. Prioritize the standards that are important. Students should be assessed by asking them to hypothesize and argue their thinking.

It's more of a shift of foundational recall knowledge. The instructional time with kids needs to be spent with teachers asking higher-level thinking questions. Teachers need to ask questions that require students to think, questions that don't have a wrong answer, as long as the students have evidence or thoughts as to why their answer is right. Students should be able to learn from their failure and focus on their progress. The teachers should be the models of what they are asking their students to do. One of the questions that needs to be asked multiple times throughout the day to students, "What made you say that?" Children need to verbalize their thinking to realize themselves the step they missed. Children need to be more independent in thought.

Becoming really great and having good instructional strategies doesn't cost any money.

4. Chief Administrative Officer Report – Mrs. Rhonda Pennington

A. Promotion and Retention Policy – The only change made was to update the language from ISTEP+ to state standardized assessment.

5. Action Items

A. Promotion and Retention Policy – Jerry Eaton moved the motion to approve the Promotion and Retention Policy. Julie Stockman seconded the motion to approve the Promotion and Retention Policy. Approved 3-0

6. Public Comments – None

7. Board Member Comments – None

8. Adjournment – The Board Meeting was adjourned by Board President, David Herring, at 8:22 pm.

Board Secretary Approval: _____

Date: _____

Notes taken and submitted by:
Megan Ritz, Chief Operations Officer