

**Canterbury Board of Education**  
**45 Westminster Road**  
**Canterbury, Connecticut**

**Board of Education (BOE) Retreat Minutes**

**April 27, 2016**

**Location of Meeting:** Canterbury Community Center,  
1 Municipal Drive, Canterbury, CT

**Scheduled Time of Retreat:** 4 pm- 7 pm

**BOE Members In Attendance:**

Walt Petruniw, Stephen Brown, John Gentry, and Leticia Velasquez

**Absent:**

Christopher Lippke, Nancy Duvall, Vivian Thumser

**Quorum:**

Obtained at 4:45 pm upon arrival of Leticia Velasquez

**Others Present:**

Dr. Lois Knapton, Superintendent; Sarah Cary, CES Principal; Ryan Earley, BMS Principal; Jodi Davis, Special Education Director; and Janice Thurlow, Finance Director.

**A. Roundtable discussion:**

Retreat roundtable discussion started at about 4:20 pm between administrators and the BOE members in attendance with no official business being conducted until a quorum was obtained. The administrators offered valuable insight, ideas and strategies in respect to providing quality education to our young students. Their ideas and vision for the school system offered both positive and encouraging aspects about the school system in their discussions. Several times they expressed their vision for our educational system was to "*inspire our students*".

The roundtable discussion covered various topics and it included a question and answer type of interactive period. Topics of discussion generally covered the following areas, but were not limited to these subjects:

That our community, as well as the size of our school system, both have positive advantages. The environment is very conducive for educators having the time to give the students extra attention; they can offer more connection to community/business; the idea of giving the students more exposure to and value a sense the community, as well perhaps motivating them to follow their interest on what career path they may want to pursue further; and bring our compliant kids to share their passion and to go deeper into their learning about their areas of interest.

Discussion about grading and standards based report cards were covered; ideas about students owning their own learning (and discipline issues) were mentioned; mapping curriculum (valuable in respect to what was done or accomplished) which helps staff and administrators make decisions of what adjustments and improvements should be addressed; and that Common Core is skill based was tied into the conversations during the discussion period.

Following the roundtable discussion a refreshment period was held. Then the administrators were dismissed from the meeting to allow the Board of Education to continue with their retreat.

Dr. Knapton provided an audiovisual program with handouts to continue the retreat meeting. The presentation consisted of a webinar produced by the BOE's own Law Firm of Shipman and Goodwin on the topic: "*Board Members Boot Camp: Roles and Responsibilities*". The webinar presenter/speaker was Gary R. Brochu, Esq.

The presentation provided good to know information for all Board of Education members. It was a suitable basic type of program that could help new BOE members learn about Board operations and responsibilities, and it was a great refresher for the experienced BOE members. The webinar program is available on-line for Board members for further review.

## **B. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm By John Gentry, Motion seconded by Leticia Velasquez. Motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Petruniw, BOE Chairperson