

**Canaan Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, January 5th, 2021  
Lee H Kellogg School  
Falls Village, Connecticut**

A virtual meeting of the Canaan BOE was held via Zoom on Tuesday, Jan 5, 2021. Members in attendance were Patricia Mechare, Chair; Theresa Graney; Tanya Golden; and Maria Bulson. Member Adam Sher was unavoidably delayed and joined the meeting at 7p. Also in attendance were Alexandra Juch, Principal; Lisa Carter, Superintendent; Jill Pace and Scott Fellows, co-Assistant Superintendents; LHK faculty member Kaleigh Rogers; Kristen Panzer, secretary to the Board; and members of the public.

Chair Mechare called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and asked for consensus to change the order of agenda items as member Adam Sher would not arrive to the meeting until 7pm. All were in agreement. Superintendent Carter asked to add "Update on Pandemic Relief Bill and FFCRA." Carter also asked to add a review and discussion of the regional "umbrella" website. Mechare asked Carter to include that update under her administrative report. Graney made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Bulson seconded. Unanimous.

The Board of Education then recognized Kristen Panzer, Kellogg School Office Administrator and secretary to the Board for her work, noting her efforts to start a lunch program for the students of Kellogg. Patricia Mechare read a statement aloud.

Focus on Student Learning: PE and Health teacher Kaleigh Selino gave a presentation to the board.

On a motion made by Bulson and seconded by Golden the board voted to approve the minutes of the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as presented. Unanimous. On a motion made by Bulson and seconded by Graney the board voted to approve the minutes of the December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Unanimous.

There was no public comments.

The Board received a letter from longtime faculty member Eileen Gargan announcing her intention to retire at the end of the 20-21 school year. Chair Mechare read the letter aloud and then heard expressions of gratitude to Ms Gargan for her work and regret over her leaving from many board members and from the Superintendent and Principal Juch.

Mechare then gave the Region One report including securing grant funding to purchase air circulators for the high school at no cost to the district, planned virtual student "visits" to regional middle schools to welcome rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders to the high school, work continuing on the middle school sports program and the efforts of athletic director Anne Macneil, a new "Northwest Corner Umbrella" website.

There was no ABC committee report as the committee had not met yet.

Principal Juch then gave an update on the night custodian position at Kellogg. On a recommendation by Juch, Golden made a motion to hire Guido Maggie (acting temporary night custodian) to the position at Step 1 of the non-cert contract at 5 hours per day, motion seconded by Bulson. Unanimous.

Under Policy Update, Mechare noted that work was continuing and will include Principal Juch and Superintendent Carter for maximum efficiency.

Pace and Fellows gave their combined report.

The board reviewed the financial reports with some concerns noted by Graney. Covid expenditures had eaten into several budget lines and put Kellogg ahead of anticipated expenditures and on a track to potentially exceed amounts budgeted. Discussion ensued. On a motion by Graney and seconded by Golden the board voted to receive the financial reports as presented. Unanimous.

Upon Sher's arrival the board agreed to meet on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm to work on the 2021-2022 spending plan.

Next the board considered the water softener proposal submitted by Culligan. After considerable review and discussion Theresa Graney made a motion to accept the proposal, financing the purchase over 12 months at \$768.23 per month, according to the terms of the proposal. Motion seconded by Adam Sher. All were in favor.

Juch and Carter then gave an update on the roll out of the distance learning model. Chair Mechare noted positive community feedback for the organization and delivery of remote instruction. Mechare noted that several students are attending distance learning at the Falls Village Day Care and that it is a good partnership.

On a motion by Golden, seconded by Bulson the board voted to approve the MOU between the board and Amy Adams, non-cert union member. Unanimous.

Next Carter updated the board on vaccine rollout to school employees. A sign up form has gone out to all school staff in Region One. As of now vaccines are not mandatory. No dates and locations have been determined yet.

Carter then shared info on the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act which covers special paid sick leave for school employees for Covid related reasons. The relief act expired at the end of the year and has not been renewed which raises questions for the district on how to pay for Covid related employee sick leave or family leave. Carter is working on a plan. She shared a table on how many employees have used leave for Covid reasons and how much leave they used by school in the region. Many teachers have worked from home and not needed to take paid leave. Member Bulson volunteered to attend meetings on the topic with Carter. Eventually the Covid MOU with the education associations will need to be amended.

Principal Juch submitted her administrative report, emphasizing the work being done by Kellogg teachers to meet students' social-emotional needs. Teachers are attending professional development on the topic and bringing their learning and insights to their classrooms. Carter submitted her administrative report. At this time the hour was late and Carter offered to defer discussion of the new 11 group "umbrella" website to another meeting.

There being no further business of the board at the January regular meeting, Golden made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bulson. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzer