

**Canaan Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021  
Lee H Kellogg School  
Falls Village, Connecticut**

A virtual meeting of the Canaan Board of Education was held via Zoom on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members in attendance were Patricia Mechare, Chair; Adam Sher; Theresa Graney; Tanya Golden; and Maria Bulson. Also in attendance were Principal Alexandra Juch, Superintendent Lisa Carter, co-assistant superintendents Jill Pace and Scott Fellows, LHK faculty member Amelia Nichols, guest Bethany Keck of HYSB, and other members of the public.

Chair Mechare called the meeting to order at 6:03. Sher made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Graney. All were in favor. Principal Juch read a statement of recognition to Ms. Heck on behalf of the board for her work educating LHK faculty in the area of recognizing and dealing with trauma in students. Next, Amelia Nichols made a presentation to the board on the use of the Foundations curriculum in K-4 at Kellogg. After Ms. Nichols' presentation the board took up meeting minutes. On a motion by Bulson, seconded by Sher, the board voted to approve the minutes of the January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 regular meeting. Unanimous. On a motion by Golden, seconded by Sher, the board voted to approve the minutes of the January 20<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting (budget workshop). Unanimous. And on a motion by Golden, seconded by Sher, the board voted to approve the minutes of the January 26<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting (regional calendar forum). Four were in favor with Bulson abstaining as she was not present at the meeting.

There was no public comment. There was one letter to the board regarding the 2021 CABA student leadership awards, which the board by consensus directed Principal Juch to proceed with. Next, Mechare gave the Region One report, including a eulogy for recently deceased Ed Kirby, in whose memory a new HVRHS baseball field is to be built and dedicated. Mechare also mentioned a new administrative certification for Athletic Director Anne McNeil, a modified winter sports program would go forward at the high school, and that much work had been done by Carter on developing the assistant superintendent job description. The ABC committee had participated in a joint meeting with the Region One board and the assistant principal of HVRHS, where they were introduced to the "capstone project" curriculum.

The board discussed the proposed regional calendar and expressed concerns about continuity of instruction and maximizing unbroken weeks, however with two veteran teachers going out again at the end of this school year, professional development opportunities will be very important. Juch is to bring the proposed calendar to LHK faculty to determine the how many

professional development afternoons they would like and when to have them. To be revisited at the March meeting.

Regarding middle school sports, the regional cooperative is still unfeasible due to Covid concerns, but AD Anne MacNeil will be meeting with administrators and proposing organized fun and healthy activities for students on their own campuses this spring as possible. Conversation to be continued at the March meeting.

On a motion by Bulson, seconded by Graney the board voted to approve .5 fte art teacher Chris Hanley's request for an unpaid leave of absence for personal reasons from February 22, 2021-March 31, 2021. Juch and Carter were in support of this request. Unanimous.

Juch, Pace and Fellows, and Carter all submitted their administrative reports, with Carter mentioning in her report that Falls Village continues to be left out of Title One grant funding, which touched off a discussion and an informal request from the board that Carter continue to research the issue. It was suggested that Carter speak with local rep Maria Horn, which Carter agreed to.

On a motion by Graney, seconded by Sher, the board received the financial reports as presented, unanimous, noting that more work on next year's spending plan to take place at a special meeting on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

It was noted that the water softener has not yet been delivered, but was expected any day.

On a motion by Golden, seconded by Graney, the board voted to move into executive session for the purposes of discussing the principal's contract, inviting Carter to join them. All were in favor. Then, on a motion by Bulson, seconded by Golden, the board adjourned executive session and reentered open session at 8:21. There was no action taken on the contract.

There being no further business of the board at their February regular meeting, Graney made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bulson, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:22.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzer