

**Canaan Board of Education
Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop
Thursday, February 18nd, 2021
Lee H Kellogg School
Falls Village, Connecticut**

A special meeting of the Canaan BOE was held via Zoom, Thursday, February 18, 2021 for the purposes of spending plan development. Members in attendance were Pat Mechare, Chair; Theresa Graney; Tanya Golden; Adam Sher; and Maria Bulson. Also in attendance were Kellogg School Principal Alexandra Juch; Kellogg School technology coordinator Joseph Markow; and Kristen Panzer, secretary to the board.

Chair Mechare called the meeting to order a few minutes after 7pm, after all board members had logged into the meeting. The board listened to a detailed presentation from Markow, followed by Q & A. Markow provided a rationale to the board for each line item under technology, and cautioned the board that there was little room for reducing expenditures under the technology line. He reminded the board that technology was not an extra, add-on service but part of the basic cost of running a public school. While some board members seemed to feel some consternation or sticker shock regarding the bottom line of the tech budget, a general consensus was building for the inevitability of significant expenditure in the technology line. Technology needs have only been heightened during the pandemic.

After the technology discussion wound down, the board resumed their review of other line items including extra pay for extra duty projections, clarification of Title One teacher position, and additional paraprofessional costs due to Covid/livestreaming needs. The board then discussed the usefulness of a Covid contingency line and agreed to seek an opinion from business manager Sam Herrick. Juch cautioned the board that we may need to increase night custodian hours under Covid. Mechare briefed the board on predicted capital outlays at the high school that will impact the Canaan BOE bottom line.

At approximately 9:15 pm Golden made a motion to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing principal salary, inviting in Juch, seconded by Graney. All were in favor. When the board returned to public session they took no action other than to establish another meeting date for budget workshop, February 22nd. There being no further business of the board, Bulson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Graney. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzer