

**Canaan Board of Education
Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop
Monday, February 22nd, 2021
Lee H Kellogg School
Falls Village, Connecticut**

A virtual meeting of the Canaan BOE was held via Zoom Monday, February 22nd 2021. Members in attendance were Patricia Mechare, Chair; Theresa Graney; Tanya Golden; Adam Sher; and Maria Bulson. Also in attendance were Alexandra Juch, Kellogg School Principal; and Kristen Panzer, secretary to the board.

Chair Mechare asked for a recalculation in the certified staff health insurance line due to some rate changes and changes in personnel status for insurance purposes. Mechare informed the board that business manager Sam Herrick recommended we do not add a Covid contingency line in the budget. There was a discussion of use of personal days to replace snow days by non-cert personnel. The board discussed increased hours for a paraprofessional. One board member noted that was probably more of a priority than increasing a specials teacher's hours as had been proposed at a previous budget workshop. Still, there was not enough support among board members to increase the hours in next year's spending plan. It was noted that the bottom line of this budget had increased from previous meetings due to increased health insurance costs. There was some discussion about facility maintenance projects, specifically a heating repair. The board agreed this money should come from the capital account and that they would approach the board of finance to make the request. The board revisited the technology line. There is approx. \$13,000 in the capital non-recurring line for technology come July 1. Mechare suggested the board used up to \$10,000 from the line. Mechare polled the board: Do we prioritize items from the tech proposal or do we include it in the budget in its entirety. Graney asked for more info, particularly regarding smart boards and tech support from Datahal and the number of hours of support requested. The question of iPads came up: do we really need 15 iPads? Juch offered a rationale. There was discussion about not putting in for smart boards to the tune of \$5000. Sher suggested the board request a projection of the technology budget for the next few years in order to make the case that this year is a bump in outlay. The board agreed to reconvene for budget workshop on March 4 at 7pm.

On a motion by Graney, seconded by Sher the meeting unanimously adjourned to an executive session at 8:43 PM inviting Juch into the session. At 8:47 PM Juch exited the executive session. The meeting resumed regular session on a motion by Bulson, seconded by Golden at 9:35 PM. There was no action taken. On a motion by Bulson, seconded by Graney it was moved to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 9:36 PM.