

Canaan Board of Education
Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop
Thursday, March 4th, 2021
Lee H Kellogg School
Falls Village, Connecticut

A virtual meeting of the Canaan Board of Education for the purposes of spending plan development was held via Zoom on Thursday, March 4th. Members in attendance were Patricia Mechare, Chair; Maria Bulson; Tanya Golden; Adam Sher; and Theresa Graney.

Chair Mechare called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Regarding the proposed technology budget, Mechare reminded the board that there would be approximately \$13,000 dollars available in the non-recurring capital account and that the BOE could request to the BOF to use \$10,000 dollars from that account, plus \$20,000 in REAP grant funds.

Discussion turned to the percentage year-to-year increase of the spending plan as proposed, which stood at approximately 5% at the time of the meeting. One board member noted that if they were to present a 3% year-to-year increase to the BOF instead of a 5% year-to-year increase, that would necessitate a \$35,000 (approximate) reduction in expenditures. Further, utilization of the REAP funds and the non-recurring capital funds as discussed at the top of the meeting, would already stand to bring the budget down by \$30,000.

The conversation turned to finding an additional \$5000 in spending to reduce. Discussion ensued, with the board agreeing by consensus that they did not support the request for additional PE hours.

Finally the board asked that in the technology report Mr Markow will submit, that he explain that the technology budget request will be reduced by \$30,000 by using the other funds noted earlier. No new meeting date was determined because the board needs the final figures from Region One to proceed. The meeting with the BOF will likely be the 22nd or 29th of March, which gives the board time to finalize the spending proposal. Mechare expects the hearing with the BOF will be virtual, but this has not been announced yet. Juch to go back into budget and make changes based on this meeting. Juch to update the rationales/narrative as necessary as well.

There being no further business of the board, Graney made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Golden. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:43.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzer