

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

A special meeting of the Canaan BOE for the purposes of spending plan development was held virtually via Zoom on Monday, March 22nd. Members in attendance were Pat Mechare, Chair; Theresa Graney; Tanya Golden; and Adam Sher. Member Maria Bulson was unable to attend due to technical difficulties. Also in attendance were members of the public; LHK principal Alexandra Juch; and secretary to the board, Kristen Panzer.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. The first item was the approval of the 2021-2022 tuition rate which occurs annually in March per board policy. On a motion by Graney, seconded by Golden the board voted to keep the tuition at the same level, \$2000 annually. Unanimous. Several board members noted they wished to have a longer conversation about accepting tuition students at a future meeting (policy and procedure as well as goals of the program).

The board next took up the spending plan, discussing the 6th draft of the spending plan. Mechare noted that the cybersecurity insurance premium was due in this fiscal year and could not be deferred to the 21-22 budget. LHK's portion is approximately \$5000. (The board will also have to budget for next year's premium). Mechare then noted that the lawn bid had come in at an amount above the money allocated in the budget line (44) by \$700. The lawn bid will be up for vote at the regular meeting on April 6th. Mechare noted the board had only received one bid.

Juch informed the board that she was budgeting for a .5 school counselor and not a 1.5 school counselor, a typo in the budget rationale.

Mechare noted that the two above mentioned unanticipated costs would bring the bottom line up. Should the board direct Juch to reduce the budget by about \$5700 in order to maintain a 3% increase? Some board members thought yes; others thought no: only reduce the budget if asked to do so by the board of finance. Discussion ensued. Mechare asked the board if they could agree to ask Juch to make the cuts and present the cuts to the board at the next budget workshop, at which time they could determine if they wanted to proceed with a 3% increase or if they were comfortable going with a slightly higher percentage increase. The board agreed by consensus.

The board agreed to meet again on March 31st at 7pm via Zoom to continue their work on spending plan development.

The board moved into executive session at approximately 7:40 for the purposes of principal contract discussion, agreeing to take no action when they returned to public session that evening as Bulson was not present to vote.

At 8pm the board returned to public session. There being no further business before the board, Graney made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Golden. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzer, Secretary to the Board

DRAFT