

Canaan Board of Education
Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop
Tuesday, May 4th, 2021, 6:00 PM
Lee H Kellogg School
Falls Village, Connecticut

The regular meeting of the Canaan Board of Education was held remotely via Google Meets on Tuesday, May 4th. Due to technical difficulties the meeting was not called to order by Chair Mechare until 6:30pm.

Members in attendance: Patricia Mechare, Chair; Theresa Graney; Adam Sher; Tanya Golden; member Maria Bulson was in attendance but unable to connect via video or audio.

Also in attendance: Principal Alexandra Juch; Superintendent Lisa Carter; Co-assistant Superintendents Scott Fellows and Jill Pace; LHK faculty members Diane Bossers, Eileen Gargan, Amanda Spelbos, Jennifer Worden; LHK nurse Melissa Dean; student Karmela Quinion; student Katelin Lopes; other members of the public; secretary to the board Kristen Panzer.

Graney made a motion to approve the agenda with the following changes:

1. Move the recommendation to hire to immediately following the Focus on Student Learning presentation.
2. Add tick management presentation, with possible action.

Motion seconded by Sher. All were in favor.

There was no Board of Education recognition.

Focus on Student Learning: A presentation by Ms. Bossers on the use of puzzles and games to enhance engagement and conversation in math. 5th grade student Karmela Quinion assisted Ms. Bossers in a demonstration of games in the math curriculum.

Next, LHK faculty member Eileen Gargan spoke about the search committee's recommendation to hire Matthew Kandell to fill the vacancy that will be created upon Ms. Gargan's retirement at the end of this school year. Ms. Gargan enthusiastically endorsed Mr. Kandell for the 3-4 position, as did Asst. Superintendent Pace and Principal Juch. Based on the recommendation to hire from Superintendent Carter, Golden made a motion to hire Kandell as full-time faculty member at step 11 according to the terms of the certified contract. The motion was seconded by Sher. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Nurse Melissa Dean then addressed the board regarding a tick problem on campus and a possible solution. Parent Tami Reid offered to spray a non-toxic tick repellent on campus at no charge to the school as a donation. Nurse Dean noted that Ms. Reid is registered and certified with the state to perform this work and that the state has no objection to the product she would be using. Mechare noted that she does this same work annually for the daycare. Based on Ms. Dean's recommendation Graney made a motion to accept this generous donation from Ms. Reid and approve the application of non-toxic tick repellent to the school grounds. Motion seconded by Golden. All were in favor.

Ms. Juch then asked to move up the Litchfield County Superintendent's Award item on the agenda. All agreed by consensus. Ms. Juch read aloud a summary of the award criteria, followed by a letter from the middle school faculty to this year's recipient, 8th grader Katelin Lopes. Congratulations were offered all around.

On a motion by Graney, seconded by Golden the board voted to approve the minutes of the March 31st special meeting as presented. All were in favor.

On a motion by Graney, seconded by Golden, the board voted to approve the minutes of the April 6th regular meeting. Unanimous.

There was no public comment. There were no written communications.

Chair Mechare gave the Region One report. See [minutes](#) of the May 3rd Region One Board meeting.

Mechare also gave the ABC committee report. See [minutes](#) of April 28th meeting.

Next up was a second reading of policies 0523, 4213.6, and 6159. Mechare noted that these had been reviewed and approved by the Region One board with some minor changes to language. These changes will be incorporated into the Kellogg versions for the board's consideration prior to the final reading (by Panzer). Sher made comments on the diversity policy, Mechare noted that some of Sher's concerns were addressed by Region One board at the May 3rd meeting. Sher's concerns led to a discussion with Carter on implementation of policy. Sher also raised the issue of diversity and inclusion and institutional racism within the community. Carter said that she was in action to bring the curriculum up to date on these issues and that the board could expect to hear more about this in the fall.

Mechare updated the board on the upcoming hearing and vote on the proposed spending plan, which were scheduled for May 21 and June 4th, with more details still tbd at the time of the meeting. Juch updated the board on distance learning numbers which stood at 9 students at the time of the meeting.

Mechare updated the board on the K 1 2 heating system bids, noting that funds for the repair/replacement would come from a capital account and not the Canaan Board of Education annual budget. Mechare plans to convene the B&G committee to discuss the scope of work and review the bids.

Carter had no news to share with the board regarding ARP/ESSER (America Rescue Plan / Elementary Secondary Schools Emergency Relief) Grant, as the state had not shared any further info or responded to her queries by the time of the meeting. She hopes to bring good news to the board regarding the grants at the June meeting.

Discussion of the current fiscal year's spending plan moved later in the agenda to financial reports by consensus.

Based on a recommendation by Juch, Graney made a motion to approve the following tuition students for the upcoming school year: Worden, Krupa, Sincovic, and Wood (two children). Motion seconded by Golden. All were in favor.

Mechare shared the graduation date with the board: June 15th at 6:30pm, with a rain date of June 16th 6:30pm. Details of the ceremony to be shared with the board prior to the June 1 regular meeting.

The board next discussed the Kellogg outdoor education program, specifically Nature's Classroom. The board was clear that they wanted a sleep-away, off-site experience for Kellogg kids, not an on-campus daytime only program. Juch described the fall and spring options Nature's Classroom is offering. The board wanted time to consider the options, expressing interest in an overnight experience during spring of 2022. The board agreed to revisit the conversation and make a decision at the June board meeting.

Juch; Pace and Fellows; gave their administrative reports. Juch noted that she would need to convene a special meeting one the committee is ready to recommend a candidate for hire to fill the vacancy that will be created by Robin Faust's retirement. The board was agreeable. Carter was unable to take questions on her report as she stepped away to learn the results of the Region One budget vote which was taking place simultaneously.

Financial Report: The board had some concerns with the current year budget numbers Juch submitted and proposed that Graney as board treasurer meet with Juch and Cindy Webb, the board clerk, noting that the bottom-line numbers Juch presented were correct. Discussion ensued. Mechare noted that the monies set aside (some \$17,000) for a school counselor remain untouched as the position was never filled. Mechare noted that money could be redirected to technology needs. Golden suggested paying the Nature's Classroom deposit with the funds. Graney was in favor of bringing a counselor in sooner rather than later. Sher was in no rush to bring in a counselor at the end of the school year. Bulson was unable to comment. Pace gave an update on hiring issues. Carter returned to the meeting and said that the board had the flexibility to sit on the projected unexpended funds until the June meeting. The board took no action and agreed by consensus to continue the discussion at the June meeting. Golden made a motion to receive the financial reports, seconded by Graney. All were in favor.

There was no B&G committee report. There was no public comment. T

here being no further business of the board Graney made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sher. There were no objections and the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:03

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Panzer