

**CANTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**February 1, 2013**

John Bonnanzio, Chair	960 Washington Street
Cynthia Thomas, Vice-Chair	Canton, MA 02021
Reuki Schutt, Secretary	Telephone – 781-821-5060
David Emhardt, Member	Fax – 781-575-6500
Robert Golledge, Member	

Hours of Operation Monday through Friday 8 AM to 4 PM

**BUDGET:** The School Department budget for the current 2012-2013 school year is distributed as follows:

Salaries	\$26,633,731
Expenses	<u>\$ 6,377,765</u>
Total	\$32,011,496

The above figure represents a 4.9% increase above the 2011-2012 budget.

This budget of \$32,011,496 includes revenue offsets of \$1,552,318.

Athletic User Fees/Gate Receipts	\$204,165
Building Rental Fees	\$106,000
Pre-School Revolving	\$ 77,445
Transportation	\$188,000
Student Parking	\$ 29,000
Full Day Kindergarten Revolving	\$382,721
Special Education Circuit Breaker Revolving	\$503,036
Non-Resident Tuitions	\$ 41,951
Extracurricular	\$ 20,000

**ENROLLMENTS:** Shown below are the enrollment figures for the elementary, middle and high schools for last year (2011-2012) and this year (2012-2013):

	(1/1/2012) 2011-2012	(1/1/2013) 2012-2013	<u>Difference</u>
Pre-school	102	99	-3
Elementary	1512	1496	-16
Middle School	759	769	+10
High School	881	898	+17
Ungraded	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	3304	3312	+8

**PERSONNEL:** The following long-term personnel retired during calendar year 2012:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
William Dickie	District Plumber	15 years
Juliana DuCott	GMS School Nurse	27 years
Paul DuCott	GMS Guidance Counselor	24 years

Donna Giudici	CHS Math Teacher	36 years
Marie Lawrie	Luce Grade 4 Teacher	27 years
Richard Staiti	CHS Science Teacher/Athletic Trainer	39 years

We owe a debt of gratitude to all of these retirees for their dedication and professionalism on behalf of our students and the school system. Together they provided 168 years of service to the Canton Schools. I also note the following personnel changes that took place in 2012, either by resignation, non-renewal or eliminated positions:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>
Ashley Johnson	Hansen Special Education Teacher
Maryellen McNally	GMS Spanish Teacher
Mark Silva	CHS/Luce Team Chairperson
Alisa Primavera	Luce Special Education Teacher
Kristin Pereira	GMS Educational Assistant
Dr. Douglas Dias	CHS Principal
Barbara Gongaware	GMS Special Education Teacher
Alyssa Giangreggio	Rodman ABA Tutor
Kevin Coxall	District HVAC/Electrician
Lynn Ruozzi	CHS Math Teacher
Naomi Leather	Hansen Special Education Teacher
William Lovetere	GMS Educational Assistant
Marie Spina	GMS Math Teacher
Annemarie Adams	JFK Special Education Teacher
John McDonough	CHS Head Custodian
Magan Stamm	GMS Educational Assistant
Rosalie O'Connell	Elementary Team Chairperson
Erin Fuller	GMS/CHS Occupational Therapist
Thomas Bresnahan	CHS Physical Education/Health Teacher
Courtney Fournier	CHS Spanish Teacher
Erin Barry	Rodman ABA Tutor
Brendan Rogers	GMS Educational Assistant
Kelly Waygand	Rodman ABA Tutor
Michael Casale	CHS Custodian
Michael Bletzer	GMS Custodian
Lori Graham	District Physical Therapist
Ricahrd Moran	CHS Science Teacher
Ingrid Hatfiel	Hansen Food Service Worker

### **The State of Our Schools**

#### **1. New Leadership**

The District has had a number of new administrators join the leadership team over the past two years, and 2012 was no different. At Canton High School, Dr. Doug Dias stepped down after five years of leading the school and became principal at Medway High School. To replace him, the District was very fortunate to hire Mr. Derek Folan. Mr. Folan arrived at Canton after serving as the Vice Principal in Franklin High School for the past six years.

Mr. Folan moved on to Franklin High School in 2006, in the role of Vice Principal after serving as a classroom teacher and coach for the previous eight years. Part of his responsibilities as Vice Principal revolved around student accountability, services and discipline for over 800 students in grades 10 and 12. As Vice Principal, he has spent time as chair of the Grade 9 Collaborative Teams, Instructional Support Teams and helped supervise the school's Alternative Learning Program. In addition, he has served on the District Literacy and Curriculum teams, and worked

on the FHS Visioning Team for the upcoming building renovation at Franklin High school. A member of the MSSAA Educational Policy and High School Committees, Mr. Folan is also a trained evaluator in the state's Early Adopter Evaluation Program.

The District is fortunate to have Mr. Folan on board as principal and he, along with his talented staff, have worked extremely hard in his first year at the helm of CHS. Since 2011, the JFK and Hansen elementary schools, along with the Galvin Middle School have added new building leaders.

In addition to the change in leadership at the building level, the Canton School Committee also brought on new members to help lead the District. At the close of the school year, Dr. Elisabeth Salisbury Ms. Jill Stevens stepped down after years of tremendous service to the School Committee. They were replaced by Mr. David Emhardt and Mr. Robert Golledge. Mr. Emhardt and Mr. Golledge bring a wide array of talents and experience to their positions and have been extremely active since their first day on the Committee.

## **2. Kindergarten at the JFK**

2012 brought kindergarten classes to the JFK Elementary School. For years, only the Luce and the Hansen elementary schools housed kindergarten classes. Students who were of kindergarten age and lived in the JFK district had previously attended the Luce and then transferred back to the JFK when they were in the first grade.

Thanks to space that was added to the JFK as part of a 4-room addition, the school gained the space needed to run their own kindergarten program. There are now two full-day kindergarten classes now at the JFK and the program has experienced a positive and productive first year.

## **3. Graduation Rate Success**

Once again, Canton High School was able to show growth in its 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate in 2012. The graduation rate across the Commonwealth rose by 1.3% in 2012. This brought the state average up to 84.7%. Canton High School saw the same 1.3% increase in its cohort graduation rate, but the average now sits at 96.8% in Canton. More significantly, Canton High School has seen its 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate increase by 10.9% in the last five years. That is one of the more significant increases in the region.

A cohort is comprised of students who entered high school as 9<sup>th</sup> graders or who transferred into the same cohort at any time over high school. Many of the subgroups at Canton High School also showed dramatic increases in graduation rates since the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) started tracking cohort graduation rates in 2006. Students who made up the special education subgroup saw their graduation rate increase by 13.2% since 2006. Students identified in the low income subgroup had an increase of 20.3% since 2006 and students who were identified as African American showed an amazing 29.9% increase in that same time period.

These numbers are not only a tribute to the efforts made by of our hard working students, but also to the dedication and hard work put in by all of the District's educators. While people tend to see graduation rates as strictly related to the what happens at the high school, it is important to note that the foundation for success in the high school is attributable to the work done at all levels within the district, including the pre-school, elementary schools and middle school. Therefore, a success in the graduation rate at Canton High Schools is celebrated by all of the District's educators.

#### **4. Capital Projects**

The District completed a four room addition at the JFK Elementary School. This project began during the summer of 2011 and students were able to move in at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year. The added space allowed the school to establish two kindergarten classrooms and provided needed space for special education programming.

In addition, the solar panel project that was approved at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting and by the School Committee last year began in earnest this fall. Solar panels are in place on the roof of the Galvin Middle School and work on the panels scheduled for Canton High School is slated for January, 2013. Once the installation is complete, the panels will provide a substantial bulk of the electricity for these buildings. As noted last year, when fully implemented, the District stands to save approximately \$22,000 in energy costs in the first year. Over the 20 year power purchasing agreement, the district could save over \$500,000.

#### **5. CHS-Class of 2012**

In addition to the tremendous array of talented graduates in the Class of 2012, this year's graduation ceremony was noteworthy due to its new venue. For the first time, graduation was not scheduled for the lawn in front of the Rodman Educational & Administrative Center on Washington Street. Students, parents and families worked together to lobby for a change of location, and the new site for the ceremony was going to be Veterans Memorial Field.

Mother Nature did not oblige however, and the ceremonies were moved inside because of inclement weather. Nonetheless, the graduates shined and a full gymnasium of graduates, teachers, family and friends witnessed a wonderful celebration.

The class of 2012 was talented in so many ways and the range of schools where they chose to attend was quite impressive. Below is a list of the schools where members of the graduating class matriculated to in the Fall of 2012.

American International College  
American University  
Bates College  
Berklee College of Music  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Bridgewater State University  
Bridgton Academy  
Bryant University  
Bunker Hill Community College  
Clark University  
Coastal Carolina University  
Colby-Sawyer College  
College of the Holy Cross  
Concordia University - River Forest  
Cornell University

Curry College  
Dean College  
DePaul University  
Emmanuel College  
Fairfield University  
Framingham State University  
Harvard University  
Howard University  
Johnson & Wales University  
Keene State College  
Keiser Career Institute - Port St. Lucie  
Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus  
Lyndon State College  
Massachusetts Bay Community College  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health  
Sciences  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
Massasoit Community College  
Merrimack College  
Mount Ida College  
New York University  
Newbury College  
Nichols College  
Northeastern University  
Parsons The New School for Design  
Pratt Institute  
Purdue University  
Quincy College  
Quinnipiac University  
Roger Williams University  
Royal Holloway, University of London  
Rutgers University  
Saint Anselm College  
Saint Michael's College  
Salem State University  
Salve Regina University  
Simmons College  
Southern New Hampshire University  
St. John's University - Queens Campus  
Suffolk University  
Syracuse University  
The Catholic University of America  
The Community College of Baltimore County at  
Essex  
The George Washington University  
The New England Institute of Art

The University of Arizona  
Union College  
University of Connecticut  
University of Hartford  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
University of Massachusetts, Boston  
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
University of New Hampshire  
University of New Haven  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
Utica College  
Villanova University  
Washington and Lee University  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
West Virginia University  
Westfield State University  
Wheaton College MA  
Wheelock College

## 6. MCAS

The Canton Public Schools continued to show progress in the Commonwealth's MCAS exams. Under the new accountability status, Canton was rated a Level 2 District. One school, the JFK Elementary School, was rated as a Level 1 school while all of the others schools were Level 2. All Massachusetts schools and districts with sufficient data are now classified by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5

Overall, in looking at Canton's performance levels, the District saw an increase of 2% across all grades in the number of students who scored Proficient or Higher in English Language Arts (ELA). In Mathematics, across all grades, the District increased the number who scored Proficient or Higher by 3%.

In each area of testing, the performance level of Canton students exceeded the state averages. In the district, across all grades, 85% of our students scored proficient or higher in English/Language Art (ELA). The state average for students scoring Proficient or Higher in ELA was 69%. In mathematics, 74% of our students scored Proficient or Higher, while the state average was 59%. And in Science/Technology & Engineering, 71% of Canton students scored proficient or higher. The state averaged 54% in those disciplines.

Beyond the performance level index, the state is also looking to make sure each student is making appropriate growth each year and are now placing great emphasis on the Student Growth Percentage (SGP). In addition, DESE is moving away from measuring the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) made by a student, and focusing on the Progress & Performance Index (PPI). While the District has seen success in our MCAS scores each year, our schools will continue to strive for the consistent and sustained growth of all of our students, in every subgroup.

## **7. Union Contracts Settled**

In 2012, the School Committee was able to successfully negotiate collective bargaining agreements with all of the District's bargaining units. After close to two years of productive and meaningful negotiations, Unit A of the Canton Teacher's Association, the District's largest union, along with the Custodian/Maintenance Workers union, the Cafeteria Workers' union, the Secretaries' Union and the Educational Assistants' (Unit E) union all agreed on 3-year contracts.

The cooperation and collaboration displayed by all of the District's unions helped bring about a successful conclusion to a negotiation process that began during the previous school year.

## **8. CHS in Boston Magazine's "Top 50"**

In the fall edition of Boston Magazine, Canton High School was ranked 45<sup>th</sup> among high schools in the regions. This ranking is a testament to the hard work of the high schools students and staff, as well as a tribute to the support provided at home for our students. Congratulations to all of the high schools educational stakeholders for this accomplishment.

## **9. NEASC Accreditation Visit**

During the fall, Canton High School culminated years of work leading up to its decennial reaccreditation process with the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) when they hosted a 16-person visiting team of educators. As noted by the visiting team leader, "the NEASC visit is not a final exam. It is a comprehensive review of our high school by fellow teachers and administrators that is designed to help students achieve at a higher level and to help school communities improve." In March of 2013, the high school will receive the official report and make that public. Internally, the commendations and recommendations will be used to guide the high school's professional work over the next 10 years. The district is pleased to be part of this process.

Teachers, students and parents worked on this process over the past two years and their efforts helped provide a comprehensive representation of all that is special about Canton High School. NEASC Co-Chairs, Assistant Principal Henry McDeed and Social Studies Teacher Jay Turner are to be commended for their work in preparing for this visit. In addition, members of the Steering Committee, and members of the Standards Committees are to be noted for their diligent work and extensive preparation. Students, parents, district administrators and School Committee members were also critical contributors to the work leading up to and including the visit last fall.

Sincerely,

John Bonnanzio, Chair, Canton School Committee

Jeffrey W. Granatino, Superintendent of Schools