

CANTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
February 1, 2014

Cynthia J. Sareault Thomas, Chair	960 Washington Street Canton, MA 02021
Reuki Schutt, Vice-Chair	Telephone – 781-821-5060 Fax – 781-575-6500
David Emhardt, Secretary	www.cantonma.org
John Bonnanzio, Member	
Robert Golledge, Member	
Hours of Operation	Monday through Friday 8 AM to 4 PM

BUDGET: The School Department budget for the current 2013-2014 school year is distributed as follows:

Salaries	\$26,938,326
Expenses	\$ 6,382,179
Total	\$33,320,505

The above figure represents a 4% increase above the 2012-2013 budget.

This budget of \$33,320,505 includes revenue offsets of \$1,610,628.

Athletic User Fees/Gate Receipts	\$ 204,165
Building Rental Fees	\$ 137,947
Pre-School Revolving	\$ 68,213
Transportation	\$ 213,617
Student Parking	\$ 29,000
Full Day Kindergarten Revolving	\$ 400,946
Special Education Circuit Breaker Revolving	\$ 492,000
Non-Resident Tuitions	\$ 44,740
Extracurricular	\$ 20,000

ENROLLMENTS: Shown below are the enrollment figures for the elementary, middle and high schools for last year (2012-2013) and this year (2013-2014):

	(1/1/2013) 2012-2013	(1/1/2014) 2013-2014	<u>Difference</u>
Pre-school	99	109	+10
Elementary	1496	1519	+23
Middle School	769	786	+17
High School	898	857	-41
Ungraded	<u>50</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>+17</u>

Total	3312	3315	+26
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PERSONNEL: The following long-term personnel retired during calendar year 2013:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Eileen Archibald	Luce School Special Education Teacher	19
Karen Augenstern	CHS Foreign Language Department Coord/Teacher	37
Maureen Cameron	Luce School Special Education Teacher	19
Lawrence Cheever	CHS Engineering Technology Teacher	11
Paul Allen Forrest	CHS Head Custodian	20
Marilyn Roache	CHS English Department Coord./Teacher	14

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 120 years of service to the Canton Schools.

I also note the following personnel changes that took place in 2013, either by resignation, non-renewal or eliminated positions:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>
Amy Kasaras	Health Teacher
Alex Lee-Clark	Music Teacher
Michael Everett	.4 English Teacher
Rita Cavonius	.4 German Teacher
Erica Reardon	English Teacher
David Gonzales	Wellness Teacher
Niambi Jackson	Special Education Teacher
Angelo Demitriou	ASD Classroom Teacher
Suzette Connery	ABA Tutor
Nicole Tavarozzi	Special Education Teacher
Christine Dargon	ABA Tutor
Amanda Davis	Educational Assistant
Kara Kilroy	.8 Guidance Counselor
Robert Taber	Night Custodian
Kimberly Sefrino	Elementary School Principal
Carol McDonough	School Nurse
Nicole Mullin	ABA Tutor
Kendra Murphy	ABA Tutor
Kristin Wisemiller	Reading Specialist
Kerry Ouelette	Food Service Worker
Sheila Cesso	.5 School Nurse

The State of Our Schools

1. FY 14 Budget

The District's FY 14 budget, approved at Annual Town Meeting, totaled \$33,320,505. This

greatly appreciated total represented a 4.1% increase from the previous year's budget and allowed the District to effectively meet the needs of our students from grades PK-12

Below is a sampling of some of the ways in which the District was able to utilize the funds within the budget:

- Continued to meet the contractual obligations of the CBA.
- Allowed for secondary class sizes to better meet School Committee goals.
- Successfully managed growth of Kindergarten program.
- Continued with development of SPED programs that keep Canton students in the least restrictive environment.
- Provided for appropriate coverage before school at elementary and secondary levels.
- Provided elementary schools with needed administrative support.
- Created more elective offerings for students at secondary level, including Advanced Placement courses, Mandarin and STEAM related courses.
- Instituted Team Leaders at the GMS.
- Restored custodial coverage that was reduced in previous budgets.

In addition, the District's FY14 Cash Capital Budget totaled \$443,000. With this money, the District was able to bring forth the following enhancements across the district:

Building Repairs/Improvements

Bathroom Partitions-Hansen
HVAC-System wide
Hot water pump replacement-Hansen

Grounds Improvement

School retaining walls- Hansen

Technology

Infrastructure Upgrade- Phase One
NetApp Storage Array
District Classroom Printers
High School & GMS Wireless Build- Phase One
CHS Art Lab Computer Upgrade
Adobe Illustrator & Photoshop Upgrade- K-12 Art
Rodman Security Cameras

Program Improvements

Textbooks-Language Arts- Galvin
Textbooks- Various- High School
New Educator Evaluation Management System- System wide

Furniture & Fixtures

Cafeteria Tables- Luce

Extraordinary Maintenance

Structural Engineering Work on Bleachers

The support of the taxpayers of Canton is greatly appreciated.

2. Technology Update

The summer of 2013 was a great time for the Technology Department to make some changes and updates to our infrastructure and databases. This Summer Update is a combination of the Network and Instructional Technology projects completed or work-in-progress during the 2013 Summer months. Given that this summer was short due to a long winter with a resulting final last day of school at the end of June, this list continued throughout the Fall.

Updates/Renewals/Staffing

- Hired 3 Technology Integration Assistants-1 for Each Elementary School Computer Lab
- District and School Websites Updated for 2013/14 School Year
- Lab Scheduler Updated for JFK, MS and HS with 2013/14 Scheduling Periods/Blocks and New Lab Scheduler Subscription Loaded for Luce and Hansen Elementary Schools
- GMS and CHS Classes Uploaded to Edline for Student and Parent Private Access
- GMS and HS GQWeb Gradebooks Uploaded and 12/13 Gradebooks Archived
- Instructional Databases Updated for Elementary School Students and Staff: Think Central, Study Island, UltraKey, Typing Pal, EnVisions
- Webmaster Meeting/Training to Review 2012-13 School Improvement Surveys Regarding School and District Webpage Feedback—Archived Homepage Slideshows
- New Leased Copiers Installed throughout the District
- Recycled Equipment Picked Up for Proper Disposal
- New Staff Accounts Set Up for New Teacher Orientation-over 50 New Employees
- Elementary School Secretaries Trained in Rediker to Schedule Students for Report Cards -----
- Technology Professional Development Scheduled for 2013-14 school year with over 30 Separate Technology After-School Sessions (Edline, GQ, APWeb, United Streaming, First Class, SMART Sync)

3. Changes in Leadership

While the District has been able to assemble a strong administrative team over the past few years, there was a late summer change in the leadership at the JFK Elementary School. Principal Kimberly Sefrino stepped down, after two years of leading the school, to become principal at an elementary school in Lakeville, MA. Since the change occurred late in the summer, the District appointed Ms. Sarah Collmer as the Interim Principal. Sarah has been the district's Performing Arts Director for the previous six years, but was willing to take on the new responsibility of leading the JFK in an interim role until a permanent replacement is named.

4. Canton Community Television

Highlighting a 30 year partnership with Canton Community Television (CCT), the Canton Public Schools was able to complete the repowering of our TV Studio situated at CHS through the largesse of CCT. This past summer and fall CCT donated and installed 3 Sony XD Studio Cameras, a Newtek Replay System and a HD Compix Character Generator (Titling Hardware/Software). Previously, CCT installed a new soundboard, Fora Switcher, monitors and router during the 2011-12 school year.

We are proud to be partners with Canton Community Television and thank them for their amazing generosity. Their assistance allows for the District to run a number of programs for students who are interested in television production. Many of these students have gone on to win a number of awards for their work.

5. MCAS

The Canton Public Schools continued to show progress in the Commonwealth's MCAS exams. Under the new accountability status, Canton was once again rated a Level 2 District. One school, the Lt. Peter M. Hansen 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

In each area of testing, the performance level of Canton students exceeded the state averages. In the district, across all grades, 83% 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, 72% of our students scored Proficient or Higher, while the state average was 61%. And in Science/Technology & Engineering, 72% of Canton students scored proficient or higher. The state averaged 53% 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 this area we saw slight growth in the SGP in Math in grades 5 and 7. There were also notable gains in ELA in grades 8 and 10. Overall, the District is moving forward but we are working in all of our schools to see sustained growth in this area.

Two years ago, DESE moved away from measuring the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) made by a student, and now focuses on the Progress & Performance Index (PPI) as it pertains to a number of student subgroups. Overall, the district saw a 4% increase in the PPI in the category for the category of "All" students. In addition, there was a 13.6% increase in the PPI for English Language Learners (ELL) and African American students saw an increase of 10.7%. Students in the Low Income subgroup watched their PPI increase by 9.7%. 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.

6. Canton Substance Abuse Coalition

The Canton Public School joined forces with the Canton Police and Canton Fire Departments in establishing the Canton Substance Abuse Coalition. With the growing number of teens becoming involved with drugs and overdose and addiction on the rise across the Commonwealth,

these three groups felt it was important to join up to find ways to raise awareness among Canton families on this topic.

The Substance Abuse Coalition has started holding informational meetings for parents and students and will continue to find different venues to meet with community stakeholders to try and curb this ever-growing problem.

7. Secretary of Education Malone Visits Canton

In March, the Massachusetts Secretary of Education, Mathew Malone took time out of his busy schedule to visit the Canton Public Schools. He had a chance to tour our high school and see some of the tremendous programs in place, including the newly formed robotics program and the center for at-risk students. He also saw the great work going on in the Early Childhood Center. The event culminated with a visit to the Galvin Middle School where he heard the talented GMS Chorus perform and had an open discussion with a variety of Canton educational stakeholders.

Secretary Malone walked away with a very positive image of Canton and was thrilled to see some of the exciting programs that have been put in place across the district.

8. Breakfast Programs

Canton High School and the Food Service Department had a successful rollout of the new pilot breakfast program. Starting on February 1st, students at CHS were able to purchase a hot or cold breakfast before the start of the school day. For \$1.50 students can dine on hot breakfast sandwiches, cereal, fresh fruit, bagels, yogurt, muffins, juice and milk. Food Service Director, Martha Lawless, has been trying to introduce breakfast programs around the district and was glad to get the ball rolling at the high school.

Because of the success of the breakfast program at CHS last spring, the District was able to implement this at the Galvin Middle School in the fall. Both schools have had great success with this program and it is having a direct benefit to their students. We hope to see these programs continue to grow next year at the elementary level.

9. CHS-Class of 2013

The Class of 2013 was comprised of a number of talented individuals who cared greatly about their school and embodied the values that try to promote each day in the Canton Public Schools. Their graduation ceremony however, ran into the same problem that the Class of 2012 had just twelve months ago. Mother Nature did not do her part and rain forced the ceremony indoors. Nonetheless, the ceremony was a rousing success and students, parents and staff had an event that they will remember for some time..

The class of 2013 was achieved great success both in and out of the classroom 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 2013.

Anna Maria College
Babson College
Bentley University
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Bridgewater State University
Bridgton Academy Maine
Brooklyn College of the CUNY
Bryant University
Carnegie Mellon University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby-Sawyer College
College of the Holy Cross
Community College of Rhode Island
Curry College
Dean College
Drexel University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Endicott College
Fitchburg State University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Southern College
Framingham State University
Georgetown University
Georgia Regents University - Summerville Campus
Green Mountain College
Harvard College
High Point University
Hofstra University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Johnson & Wales University
Kents Hill
Lasell College
Louisiana State University
Massachusetts Bay Community College
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Massasoit Community College - Canton
Mercer County Technical Schools (sports management)
Merrimack College (Biology (Biomedical Science))
Michigan State University
Middlesex Community College
Mike Metric HVAC
Mount Ida College
New England Institute of Technology

New Hampton Prep
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Parsons The New School for Design
Plymouth State University
Pratt Institute
Prince Edward Island, Univ of
Providence College
Purchase College State University of New York
Purdue University
Quincy College
Quinnipiac University
Regis College
Rhode Island College
Roxbury Community College
Salve Regina University
Southern New Hampshire University
St. John's University - Queens Campus
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
Syracuse University
The New England Institute of Art
The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music
The University of Alabama
The University of Georgia
Toni & Guy Academy
Tufts University
United States Military Academy
Universal Technical Institute
University of California at Los Angeles
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Hartford
University of Maine
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
University of Miami
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of Rhode Island
University of Southern California
University of Vermont
Utica College
Villanova University

Virginia Commonwealth University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western New England University
Westfield State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester State University

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Sareault Thomas, Chair, Canton School Committee

Jeffrey W. Granatino, Superintendent of Schools