

CANTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
February 1, 2015

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

BUDGET: The School Department budget for the current 2014-2015 school year is distributed as follows:

Salaries	\$28,062,000
Expenses	\$ 6,487,000
Total	\$34,549,000

The above figure represents a 3.7% increase above the 2013-2014 budget.

This budget of \$34,549,000 includes revenue offsets of \$2,018,628.

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	\$900,000
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 (2013-2014) and this year (2014-2014):

	(1/1/2014) 2013-2014	(1/1/2015) 2014-2015	<u>Difference</u>
Pre-school	109	112	+3
Elementary	1519	1534	+18
Middle School	786	804	+18
High School	857	920	+63
Ungraded	67	57	-10
Total	3315	3427	+92

PERSONNEL: The following long-term personnel retired during calendar year 2014:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Theresa Hagerty	GMS Special Education Teacher	18
Kenneth Leon	School Business Administrator	16.5
Kathleen Forsyth	Educational Assistant	18
Nancy Mark	JFK Librarian	28
Janis Brandt	CHS Foreign Language Teacher	9
Elizabeth Persson	JFK Elementary Teacher	25
Linda D'Attanasio	JFK Educational Assistant	17.5

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 132 years of service to the Canton Schools.

I also note the following personnel changes that took place in 2014, either by resignation, non-renewal or eliminated positions:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>
Kelty Kelley	Early Childhood Coordinator
Helen Mancuso	Educational Assistant
Timothy Stock	Elementary School Head Custodian
Margo Lisa	Math Teacher
Nicole Gailus	Math Teacher
Dora Burton	Food Service Worker
Kristen Cabral	Reading Teacher
Michelle Gaudet	ABA Tutor
Jill Albanese	Special Education Teacher
Stacey Mann	Reading Specialist
Jose Rojas	Spanish Teacher
Christine Doherty	ABA Tutor
Ashley Salah	ABA Tutor
Sara Smestad	Pre-K Special Education Teacher
Christine DeNuzzio	Science Teacher
Kelly Foley	ABA Tutor
Kevin Farrell	Elementary Music Teacher
Katie Boettcher	Art Teacher
Emily Kelly	Educational Assistant
Stephen Constant	Tech. Integration Assistant
Marline Amedee	ABA Tutor
Sarah Nemetz	Educational Assistant
Greg Rosenthal	Team Chairperson/Administrator
Stephen Stolphors	School Psychologist
Erin Coyle	Educational Assistant
Julie Horgan	ABA Tutor
Karen Matthews	Educational Assistant
Charmaine Haughton	ABA Tutor
Kathleen Adler	Educational Assistant
Rosalind Kimani	ABA Tutor
Peter Boucher	Principal

Catherine Kenny	Tech. Integration Assistant
Kelley Beach Lynch	Special Education Teacher
Jerry Sullivan	Drivers Education Supervisor

The State of Our Schools

FY 15 Budget

The District’s FY 15 budget, approved at Annual Town Meeting, totaled \$34,549,000. This greatly appreciated total represented a 3.7% 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.
- Successfully managed growth of Kindergarten program.
- Addressed class size issues noted in the 1st grade.
- 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.
- Created more elective offerings for students at secondary level, including additional Mandarin and STEAM related courses.
- Instituted Dean of Students at the GMS and added additional guidance support at the high school.
- Reinstated the late bus for the GMS and CHS.

In addition, the District’s FY14 Cash Capital Budget totaled \$500,000. With this money, the District was able to bring forth the following enhancements across the district:

Building Repairs/Improvements

- Exhaust Fans-Hansen
- HVAC-System wide
- Security Upgrades-All Levels
- Energy Management Upgrade-Galvin

Technology

- Infrastructure Upgrade
- JFK & Luce Wireless Build

Program Improvements

- Textbooks- World Language- High School
- Robotics Course Start up- High School
- Teaching Strategies Gold Online Assessment System- Rodman
- Visualizers/Cameras/Projector & Carts- Galvin

Once again, the support of the taxpayers of Canton is greatly appreciated.

New Leadership

The District's administrative team lost a tremendous leader in July, with the retirement of Mr. Ken Leon, the District's Business Administrator. Mr. Leon served in that role for the previous 17 years and established a reputation as a highly regarded administrator. Mr. Leon always worked hard on behalf of the students and staff of Canton and built a strong relationship with key stakeholders from around the town of Canton.

To replace Mr. Leon, the District was fortunate to hire Mr. Barry Nectow. Mr. Nectow had previously served as the business manager for the Norton Public Schools. He had also served as the Assistant Business Manager for the Needham Public Schools prior to going to Norton. Mr. Nectow brings a wealth of experience from the public and private sector, along with a plethora of energy, enthusiasm and ideas.

In a school related leadership transition, after starting the school year as the Interim Principal at the JFK Elementary School, Ms. Sarah Collmer was named permanent principal in the spring of 2104. Ms. Collmer has been an integral part of the CPS Community for a number of years prior to taking this position. Previous to this role, she served as the district's Director of Perform Arts for six years. She brings tremendous energy and enthusiasm to this position along with an array of creative ideas and initiatives.

In addition to the change in leadership at the building level, the Canton School Committee also brought on a new member to help lead the District. Mr. Michael Loughran replaced Mr. David Emhardt, who stepped down after serving as an integral part of the School Committee. Mr. Loughran, who previously served on the Finance Committee, brings a wide array of talents and experience to the position and has been actively working on behalf of our students and staff since coming on board.

Galvin Middle School & Hansen Elementary Window and Door Projects

One of the biggest accomplishments of the summer, from a capital project standpoint, was the window and door replacement project at the GMS and the Hansen Elementary School. This project, which was voted on at previous Annual Town Meetings, was also approved under the Massachusetts School Building Assistance (MSBA) Bureau's Accelerated Green Repair Program. With the MSBA's assistance, the District will be reimbursed for 45% of project costs.

In just under two months, the engineers, architects and contractors assigned to the project were able to remove and replace all exterior windows and doors in the two buildings. This was the first major window and door replacement effort in these two buildings since they were first built more than forty years ago. In addition, the contractors replaced and rebuilt a set of stairs leading into the Hansen from the faculty parking lot.

Due to the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and asbestos in the caulking around the windows and some of the doors, a condition quite common in buildings built prior to 1979, extra precautions were taken by the contractors during the removal of the windows, doors and materials. In addition, during the project, as each room was completed, the independent engineers tested the space to ensure that all EPA standards were met.

Moreover, the engineers took post-project air samples throughout each building to ensure safe conditions. After the final round of air quality tests, the district was informed by the independent engineers that the test results from each building remained below all potentially applicable EPA guidelines.

We are thrilled to report that we were able to open up each building without restrictions. As of the beginning of the school year, the only work remaining was some minor "punch list" items that the contractors took care of during the first few weeks of the school year.

The District thanks everyone for their patience during this important construction project. It was not easy to take these schools "off line" for two months, but that is what was needed for this project to be successful. Our custodial and maintenance teams, in particular, should be applauded because they adjusted their summer work schedules to meet the needs of the contractors, yet were still able to get the buildings in terrific shape prior to opening

New Gym Floor at the Galvin

As part of another capital project approved at Annual Town Meeting, the gym floor at the Galvin Middle School was replaced and a new wooden floor installed over the past month. The previous gym floor had been in place since the school opened. Generations of Canton children had Physical Education classes on that floor and countless town recreation and travel basketball players learned the sport of basketball there as well. It is with great excitement that we will now be able to have a new wooden floor that will serve Canton students for generations to come.

CHS-Class of 2014

In addition to the tremendous array of talented graduates in the Class of 2014, this year's graduation ceremony was noteworthy due to its venue. For the first time, the graduation ceremony took place on the turf at Veteran's Memorial Field. After a few years with the ceremony being held inside due to inclement weather, the members of the Class of 2014 were able to receive their diplomas under the setting sun, in a venue much different than previous locations.

The event went extremely well and served as an appropriate send off for an abundantly talented class. The class of 2014 was noteworthy 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 2014.

Art Institute of Pittsburgh
Babson College (3)
Ball State University

Bay State College
Bentley University (2)
Berklee College of Music
Boston College (4)
Boston University (5)
Bridgewater State University (7)
Brown University
Bryant University (3)
Bunker Hill Community College
Champlain College
Chatham University
Chattahoochee Technical College, North Metro Campus
Chestnut Hill College
Colby-Sawyer College
Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross (2)
Curry College (3)
Dean College
East Carolina University (2)
East Carolina University
Elon University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Endicott College (3)
Fairfield University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Franklin Pierce University (2)
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
High Point University
Indiana University at Bloomington
James Madison University
John Cabot University
Johns Hopkins University (2)
Keene State College (2)
Lasell College (2)
Lehigh University (2)
Massachusetts Bay Community College (2)
Massasoit Community College (10)
MCPHS - Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences (2)
Merrimack College (2)
Newbury College
Northeastern University (7)
Paramedic School (2)
Plymouth State University (3)
Providence College (2)

Quinnipiac University (2)
Rochester Institute of Technology (2)
Roger Williams University (3)
Sacred Heart University (2)
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Xavier University
Salem State University (2)
San Diego State University
Simmons College (4)
Southern New Hampshire University (3)
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Stonehill College (3)
Suffolk University
Syracuse University
The Catholic University of America
The University of Scranton
Tufts University
Union College
United States Coast Guard Academy
University of British Columbia
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Florida
University of Hartford (2)
University of Maine (2)
University of Massachusetts, Amherst (9)
University of Massachusetts, Boston (4)
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth (2)
University of Massachusetts, Lowell (4)
University of Miami (2)
University of Michigan (3)
University of New England
University of New Hampshire (7)
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island (4)
University of Vermont
University of West Florida
Westfield State University (3)
Wheelock College
Yale University

MCAS

The Canton Public Schools continued to show progress in the Commonwealth's MCAS exams. Under the new accountability status, Canton continued to be rated as

a Level 2 District. One school, the Lt. Peter M. Hansen Elementary School was rated as a Level 1 school for the second year in a row, 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 by an average of 13 percentage points. In the district, across all grades, 81% 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, 73% of our students scored Proficient or Higher, while the state average was 60%. And in Science/Technology & Engineering, 70% of Canton students scored proficient or higher. The state averaged 55% 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.

Tennis Court Project

With funding support from the Community Preservation Act, the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee, the district were able to finalize plans to take down the existing tennis courts at Canton High School and replace them with state of the art courts. This was truly a collaborative effort between the schools and the town and when work is completed later in 2015, the town of Canton will have five courts that will be accessible to the schools and the citizens of Canton. The replacement of these courts is long overdue and we are excited to be able to provide the community will a valuable recreational resource.

While funding was secured at the 2014 ATM, there was additional planning that needed to take place over the summer and fall. Therefore, work on the courts will begin in late May, 2015 with the expected completion date to be in September of 2015.

Sincerely,

Cynthia S. Thomas, Chair, Canton School Committee

Jeffrey W. Granatino, Superintendent of Schools

