

# 2022 Town Annual Report

Report of the  
CANTON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



School Committee	Term
Kristian Darigan Merenda, Chair	2022-2025
Kendall O'Halloran, Vice Chair	2021-2024
Maureen E. Moran, Clerk	2022-2025
Nichola Gallagher, Member	2020-2023
Laura Arboleda, Member	2022-2023

**OVERVIEW** Throughout 2022, the Canton Public Schools (CPS), in collaboration with staff, families, the community, our School Committee and town officials, celebrated a year of tremendous growth and progress. We continued to place student learning at the center of our work, especially as we emerged from COVID's deep impact on achievement, school culture and social-emotional wellness. Our school community stood together during many challenging moments during this year and we celebrated special moments of joy. We stayed committed to being #championsofexcellence, while also dedicating ourselves to “elevating the learning” and “embracing the challenge” for 2022-2023 themes.

In January and February, we continued to navigate our response to COVID-19 cases, adjusted to at-home testing and transitioned away from mandated masks on February 28, 2022. By March and April, our students, staff and families appreciated the shift to more normalcy, from day-to-day interactions to performing arts events, and the girls and boys hockey teams competing for state titles at the TDGarden. As a community, our relationships carried us through and we started to heal.

In early March, the Canton community celebrated the great news that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) voted CPS into its “Eligibility Phase” for a renovated or new Galvin Middle School (GMS). By the fall, CPS met all of the eligibility requirements and MSBA voted the GMS project into its “Feasibility Phase”. Ongoing support from Representative Bill Galvin, Senator Walter Timilty, our School Committee and town officials, residents and the school community enabled this to happen.

During this same period, the School Committee appointed Derek Folan as Superintendent of CPS and Sarah Shannon as its Assistant Superintendent. Additionally, CPS named Meghan Byrne as the Interim Director of Student Services, Jon Mulhern as the GMS Principal, Saundra Watson as the JFK Elementary Principal, and Josh Fogel as the Data Analytics Manager.

Additionally, CPS successfully reached an agreement on three AFSCME contracts, and the School Committee Negotiation team kicked off Unit A and Unit E negotiations with the Canton Teachers Association (CTA) in December 2021.

During the summer months, CPS engaged in program reviews for world language and social studies, and many hours of curriculum work and professional development in preparation for the implementation of the new K-12 math curriculum, Reveal.

The District Administrative Team also held a strategic planning session to set District Goals for the upcoming school year. The District set the following priority areas:

1. Achieving Educational Excellence and Equity for Every Student
2. Cultivating Climate, Culture, and Community Engagement
3. Achieving Educational Excellence Through Effective Teaching, Learning, and Leading
4. Management and Operations

Through these goals, CPS launched an Equity Audit, set a goal to develop a vision for high quality, teaching, learning and leading, used student and District data to drive improvement, implemented structures and programs to improve school culture and climate, and set an action plan for a new Student Information System (SIS).

In September, CPS welcomed over 3,100 students for the 2022-23 school year, and the students, staff and families loved cherished the start of a new school year. The school community navigated transportation challenges due to a shift in vendors, but nothing could overshadow the joy and great learning experiences in the classrooms.

Throughout the Fall and through early Winter, progress was made against 2022- 2023 Superintendent and District Action Goals, with each school reporting their aligned School Improvement Plans built to help drive clarity, collaboration and impact in a number of areas including District progress in Math. Specifically, during the 2022-23 school year, all Canton Public Schools are working to increase the percentage of students scoring in the MCAS Math Meeting or Exceeding achievement range by 5 percent. As of December 2022, Superintendent Folan was pleased to report that this Goal, among many others, was on track to be met.

Above all, the District remains extremely proud of its schools and the school community and looks forward to a joyous and successful second half of the school year, beginning January 2023.

**FINANCE**

The School Department operating budget for the 2022-2023 school year is distributed as follows:

Salaries	\$41,174,917
Expenses	<u>\$9,483,488</u>
Total	\$50,658,405

The above figure represents a 6.00% increase above the 2021-2022 budget.

The operating budget of \$50,658,405 is supplemented with revenue offsets projected at \$3,099,921 from revolving (fee-based) accounts and reserve fund accounts and \$2,405,080 in federal, state and private grants.

**Revolving Accounts/Reserve Funds**

Athletic User Fees	\$100,000
Building Rental Fees	\$50,000
Pre-School Revolving	\$100,000
Special Education Circuit Breaker Revolving	\$2,249,921
Special Education Reserve	\$600,000
TOTAL	\$3,099,921

**Federal/ State/Private Grants**

SPECIAL EDUCATION 94-142	\$940,307
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:IDEA	\$152,738
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:IDEA-YOUTH II	\$3,700
SPECIAL EDUCATION Early Childhood	\$32,224
PROFICIENCY-BASED OUTCOMES FOR LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH	\$4,035
QUALITY ENHANCEMENTS IN AFTER-SCHOOL AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME	\$55,500
FY23 TITLE I	\$132,054
FY22 TITLE I	\$14,165
TITLE II	\$48,640
TITLE III	\$18,751
TITLE IV	\$10,000
CARES ESSER III EMERGENCY RELIEF*	\$842,402
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES	\$80,000
KYLE CARES	\$750
PANDEMIC-RELATED ENROLLMENT DISRUPTIONS	\$49,497
PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (CHS)	\$14,379
PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (GMS)	\$5,938
TOTAL	2,405,080

*\*Unspent prior year grant funds carried over to FY23.*

The District's FY23 budget, approved at Annual Town Meeting in May 2022, totaled \$50,658,405. This 6% increase from the previous year's budget supports the District's efforts to effectively meet the needs of all our students from grades PreK-12.

The FY23 budget supported the following actions:

- Advance operating expenses to support the Strategic Framework and its four Strategic Objectives.
- Continue to meet the contractual obligations of all collective bargaining agreements.
- Address special education out-of-district tuition and transportation expenses that continue to increase.

The District's FY23 Cash Capital Budget totaled \$944,000. The District used the cash capital funds to address the following:

**Building/Grounds Repairs and Improvements**

- HVAC Maintenance – District
- Innovation Lab Renovation – CHS
- Replacement Classrooms Floor Tiles – Luce
- Generator Replacement – Rodman

**Technology**

- Ruckus Classroom Access Points – District
- Classroom Technology Setups – District
- Staff Replacement Laptops – District
- Unit E Members Laptops – District
- Chromebooks Replacement Cycle – Elementary

**Program Improvements**

- Replacement of Classroom-Based Instruments – District
- Visual Arts Computer Lab – CHS
- Digital Language Lab Computers and Software – CHS
- Basketball Backboard Systems – CHS
- PreK-5 Classroom Libraries – Elementary
- K-5 Book Rooms – Elementary

**Furniture & Fixtures**

- Main Office and DLL Furniture – CHS
- Steaming and Tilting Skillets – Hansen

**Extraordinary Maintenance/Vehicle Replacement**

- Replacement of School Bus

**Debt Capital**

- Unit Ventilators – Hansen
- Brick Repointing – Rodman

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

The following are enrollment figures for the pre-school, elementary, middle and high schools for October 2021 (school year 2021-22) and October 2022 (school year 2022-23):

	<b>2021-2022</b> Oct. 1, 2021	<b>2022-2023</b> Oct. 1, 2022	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Pre-school</b>	79	99	+20
<b>Elementary</b>	1456	1477	+21
<b>Middle School</b>	790	755	-35
<b>High School</b>	903	908	+5
<b>Out-of-District</b>	58	58	+0
<b>Total</b>	3286	3297	+11

**Demographics 2021 and 2022**

The chart below shows the race/ethnicity percentages of the Canton Public Schools student population in 2021 (total enrollment 3,228) and 2022 (total enrollment 3,239, not including out-of-district students).

**Race/Ethnicity**

	<b>% in 2021</b>	<b>% in 2022</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
African American/Black	11.3	11.7	+0.4
Asian	11.1	10.8	-0.3
Hispanic	6.8	7	+0.2.

Native American	.1	.1	0
White	63.8	63.2	-0.6
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Island	.2	.2	0
Multi-race Non-Hispanic	6.7	7	+0.3
Total Enrollment	3228	3239	+11

### **Other Student Sub-Groups**

	<b>% in 2021</b>	<b>% in 2022</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
Limited English Proficient	2.8	3.4	+0.6
Students with Disabilities	14	16.2	+2.2
Economically Disadvantaged	22	20.8	-1.2

## **OPERATIONS**

### **Transportation**

CPS provides yellow bus transportation for approximately 2,023 students, including roughly 40 students who attend St. John's. In addition to yellow bus transportation, CPS provides van transportation for roughly 135 students. Van transportation is provided by Vanpool, YCN, Raz, as well as a few local owner-operated companies.

In 2022, the District solicited bids for yellow bus transportation. Two vendors responded: First Student and Michael J. Connolly & Sons. First Student was awarded a three-year contract with two option years; the cost of the three-year contract is \$4,221,968.40. CPS owns and operates one of 19 buses used to complete 98 daily routes for morning and afternoon runs.

The transition of vendors from Michael J. Connolly & Sons to First Student presented the District with many challenges. It took a few months to consistently transport all of our students to school and back on time. District administration will continue to work closely with First Student on improvements.

### **Food Service**

CPS manages and operates its food service program in house. On average, our Food Service department provides more than 2,500 meals each school day. The district employs 25 hourly staff members across five buildings, one administrative assistant, and one director. Procurement of food and supplies is primarily achieved through a purchasing collaborative with TEC (The Education Collaborative). Following COVID, school meals continue to be provided free of charge to students. Our Food Service program is self-sufficient, relying on local receipts, state reimbursement, and federal reimbursement to cover expenditures.

### **Facilities**

The CPS Facilities department consists of 21 full-time custodians, 5 full-time maintenance staff, and one director. In coordination with other town departments and outside vendors, the facilities team completed three major projects: a new playground at the Dean S. Luce Elementary School; new bleachers and ADA-compliant press box at Canton High's Memorial Field; and the replacement of two large rooftop heating, ventilation, and cooling units at Canton High. In addition to these large projects, multiple smaller projects were completed at each of our six buildings.

The William H. Galvin Middle School continues to present facilities challenges, including a leak from a burst water line in December 2022.

## **RETIREMENTS**

The following staff members retired in 2022. Congratulations to all and a heartfelt thank you to all our retirees for their decades of service to the Canton Public Schools.

<b><u>Employee</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Years of Service</u></b>
Grace Burega	Educational Assistant	17
Susan DeAmato	Food Services	12
Kathy DiTulio	Educational Assistant	12
Elaine Farinella	Educational Assistant	23
Carol Gregerman	Teacher	6
Annette Gushue	Teacher	33
Maureen Holland	Teacher	20
Michael Keegan	Custodian	15
Sharyn Mathews	Teacher	24
Stephanie McClellan	Librarian	34
John Russell	Teacher	36
Ann Schneider	Teacher	28

## **STAFF HONORS AND AWARDS**

### **Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) Educational Support Personnel (ESP) Of The Year :**

Ms. Naomi Akan earned the distinction of MTA ESP of the year award in 2022. At the time of the award, Ms. Akan was in her sixth year as an ABA tutor for CPS. The award was scored on the following criteria: professional practice, advocacy and association involvement, community engagement, enhancement of ESP image, and personal achievement. Currently, Ms. Akan works as a special education teacher at the John F. Kennedy School.

**The Norfolk County Teachers Association Honors (NCTA):** Each year, two people from each Norfolk County School District are honored for all they do for public education. The Honor Award is given to an educator in the District for significant contribution to Educational Service, Community Service, and Association Service. The Service Award is given to an individual lay person or group who has demonstrated support and interest in education in the community. The NCTA also honors one student from each district with the Harland L. Cook Book Award. The Harland L. Cook Book Award (\$1,500) is chosen from all Districts.

We were pleased to recognize the following 2022 NCTA Award recipients:

<b>Honor Award</b>	Katie Healey	Canton High School
<b>Service Award</b>	Kevin Russell	Canton High School
<b>Harland L. Cook Book Award</b>	Reagan Vozzella	Canton High Senior

All recipients were honored at the NCTA Awards dinner on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at Lombardo's in Randolph.

## **STUDENT HONORS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Each year, CHS holds both a Scholastic Honors Night and a Scholarship Night. We extend our most sincere thanks and appreciation to our community partners whose generosity awarded the class of 2022 \$233,100 in scholarship money. Below are just some of the notable achievements:

- **Principals Student Service Awards**

- Colin Albert, Aanaya Andrade, Parker Campbell, Alexandra Castillo-Lopez, Sean Connolly, Isabelle Crawford, Caiyen Mahn, Allie McCabe, Dillon Nguyen, Kaela Nguyen, Kylee Sheehan, Graham Stemm
- **Canton High School Citizenship Award**
  - Warda Ahmed, Olivia Timmins, Isabelle Crawford, Kelly MacDonald, Avery Piantedosi, Teagan Radovshy, Danielle Seaman, Brenna French, Payton McDonough, Sean J. Sullivan, Andrew Valkanas, Hailey Lennon, Toby McCort, Ellie Ashcraft
- **Shayne M. Cabino Memorial Scholarship Fund**
  - Mia Galvin, Madeline Pushard
- **Scott M. Herr Memorial Foundation Scholarship**
  - Sean Connolly, William DeLello, Ryan Doucette, Carlin Fitzgerald, Allie McCabe, Dillon Nguyen
- **James & Beatrice Salah Family Foundation Scholarship**
  - Carlin Fitzgerald, Mia Galvin, Matthew Hylan, Christopher Pho, Morgan Quinn
- **Balsamo Family Memorial Charitable Foundation Scholarship**
  - Danielle Seaman, Graham Stemm, Erin Zack
- **CAASA Scholarship**
  - Kiarra Cerruti, Tess Khoury, Sophia Santos
- **Don and Marilyn Rodman Scholarship**
  - Sean Connolly, Charles Doody
- **Friends of Doc. Levrault Scholarship-**
  - Corinne Campbell, Erin Lane
- **“Spirit of 76” Award**
  - Sean J. Sullivan, Thomas Phaneuf
- **American Association of University of Women (A.A.U.W.)**
  - Andrew DiBiasio
- **BNI Scholarship Fund**
  - Hannah Wang
- **The Duggan Scholarship Fund**
  - Andrew Butler, Isabelle Crawford
- **The Bud Herzog Theater Arts Scholarship Fund**
  - Adam Clyve, Elise Kleinbauer
- **Jeanette Winthrop Scholarship**
  - Taylor Reynolds
- **Jeremiah "Jerry" Sullivan Scholarship**
  - Sara Crimmins, Charles Doody
- **Organogenesis Regenerative Medicine Scholarship**
  - Stella Lempert
- **Ponkapoag Grange Scholarship**
  - Kiley Hanlon, Suraj Ramanathan
- **The Frank B & Elizabeth Simoni Foundation Scholarship**
  - Warda Ahmed, Hailey Lennon
- **Elizabeth M. (Betty) Memorial Scholarship**
  - Saidaya Ramsey

### **National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists**

In 2002, two Canton High seniors qualified as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists, Leopold MacMullen and Matthew Lesser. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition that recognizes students for their outstanding performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

### **John and Abigail Adams Scholarship**

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides credit toward tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. For this scholarship, merit is based on student scores on the 10th grade Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must

- Score in the Advanced category on one of three high school state assessment tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, or STE (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/Engineering)
- Score Proficient or Advanced on the remaining two high school state assessment tests
- Have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their district.

Congratulations to the following students who received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship in 2022.

Trisha Bhattacharya	Maria Davey	Youssef Kosta	Malina Ngan
Sean Brown	Michael Devey	Levana Lee	Matigan O'Brien
Andres Castro-Alvarez	Ashley Dumangas	Anita Lee	Ginika Onyemelukwe
Kiara Cerruti	Caitlyn Dumangas	Clara Lipson	Christopher Pho
Patricia Cezon Gimenez	Mia Galvin	Tobias Lipson	Suraj Ramanathan
Sabrina Chan	John Kelleher	Kelly MacDonald	Joshua Ribisi-Chan
Olivia Daudier	Tess Khoury	Andrew Mahon	Erin Zack
Cameron Farris	Caitlyn Gaboury	Sekai Matthews	Ela Saskor
Joseph King	Jacob Solomon		

### Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy

In June of 2022, Canton High School students participated in the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy for the second year. The following 12 students in the class of 2022 were awarded the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy:

Warda Ahmed	Mia Galvin	Kelly Macdonald	Andrea Salazar
Corinne Campbell	Yurii Leskiv	Payton Mcdonough	Jacob Solomon
Andrew Dibiasio	Clara Lipson	Suraj Ramanathan	Leila Turet

The following three students in the class of 2022 earned the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction:

Laura Correal	Graham Stemm	Erik Valdovinos
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### Higher Education And Government Partnerships (Fall 2022)

For the second year, the CPS World Languages Department has collaborated with the Goethe-Institut/Boston and UMASS-Boston to provide an eight-week virtual German language and cultural program for students in grades K-8. Through SPARK for German, a joint project of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) and the Goethe-Institut, UMASS-Boston students brought German language and culture alive in virtual after-school programs. The innovative program, which is fully sponsored by the German government and the American Association of Teachers of German, has provided German language instruction to Canton elementary and middle school students.

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

#### **2022 MCAS Results**

CPS students continue to perform well across multiple measures, including state and national standardized assessments. For more details about Canton students' achievement, visit the Canton Public



Schools District profile on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website ([profiles.doe.mass.edu](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu)). The information is also linked [here](#).

In 2022, students in grades 3-8 and in grades 9-10 returned to taking the conventional, online spring MCAS exams. Each student completed two sessions of a grade-level exam in English language arts (ELA) and math. Students in grades 5, 8 and 9 students completed two sessions of science, technology and engineering.

The chart below details the percentage of students who met or exceeded expectations on the MCAS Achievement tests in spring 2022. For each grade and for each test – ELA, math or science – Canton students, on average, outperformed students from across the Commonwealth.

<b>MCAS 2022 Results: Percentage of Students Scoring at Meeting or Exceeding Expectations (or Proficient/Advanced)</b>						
	ELA		Math		Science	
Grade	Canton	State	Canton	State	Canton	State
3-8	52	41	52	39	51	42
HS	69	58	59	50	62	47

Advanced Placement Tests also returned to their traditional format and administration. CHS students performed well on these assessments, increasing their performance to 68.3% from 61% of scores of 3 or above.

#### **Advanced Placement Test Score Results: 2022**

Number of AP Courses offered at CHS	Number of AP Tests Taken	% AP Tests with Scores of 3 or Above
18	498	68.3%

#### **CHS CLASS OF 2022 – Colleges and Universities**

The list below shows the *attending* colleges and universities for the graduating class of 2022. Canton’s ongoing support creates a high-quality school district that serves the children of Canton well.

#### **Post-graduation plans for the Class of 2022**

- 88% attended a 4-year college
- 3% attended a 2-year college
- 2% continued in alternative education programs
- 7% joined the workforce
- 93% of students continued their education after CHS

American University	Lafayette College	Simmons University
Arizona State University-Tempe	Lesley University	Skidmore College
Assumption University	Marist College	Stonehill College
Auburn University	Marymount Manhattan College	Suffolk University
Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology	Massachusetts College of Art and Design	Syracuse University
Berklee College of Music	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	The University of Tampa

Berkshire School	Massasoit Community College	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Boston College	Merrimack College	Union College (NY)
Boston Conservatory at Berklee	Michigan State University	University of Arkansas
Boston University	Middlebury College	University of Connecticut
Brandeis University	Mount Wachusett Community College	University of Florida
Bridgewater State University	New York University	University of Louisville
Bryant University	Northeastern University	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Bunker Hill Community College	Oberlin College	University of Massachusetts-Boston
Christopher Newport University	Ohio State University-Main Campus	University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth
Clark University	Pomona College	University of Massachusetts-Lowell
Clemson University	Pratt Institute-Main	University of Miami
Cleveland State University	Providence College	University of New England
Colgate University	Purdue University-Main Campus	University of New Hampshire
Connecticut College	Quincy College	University of New Haven
CUNY City College	Quinnipiac University	University of North Carolina Wilmington
Curry College	Regis College	University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
Drexel University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Rhode Island
East Carolina University	Roanoke College	University of Richmond
Eastern Michigan University	Roger Williams University	University of Rochester
Elon University	Rutgers University-New Brunswick	University of South Carolina-Columbia
Fairfield University	Sacramento City College	University of Vermont
Fisher College	Sacred Heart University	University of Virginia-Main Campus
Florida Gulf Coast University	Saint Anselm College	Utica University
Franklin Pierce University	Salem State University	Vassar College
George Washington University	San Diego State University	Virginia State University
High Point University	Savannah College of Art & Design - SCAD	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Ithaca College	Seton Hall University	West Virginia University
Jackson State University	Shawnee State University	Westfield State University
Jacksonville University	Siena College	Worcester State University

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

In 2022, the School Committee welcomed three returning members – Laura Arboleda, Kristian Darigan Merenda, and Maureen Moran – before continuing its work to align priorities and set high professional standards against the four pillars of the CPS Strategic Framework: Achieving Educational Excellence and Ensuring Equity; Cultivating School Culture and Climate; Transforming Teaching and Learning; and Achieving District Excellence.

The School Committee deepened its relationship with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) to update School Committee policies and ensure they are aligned with Massachusetts General Laws and reflect MASC guidance. In addition, the Committee renewed its commitment to collaboration, accountability and transparency. The Committee continued its work in a number of key areas in 2022, including but not limited to:

***Securing Strong, Strategic Leadership*** - Based on his performance as interim Superintendent and his proven track record of relationship building in the District, Derek Folan was named permanent Superintendent of Schools. The School Committee played a direct role in supporting Mr. Folan's key administrative position creation and/or hiring/promotion decisions, including naming Sarah Shannon as Assistant Superintendent; naming Meghan Byrne as Interim Director of Student Services; hiring Joanne Campbell as Recording Secretary; and naming Joshua Fogel as Data Analytics Manager.

The Committee also played an active role in supporting the retention of outside professional support with District Goal-Setting; Human Resources Strategy and Tactical Support; Bussing and Transportation Improvements; and an Equity Audit.

***Enabling Accountable District Performance*** - To ensure CPS is aligned with District strategic planning and superintendent evaluation as outlined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Kristian Darigan Merenda spearheaded a rework of the Superintendent Evaluation Process, approved and adopted by the School Committee. This included introducing DESE's complete annual goal-setting process for the Superintendent; an aligned Monitoring and Evaluation Plan; establishment of supporting Student Achievement Goals, District Action Goals and continued oversight of School Improvement Plans; and incorporation of a focus on progress-toward-goal highlights during each public meeting.

***Ensuring Continuous Improvement and Application*** - To be responsive to emergent needs, the School Committee held a series of workshops to initiate action/review of key topics including Math Curriculum; District Calendar; Equity Audit; Superintendent Formative and Summative Evaluation; CPS Strategic Plan Development; District Goal Setting; Canton School Committee Self-Evaluation and Operating Protocols; and Bussing/Transportation.

The School Committee continued to make enhancements to the Public Meeting format, implementing the use of a consent agenda in its meetings; developed a regular volunteer committee spotlight to highlight our volunteer colleagues throughout the District; honored professional status and/or retirement of district employees; and regular review of Fall and Spring CPS Stakeholder Survey Data (representing longitudinal data and special topic-based feedback staff, families and students).

***Maintaining Focus on Financial Transparency and Planning*** - The Finance Subcommittee (Maureen Moran and Nichola Gallagher) collaborated with Director of Finance and Operations Stephen Marshall to assess past budget practice and improve processes and reporting formats, with the goal of providing greater transparency around the District's financial decisions.

In addition, the committee adopted the recommendations of a Comprehensive Financial Review Task Force (Kristian Darigan Merenda and Maureen Moran) to make improvements that support short- and long-term financial planning, including – but not limited to – the funding of a Long-term Capital Plan.

***Continuing Comprehensive Policy Review*** - The Policy Subcommittee (Kendall O'Halloran, Laura Arboleda and Derek Folan) reviewed and made recommendations that resulted in the School Committee approving the adoption of updated/revised Sections A, B and C of the CPS Policy Manual. This work was done in conjunction with the MASC Policy Service. This effort will set a new standard of excellence for best policy practices and legal alignment in the District.

In 2022, the School Committee (Units A and E: Nichola Gallagher and Kristian Darigan Merenda; AFSCME Units: Maureen Moran) and District Leadership team (Derek Folan, Stephen Marshall, along with Sarah Shannon (Units A and E) and Julie Shore (AFSCME) continued negotiations with Canton

Teachers Association Units A and E, as well as AFSCME Units representing Administrative Assistants, Cafeteria Workers and Custodians. The AFSCME units settled their contracts in June 2022.

In December 2022, the School Committee engaged a mediator through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations to reach a mutually beneficial resolution with Units A and E. Following the first joint mediation session involving the Canton Public Schools and the Canton Teachers Association (CTA) on Dec. 20, 2022, the CTA voted to Work-to-Rule.

Together with our Superintendent, the School Committee has identified the following key initiatives for delivery in 2023:

- Support MSBA management, design and funding for Galvin Middle School (Ongoing 2023)
- Finalize contract negotiations with Canton Teachers Association (Unit A) and Canton Educational Support Personnel Association (Unit E) (February 2023)
- Conduct Superintendent Formative and Summative Reviews (anticipated January and May 2023)
- Complete an Equity Audit (anticipated March 2023)
- Conduct routine CPS Legal Counsel Review (anticipated March 2023)
- Roll out a five-year District Strategic Plan, including academic achievement, financial and operational targets measured, in part, by the CPS Data Dashboard (anticipated June 2023)
- Complete a five-year capital plan (anticipated September 2023)
- Develop a 2023-2024 District Action Plan (anticipated September 2023)
- Continue to offer improved, hybrid School Committee member/panelist participation format (ongoing 2023)

The School Committee continues to embrace its service to the District and to the community by fulfilling its myriad roles and responsibilities, in addition to what has been outlined in this document, including review of the CPS financial warrant and external communications focused on celebrating CPS students, staff and achievements. School Committee members and/or their designees as liaisons to, the Master Planning Implementation Committee; Canton Community Preservation Committee; Building Renovation Committee; Canton Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee; Paul Revere Heritage Committee; Canton Sustainability Committee, Health Insurance Advisory Committee, Canton Alliance Against Substance Abuse, CPS Wellness/Student Wellness Advisory Committee; and the Canton COVID Working Group.

School Committee members also meet regularly with the following town boards, particularly during January through May, as Canton prepares for Annual Town Meeting: Select Board, Capital Planning Committee, Finance Committee. In addition, members serve as liaisons to parent volunteer and educational leadership groups, namely Canton Alliance of Parents and Educators (CAPE), Canton Alliance of Parents and Teachers (CAPT), The Education Cooperative and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

### **CLOSING**

The Canton Public Schools have a true commitment to achieving academic excellence and ensuring equity for every student, as well as cultivating welcoming and supportive learning environments via effective teaching, learning, and leading and by smartly managing our resources. We are deeply proud of our schools and grateful for every member of our student body, faculty, volunteer groups, families, town citizenry who play a role in our success.

With this continued support and unwavering commitment to accomplishing our bold, student-centric goals, our Canton Public Schools are positioned for continued growth - ever-improving the way we prepare our next generation for their futures. It is an honor to be stewards of this important work.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristian Darigan Merenda, Chair, Canton School Committee  
Derek Folan, Superintendent of Schools