

**Canton School Committee  
Minutes  
Monday, March 6, 2023**

**A. Call to Order:** Chair Merenda called for a motion to convene the March 6, 2023 School Committee meeting to review and discuss the 2023 Operating Budget at 5:03 pm. Maureen Moran made the motion and Nicola Gallagher seconded. As the meeting was virtual, a roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as follows:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nicola Gallagher	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea

**Attendees:**

Kristian Merenda  
Maureen Moran  
Nicola Gallagher  
Laura Arboleda  
Derek Folan, Superintendent  
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations  
Sarah Shannon, Assistant Superintendent

**Absent:** Kendall O'Halloran

**B. Topic**

**1. Budget Discussion:** Superintendent Folan and Mr. Marshall gave a brief recap of the recently released 2024 Governor's Budget. Canton received an additional \$745k, a 9% increase from the previous year. Mr. Marshall reported that the municipal side is asking for \$200k to allow for two specific operational needs: the library is in need of some updates and the town would like to add a town-wide Facilities Manager. (Currently, the school district receives 66.77% of state funds, while the municipality draws 33.23%.) At their 2/28/23 meeting, the Budget and Finance Subcommittee was in favor of returning the funds to the town, but wanted to deliberate with the full School Committee before making a final decision. Mr. Marshall that currently, the Special Ed Reserve Account is healthy; so this year only, the District is fiscally sound enough to accommodate the town's request. Mr. Marshall did caution against continued reliance on the Special Ed reserve funds as there is continued concern about climbing special needs expenses. Should the District decide to keep the \$200k, Mr. Marshall recommended utilizing the funds to offset current Special Ed costs.

Recognizing the desire to be "good neighbors" of the municipality, discussion ensued over how returning these monies might affect future District budgets and the needs of the town's students. Examples

included changes in busing contracts, assistant principal hires, and the escalating costs of Special Education in the town. A suggestion was made to forward a modified version of the town's original request for \$200k. The School Committee would agree to return \$100k to the town to balance the reality of budget constraints for both the District and Municipality while maintaining a spirit of collaboration and partnership. All members of the School Committee agreed to move forward with this compromise. Superintendent Folan and Mr. Marshall will present this adaptation to town officials.

**C. Adjournment:** Maureen Moran called for a motion to adjourn the Monday, March 6, 2023 of the Canton School Committee at 5:53 pm. Nicola Gallagher made the motion and Laura Arboleda seconded. Roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as follows:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nicola Gallagher	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea