

**Canton School Committee
Open Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2023
Minutes**

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Merenda called for a motion to convene the Thursday, March 23rd, 2023 Canton School Committee Meeting at 6:01 pm. Kendall O'Halloran made the motion; Nichola Gallagher seconded. Vote was unanimous at 3-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
3 yeas	0 nays

Attendees:

Kristian Merenda
Kendall O'Halloran
Maureen Moran (arrived at 6:27 pm)
Nicola Gallagher
Derek Folan
Stephen Marshall
Sarah Shannon
Joanne Campbell, Recording Secretary

Absent: Laura Arboleda
Emma Cummings

Guests:

Ms. Viviana Truglia, John F Kennedy Elementary School Student Advisor

- B. Honor School Committee Member Nichola Gallagher:** Outgoing School Committee member, Nichole Gallagher, was recognized for her five years of service. Superintendent Folan commended her for her commitment to the students of Canton calling her a "true friend of the District; fellow committee members and Ms. Merliani, former School Committee chair, applauded Ms. Gallagher for her work on subcommittees, particularly her advocacy of equity issues, and always keeping students at the center of her work. Senator Feeney presented Ms. Gallagher with two citations, one from the Mass State Senate and one signed by Massachusetts Secretary of State, Bill Galvin, and acknowledged her achievements on behalf of the Canton community despite the challenges of Covid. Ms. Gallagher thanked all and spoke of her passion for students and experiences on the committee, especially during Covid. She wished her fellow committee members well in future endeavors and was hopeful that the committee's work while "moving back to normal" after Covid will continue to bring each of them joy and satisfaction.
- C. Student Advisor Report:** Ms. Viviana Truglia, Canton High School freshman and Student Advisor to the JFK, reported on March activities at the JFK. She spoke of Kindness Week where the Canton Character Crew visited and taught students "hello" in several languages. Ms. Truglia noted that this particular event was memorable for all students, including those secreted away in the Character Crew costumes. She updated the progress of

the Reading Buddies program, and the Channel 4 contest winning name of the new snowplow, "Arctic Beast." They await news of when they will be presented with the award from Channel 4.

D. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Folan presented District progress, highlights, and accolades.

Highlights

Hockey State Championship Games: Congratulations to the CHS Boys Hockey team for winning another Division 2 State Championship! With the 4-1 win over Hopkinton, the Bulldogs earned their 3rd title in the last five years under the leadership of Coach Shuman. The boys hockey team also won the state title in 2010.

Congratulations also to the CHS Girls hockey team as well for earning their spot in the state championship round. Although the game did not end the way they hoped, the team played great and competed at a high level and we are proud of the tenacity they demonstrated throughout the season. A shout-out to the seniors and first-year head coach Nikki Petrich. Thanks to the Canton community for the great support!

Ms. O'Halloran added that the Canton Youth Basketball had a great season. Three teams made the final round of championship games with 2 winning their divisions.

Little Shop of Horrors: CHS Drama Club presented *Little Shop of Horrors* this weekend. Nearly 85 students were part of the cast and crew, and they put on a great show with amazing singing, dancing, sets, and costumes. Well over a thousand tickets were sold. Congrats to all! Kudos to Director Katie Brobst and the team for the incredible support of our students.

Indicators of Excellence

DECA: Canton DECA went to compete at the state conference (SCDC) from March 9-11 at the Hynes Convention Center. Canton sent 8 students to compete: Kitana Le-Garcia (club president, senior), Anthony Wang (vice president, sophomore), Pranav Addanki (vice president, sophomore), Nadira Simon (senior), Bilal Ahmed (junior), Atina Lee (sophomore), Tyler Benson (sophomore), and Ethan Tran (sophomore).

Students competed in a variety of categories, doing their best to solve complex business problems in a one-on-one setting with a judge. Our students competed their hardest, but unfortunately, none earned a top spot in the State to move on to the International Competition (ICDC).

This trip was sponsored in part by the Canton Association of Business and Industry (CABI) and we look forward to continuing to connect our students at Canton High School with local businesses to increase their opportunities to get real-world experiences before graduating high school.

CHS Students Representing Canton in Youth Art Month: Congratulations to the 18 students whose artwork was represented in this year's Massachusetts Art Education Association (MAEA) 2023 Youth Art Month virtual exhibit, "Your Art, Your Voice". [These slides](#) show our students' work as it is shown in the exhibit.

Southeast Massachusetts Music Educator Association (MMEA): Libby Silvasy participated in the Southeastern District MMEA Junior District Festival on March 10 and then also performed at Sharon High School on March 11.

CHS Chorus Experience: The CHS Chorus is doing a Hindi piece called Barso Re by A.R. Rahman this term. Ms. Eckersley reached out to the arranger Ethan Sperry who is a choral professor at Portland State University. He was willing to do a zoom masterclass with the CHS chorus. He explained Indian culture in

relation to the piece and helped the Chorus Team with Hindi pronunciation and diction. Thanks to Ms. Eckersley for coordinating this amazing experience.

Important Dates and Events

March 24	CAPE Spelling Bee, CHS Auditorium, 6:00 pm
March 25-26	Artists in Bloom Art Show, 10:00 pm -5:00 pm, Pequitside Farm
March 30 & 31	CHS Spring Concert, 7:00 pm, CHS Auditorium
March 31	Early Release, PreK-5, Parent Conferences
April 1	Great Canton Clean Up Day, 10 am - 12 pm
April 6	School Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, CHS DLL
April 7	No School, Good Friday
April 17 - 21	No School, April Break

E. Public Hearings:

1. **Public Hearing On School Choice for the School Year 2023-2024:** There will be a Public Hearing to withdraw from School Choice for the year 2023-2024 according to Chapter 76, Section 12B, of the Massachusetts General Laws. All interested persons shall be given the opportunity to be heard.

Chair Merenda asked for a motion to open the annual School Choice Public Hearing. Ms. O'Halloran made the motion; Nichola Gallagher seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

4 yeas 0 nays

Superintendent Folan briefly explained the purpose of this vote and recommended staying the course "as-is" and not participating in School Choice. Hearing no further questions or requests for further discussion, Chair Merenda asked for a motion to close the annual School Choice Public Hearing. Nichola Gallagher made the motion; Kendall O'Halloran seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

4 yeas 0 nays

Chair Merenda then asked for a motion to not participate in School Choice for the School Year 2023-2024. Nichola Gallagher made the motion; Kendall O'Halloran seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

2. **FY24 Budget Public Hearing:** There will be a public hearing on the topic of the School Committee FY24 budget, consistent with the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 38N of the Massachusetts General Laws. All interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

Chair Merenda asked for a motion to open the FY24 Budget Public Hearing. Ms. O'Halloran made the motion; Nichola Gallagher seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

Superintendent Folan shared the process and priorities of the FY24 budget, acknowledging the efforts of Mr. Marshall and his team in gathering information and constructing a very comprehensive Budget Book that includes enhancements and well-explained, necessary increases. Mr. Folan also thanked town officials for their strong financial support of the District. When asked if there were any requests for public comment, Chair Merenda heard none.

- a. **FY24 Operating Budget:** Mr. Marshall presented the FY24 Operating Budget, calling specific attention to the new teacher's contract, the introduction of Cost Centers, and projected sources of funding. Mr. Marshall also noted that once the budget is approved, the line item budget will be made available. School Committee members commended Mr. Marshall's diligence on content as well as readability in the narratives, detail and layout.

With no further questions or discussion requested from the committee or the public, Chair Merenda called for a motion to accept the FY24 Operation Budget as written and presented. Nichola Gallagher made the motion; Kendall O'Halloran seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

- F. **Teaching and Learning Report:** In Principal Brauning's absence, Ms. Allie Hoff shared Hansen's enrollment numbers (currently 537) and highlighted the successes of Reveal Math curriculum in its inaugural year. She noted students are making real progress with STAR data showing an 8% jump in percentile rank and that 87% of

Hansen first through fifth graders are scoring at or above grade level with significant growth in key standards like number and operations measurement and data, operations and algebraic thinking. Ms. Hoff acknowledged Hansen Math Specialist, Ms. Nicole Inguanti, K-5 STEM Coordinator, Sara Donovan, and Consultant, Alison Mello for their exceptional talent and continued patience.

G. New Business:

1. **Hansen CAPT Honors:** Hansen CAPT members Jackie Cassis-Mayer, VP, and Ela Miller, Secretary, spoke about the purpose of CAPT and how they minister an enriched educational experience for Hansen students. These highlights included providing supplies to teachers and buses for field trips as well as in-school events that develop diversity, cultural inclusion and educational fun (Chinese New Year Lion Dance, African Storytime and The Brain Show). They introduced and thanked the current CAPT team and encouraged all to become active in CAPT, perhaps considering filling current and anticipated volunteer opportunities. Chair Merenda, Superintendent Folan and the School Committee Board presented Ms. Cassis-Mayer and Ms. Miller with a certificate of appreciation for their service, time commitments and enthusiasm.
2. **Special Education Reserve Fund:** Mr. Marshall requested a vote of approval to withdraw \$800,000 from the Special Education Reserve Account to help offset current year expenses in out-of-district tuition. This request is consistent with district planning since the fall of 2022. If approved, the school department will attend a future Select Board meeting for final approval. Hearing no questions or requests for further discussion, Chair Merenda asked for a motion to approve the withdrawal of funds from the Special Education Reserve Fund. Nichola Gallagher made the motion; Kendall O'Halloran seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

3. **MSBA Update:** Superintendent Folan updated the audience on recent MSBA activity. Mr. Folan explained the Feasibility Study, including non-negotiable requirements of the MSBA, reminding all that close to 40% of costs for the new building will be reimbursed by MSBA. The OPM for the Galvin Building project is under contract, and the School Building Committee is working with LeftField to build an RFS (Request for Services) to identify a design team. Final choices and announcement of the design team is expected in mid to late July 2023. Commencement of construction is estimated to begin around September 2023. More information will become available as the design team is established.

H. Public Comment: There were no public comments, virtual or in person.

I. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall disclosed that he is in receipt of the final draft report of the Transportation Consultant. He suggested that it is quite complete; however, he did have a question on internal staffing and has asked for more information. The final report will be available soon.

J. Consent Agenda:

1. Regular Session Minutes: February 16, 2023, March 6, 2023, March 9, 2023
2. Executive Session Negotiations Subcommittee Minutes: March 9, 2023
3. Scholarship Approval: Silversmith Youth Theatre Scholarship
4. Warrant: March 24, 2023

Ms. Moran requested the March 6, 2023 Open Meeting Minutes be pulled from the Consent Agenda for further review. Hearing no other requests for further discussion or questions of posted minutes, warrants or other approvals, Chair Merenda called for a motion to accept the consent agenda as modified below:

1. Regular Session Minutes: February 16, 2023, March 9, 2023
2. Executive Session Negotiations Subcommittee Minutes: March 9, 2023
3. Scholarship Approval: Silversmith Youth Theatre Scholarship
4. Warrant: March 24, 2023

Nichola Gallagher made a motion to accept the amended Consent Agenda; Kendall O'Halloran seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

K. Update of Sub-Committee, Task Force and Liaison Posts:

1. Nichola Gallagher:
 - announced that June 17, 2023 has been chosen for this year's Juneteenth Celebration and has asked that community members hold that date on their calendars. It will be held at the Revere Site.
 - She reminded everyone that there are open seats on the CDEI Committee and encouraged Canton citizens to consider sitting on the committee.
 - CDEI is also planning a Pride Month celebration. More information on that will be forthcoming.
2. Kendall O'Halloran:
 - Policy Committee is set to reconvene next week (Thursday, March 30th);
 - CCPC-has received two to three applications for school projects;
 - Content-members of this committee will meet with a CHS student who is interested in the Graphic Designer position;
 - Ms. O'Halloran polled committee members for feedback on changing the current ¼ page ad to a ½ page ad that would include all 3 CAPT updates. Members agreed to the change. The listing will capture names, titles and contact information of the 4 Executive Board members for each CAPT.
3. Kristian Merenda:
 - MPIC meeting was held last Wednesday. Members met with the Department of Elder and Community Services and shared spacing concerns;
 - Strategic Planning meeting will include discussion of a site for electric vehicles and student achievement goals. Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023;
 - the Chair publicly thanked the Silversmith Youth Theater for their generous scholarship to a Canton High School graduate;
 - announced the BRC meeting for April 12th.
4. Derek Folan:
 - acknowledged the retirement of TEC Director, Liz McGonagle and thanked her for her years of service and introduced Emily Park as her successor.
5. Maureen Moran:

- Canton Finance Committee met last night;
- reported back from the Superintendent's Monthly Meeting where elementary plays were a big topic. Ms. Moran wondered if there were any plans to follow up and capture good ideas from notes and conversation, specifically regarding ticketing approaches and "after action items".

L. Other Business: None

M. Future Business: The next Canton School Committee Open Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2023, @ 6:00 pm.

N. Adjournment: Hearing no requests for any further discussion, Chair Merenda called for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, March 23rd, 2023 Canton School Committee Meeting at 7:40 pm. Nichola Gallagher made the motion; Kendall O'Halloran seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea	
Kendall O'Halloran	yea	
Nichola Gallagher	yea	
Maureen Moran	yea	
	4 yeas	0 nays

Documents Reviewed:

FY24 Budget Book

Reserve Fund Request Memo

Superintendent's Report

Hansen Highlights

Hansen CAPT Highlights

Silversmith Youth Theatre Scholarship