

**Canton School Committee  
Open Session Meeting  
Thursday, January 4, 2024  
Minutes**

**A. Call to Order:** Chair O'Halloran asked for a motion to call to order the Thursday, January 4, 2024 School Committee Open Session Meeting at 5:05 pm. Maureen Moran made the motion; Kimberly McCourt seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous at 3-0 and recorded as follows:

Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

**Attendees:** Laura Arboleda (arrived at 5:09 pm)  
Kimberly McCourt  
Maureen Moran  
Kendall O'Halloran  
Derek Folan, Superintendent  
Stephen Marshall, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

**Absent:** Kristian Merenda  
Emma Cummings, Student Representative

**Guest:** Joshua Fogel, Director of Technology and Data Analytics

**B. Executive Session-**Committee members went directly into Executive Session for the purpose of **(a)** Purpose 7 - G.L. c. 30A, section 22 - Approve executive session minutes (10/19/23, 11/16/23, 12/6/23, 12/7/23, 12/18/2023, 12/21/2023), **(b)** Purpose 2 - to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel- Superintendent.

School Committee members returned to Open Session at 6:08 pm.

**C. Superintendent Report:** Superintendent Folan presented District progress, highlights, and accolades.

**Champions of Excellence**

Galvin Middle School Project: Recent Votes and Upcoming Votes: On December 20, the School Committee (SC) and the School Building Committee (SBC) held a joint meeting to discuss plans for the Galvin Middle School. During the meeting, the School Committee voted unanimously on a 5-8 grade configuration for a new Galvin Middle School. The School Building Committee voted unanimously to approve a 800-seat auditorium for the GMS Building Project. As a school community, we want to thank both Committees for the support of this project, and

we also want to thank the many stakeholders who participated in community forums and visioning sessions.

January is another busy month with critical votes ahead. We received MSBA feedback around our Education Plan, and we have to provide responses by January 15. We also need to update the Education Plan, based on the MSBA feedback and grade configuration (5-8) and auditorium votes. We anticipate a School Committee vote on the final Educational Plan on February 1. If approved by SC, it will be submitted to MSBA.

For the School Building Committee, we met last night to review the two different types of construction methods -- Construction Management at Risk and Design, Bid, Build. Last night was an informational session for SBC. SBC will hold its next meeting on January 24 at 4:30 p.m. at the CHS Library to vote on the Preferred Schematic Design and the construction method.

**Project 351 Ambassador:** GMS 8th grader Olivia Feldman has been chosen to represent Canton as the 2024 Ambassador for Project 351, a nonprofit organization that develops a new generation of changemakers by uniting eighth grade unsung heroes representing each of the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns. Olivia plans to create her own personal project at Galvin Middle School.

**Music Senior Districts Festival!** Good luck to CHS this weekend as they host a major performing arts event on January 5 & 6 -- the Senior District Music Festival. Best of luck to all and thank you to Catherine Eckersley and the Performing Arts staff!

**Social Media:** One of our District goals focuses on community and community engagement, and we dedicated efforts this year to expand our social media presence. These social media platforms highlight the many amazing things happening in Canton Public Schools.

**Updates:** Inclement Weather Information: Please review our [inclement weather document](#) posted on the website and stay tuned for announcements, delays, or any cancellations.

### Important Dates and Events

Jan. 5	Early Release, PreK-12, Professional Development
Jan. 12	CHS Talent Show, 6:30 pm, CHS Auditorium
Jan. 15	No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 18	School Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, CHS DLL
Jan. 26 & 27	JFK Musical- Lion King Jr., 7:00 pm on 1/26, 2:00 pm on 1/27, CHS Auditorium

## D. New Business

1. **PowerSchool Update:** Mr. Josh Fogel provided a PowerSchool Update. As part of the Strategic Plan, the PowerSchool platform will be an “educational hub” ecosystem simplifying communications and resource sharing. Mr. Fogel briefed the School Committee on the development of the timeline for training all staff in user roles and operations. Resources, that are updated daily, have been created for staff and families; they soon will be able to set up individual portals. It is expected these portals will be open in time for high school students to make course selections for the next academic year. Staff designated as “Train the Trainers” are already using their portals learning and mastering student class scheduling. Mr. Fogel did note an implementation barrier in SIS (Student Information System), but is working on a solution for the non-compatibility.

Mr. Fogel introduced the Special Programs page which allows access and management of documentation for families and staff for students on learning plans indicating that this new page saves 17 clicks. He demonstrated enhanced capabilities of the Teacher Home Page and App in the SIS, graduation plan progress and report writing as well as the nuances of the Parent/Guardian Home Page.

Mr. Fogel listed upcoming training for teachers, students, and administrative assistants, confirming the July 1, 2024 launch date. He assured the committee that all parties would be trained, and that he will be at course selection for high school students to smooth out any glitches that may occur. Access to the old data will be available until 10/15/24.

2. **2023-2028 Final Strategic Plan:** Superintendent Folan shared the graphic design version of the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Identifying, planning, decision-making and goals, Mr. Folan summarized the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan as a commitment to achieving an exceptional student learning experience. He introduced Mission and Vision statements, core values, priorities, strategies and timelines for implementation for each process that will be integral in meeting the four priority goals:
  - i. Teaching, Learning and Leading for all;
  - ii. Management and Operations;
  - iii. Communication and Community Engagement;
  - iv. Safe, Inclusive and Equitable Environments.

The full report may be found on the CPS website.

3. **Enrollment and Data Review:** Mr. Marshall submitted an enrollment update for the Committee’s review. While numbers have remained fairly flat, Mr. Marshall noted that class sizes are still large and house more students with high needs. Mr. Marshall provided demographic charts, current enrollment and distribution charts as well as projections. Based on these numbers, Mr. Marshall asked the

Committee to consider redistricting, employing additional methodologies (i.e. move-in numbers) to supplement birth rate numbers for a truer count.

Ms. Moran requested class size breakdown by subject.

4. **FY25 Budget Rollout:** Mr. Marshall presented the FY25 Operating Budget for a first read noting that the Superintendent has yet to include his input. Highlights included:
  - i. contractual obligations of \$1.8 mil;
  - ii. numerous new positions for educators based on class size, particularly in Special Education and at the high school level, several of which have been funded by grants or donations;
  - iii. a 14% inflation increase in Out of District tuition and transportation;
  - iv. Technology software and supplies-particularly Chromebook redistribution and the SIS PowerSchool roll-out;
  - v. GMS Late Bus to better support after school activities (Mon-Thurs)
  - vi. District Professional Development Contracted Services to allow continued review cycles and provide opportunities for summer curriculum reviews.

Total requests equal approximately \$6.5 million-a 12% increase to the town.

Mr. Marshall is committed to continued applications for state aid and new grant funding, but is also researching other means of resources.

Ms Moran inquired over a request in previous years for an additional high school English instructor. Mr. Marshall indicated that this request was not brought forward this year. Ms. Moran asked Mr. Marshall to circle back with CHS Principal, Mr. Sperling, to better understand this need.

5. **Appendix Update:** In an effort to establish consistency in CPS policy with recommendations from the Secret Service “Safe School” program, school districts are asked to define and establish procedures for responding to threats. Superintendent Folan introduced an updated version of the CPS District Appendix document regarding Threat Assessment Protocol language that outlines the purpose and rationale behind the program. Through safety and policy work, the edited document includes developing a trained multidisciplinary threat assessment team, creating a safe school climate and community, and establishing systems relationships and information sharing agreements. Mr. Folan did note this document has yet to go through the Policy Subcommittee, but is expected to be reviewed in 2024 to identify any adjustments that may be necessary for the updated protocol.
6. **The Education Cooperative (TEC) Capital Reserve Cap Expansion:** Superintendent Folan discussed the Educational Cooperative (TEC) Capital Reserve Fund Cap Expansion. Mr. Folan, who serves as a board member for (TEC), described the TEC as a leader in technology funding entrepreneurial investors. The request is to increase the limit on the fund balance from \$750,000 to \$3.5 million. This increase will be utilized to maintain services, provide

renovations and upgrades to educational facilities, leasing and maintenance for TEC facilities, and purchase of capital equipment and technology, etc. Mr. Folan indicated that this request does not require a vote from the School Committee; however, he hoped for their support.

**E. Public Comment:** No public comments were heard.

**F. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report:** Mr. Marshall had nothing further to report.

**G. Consent Agenda:** Chair O'Halloran announced the contents of the Consent Agenda asking if there were any requests for discussion or removal of any of the items for further review. Hearing none, Ms. O'Halloran asked for a motion to approve Open Session Minutes from 12.21.23 and Warrants for 1.5.24 as written and presented. Maureen Moran made the motion; Laura Arboleda seconded. Roll Call vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as follows:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

**H. (5 min.) Update of Sub-Committee, Task Force and Liaison Posts:**

Mr. Marshall: Nothing more to report;

Ms. McCourt: nothing to report;

Ms. Arboleda: nothing to report;

Ms. Moran-the next Budget meeting will be held Tuesday, January 9th.

Ms. O'Halloran:

- a. the next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held Friday, January 12th;
- b. CCPC final selections will be made Monday, January 8th. Mr. Marshall indicated that the JFK playground request will be reduced by approximately half due to a very generous donation;
- c. Content & Communications:
  - i. Fall Sports review ad ran last week; next ad will include appreciation of all who were involved in making the fall sports season successful.
  - ii. Ms. O'Halloran is looking for a successor to chair this committee.

Superintendent Folan: nothing further to report.

**I. Other Business:** None

**J. Future Business:** The next Open Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024 @ 6:00 pm.

**K. Adjournment:** Hearing no further questions or requests for discussion on any topic, Chair O'Halloran asked for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, January 4, 2024 School Committee Open Session Meeting at 8:11 pm. Maureen Moran made the motion; Laura Arboleda seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as follows:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

Action Item: Ms. Moran asked Mr. Marshall to revisit the need of an additional CHS English teacher with CHS Principal, Mr. Sperling, to appropriately manage the budget process.

**Documents Reviewed:**

Superintendent's Report, January 4, 2024

CPS PowerSchool Implementation Update

2023-2028 CPS Strategic Plan (graphic design version)

CPS Enrollment and Class Size Report, December 2023

Initial Operating Budget Requests for FY 2025

CPS District Appendix Threat Assessment Protocol language

The Education Cooperative Capital Reserve Fund