

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of October 21, 2021
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

Members of the public were also able to view a live stream of the meeting via <http://cantoncommunitytv.org/>

A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Merenda.

B. Open Session:

Present are:

Kristian Merenda

Nichola Gallagher

Maureen Moran

Kendall O'Halloran

Also Present:

Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent

Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations

Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary

Public

Staff

C. Student Member Report: Mr. Suraj Ramanathan gave an update on CHS testing that took place this month. Suraj would like to see ACT offered at CHS. Students that did not take the test participated in Wellness activities. Suraj also spoke about the Rodman Preschool. Students there will be learning about the lifecycle of pumpkins during STEAM week.

D. Interim Superintendent's Report:

Interim Superintendent Highlights

CHS SAT/PSAT Testing: Thank you to Dr. Meredith Chamberland, the guidance staff and all of the CHS educators for their work in scheduling and administering the SAT and PSAT testing on October 13. Below are the testing numbers and percentages of students who took the exams:

Grade 10: 203 of 217 students: 93.5% of the class

Grade 11: 195 of 213 students: 91.5% of the class

Grade 12: over 99% of colleges are NOT requiring tests of the Class of 2022 but still, 98 seniors took it..

A big thank you to the CHS Wellness teachers and Grade 12 students for coordinating team-building activities for the Grade 9 students. Students who were not testing watched the Chris Herren Film *The First Day*.

Events/Acknowledgments This Month

Red Ribbon Week

Dyslexia Awareness Month

Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Updates

GMS FITFUND\$: The October 8 GMS CAPT fundraiser, FITFUND\$ was a huge success. Thanks to CAPT President, Catherine Hoberg, for her work in planning and executing this event that raised \$43,369.50 as of last week.

MSBA update: The Senior Study portion of the MSBA process will start tomorrow, October 22, with a Zoom call with MSBA representatives. The focus of the call is the financial and community readiness

for the project. On October 26, CPS and Town representatives will conduct a walkthrough of Galvin Middle School.

Champions of Excellence

Cantonstock: Cantonstock is the annual music extravaganza that showcases hundreds of student musicians representing all performing ensembles in the Canton schools, and is the primary fundraiser for MusicCounts, the volunteer, non-profit group dedicated to supporting all music programs in all the Canton Public Schools.

Canton Diversity Equity and Inclusion (CDEI) Global Diversity Event: On Thursday, October 28, CDEI and the Canton Public Library will be co-hosting a Global Diversity Event at the Canton Library at 7 p.m. This is an opportunity for the community to come together and learn more about CDEI.

Important Dates and Events

Oct. 22	CHS Drama: One Act Plays, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Oct. 27	CPACSS Event: Basic Rights: Understanding the IEP, 6:30-8:30 pm https://fcsn-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrcuqrqzluHNF9XAND4ulyFH8RwdQM9p3 BR - IEP Virtual WS Flyer (2).pdf
Oct. 28	CDEI's Global Diversity Event -- Community Connections, Canton Public Library Community Room, 7:00 pm
Nov. 4	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 7:00 pm
Nov. 6	Cantonstock , CHS, 12 - 4 pm
Nov. 11	No School, Veterans Day
Nov. 12	CHS School Committee Student Forum, CHS Library Conference Room, 1:00 pm
Nov. 19	GMS School Committee Student Forum, GMS Library, 9:00 am

- E. Teaching and Learning Report: Ms. Deb Rooney shared details about Canton STEAM week. MA STEM week and Canton STEAM week take place from October 18-22, 2021. The theme for this year's STEAM week is the same as 2019 "See yourself in STEAM".
- At the elementary level: Our PreK-5 STEM Coordinator, Sara Donovan, shared activities that students participated in by grade. She also created a webpage with resources for students, teachers and families to use during STEAM week and throughout the year.
- At GMS: STEAM week has been postponed due to building issues.
- At CHS: After school opportunities were available for students on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, including opportunities to learn about Cryptography, Hour of Code, Origami, Digital Wellness and learning about green screens.

Ms. Jess Murphy talked about the support that GMS and CHS received for STEM instruction through the Project Lead the Way grant. This grant has helped to redesign the Technology & Engineering course at GMS. The grant, along with a revised schedule at the middle school this year, allows all students to

benefit from a Technology & Engineering course that meets twice per cycle for a full year, doubling the amount of Tech & Engineering for all of our students.

The robotics club will be offered at GMS in the Spring. Robotics continues to be a popular course at CHS and a popular club at all of our schools. Some changes this year are that it will be a Robotics/STEAM club in an attempt to reach more students and continue to expand activities. CHS Robodogs and Gearhounds participated in several Robotics competitions last year, resulting in the Robodogs qualifying for the state competition.

The CHS Robotics teams also collected over 2 tons of E-Waste and raised over \$4,000 for the team last weekend at the STEAM week Kickoff events coordinated with the Farmers Market. Funds raised help to support the teams participating in this year's competition.

- F. Public Comment: Ms. Marie Ericson thanked the Committee and Administration for allowing them to use space in front of the Rodman Building and for the ongoing support of the Canton Farmers Market. The final market is this coming Sunday.
- G. New Business Items:
1. Policy Process Update: Mr. Jim Hardy, MASC Field Director, presented the terms of the proposed policy contract between CPS and MASC. MASC looks at all language in all policies and compares it to handbooks, bargaining units, Town by-laws, and more. He explained how policies will be marked up and presented to the Committee. This first part of the contract is \$10,5000 or \$3,500/year for 3 months. The average is 15 months to finish. The second part of the contract is the online searchable function. There is a discount on the second part of the contract which is a 2 year contract with the fee waived for the 1st year if both contracts are signed within 30 days of each other. Fees include a hosting fee and unlimited updates. MASC notifies and updates Districts whom they contract with about new/updated policies and protocols.
Move approve the policy contract between MASC and CPS for both the online portion and policy manual development: Maureen Moran
Second: Kendall O'Halloran
Vote: 4-0
 2. Galvin Middle School Update: Mr. Folan provided an update regarding the Galvin Middle School water damage. Things were on track, however, the air quality testing results are not back yet, therefore GMS will have one more day of remote learning, tomorrow, October, 22. Remote learning no longer counts as instructional learning days per DESE. CPS got a waiver for 5 remote days due to the extreme circumstances at GMS.
 3. 2021-2022 School Improvement Plans (SIPs) for CHS and GMS: Mr. Jeff Sperling presented the CHS SIP. #1: Achieving Educational Excellence and Ensuring Equity: Every student will achieve significant personal and academic growth through a rigorous, equitable and inspiring educational experience that is responsive to individual needs and features research based, high quality instruction. School Focus and Rationale: Canton High School will review and update the Program of Studies and Graduation Requirements with the goal of ensuring high quality instruction and learning opportunities for all students. This work will be performed through a lens of educational excellence and equity, and will incorporate our efforts towards advancing our diversity, equity and inclusion practices. #2: Cultivating School Culture and Climate: Every student will flourish in an intellectually stimulating and physically and emotionally safe educational environment that supports an authentic sense of belonging and well-being. School Focus and Rationale: CHS will continue to strive for excellence in the areas of school culture and climate. A comprehensive review of our Student Handbook will be conducted to ensure our

narrative and procedures are in line with our Core Values and Beliefs. A key area of focus will be on the development of sound and refined Restorative Practices. This work will be performed in conjunction with Galvin Middle School to ensure a consistent and positive experience for students in grades 6-12. #3: Transforming Teaching and Learning: Every educator will build his/her/their capacity to provide rigorous, relevant, and culturally responsive learning experiences that engage, challenge and support all students. Purposeful curriculum and instructional design that engages students in deeper learning ensure that every student receives transformational experiences that promote student agency, develop individual talents and interests, and foster each child's critical thinking, collaboration and citizenship skills. School Focus and Rationale: CHS will continue to advance our emphasis on teaching and learning and expanding student voice, and do so through several key lenses. Staff will be challenged to assess their teaching practices and curriculum to ensure we are utilizing strong culturally responsive practices. This will include data analysis, as well as participation in interdisciplinary teams. Staff will be expected to step outside their departments and work in interdisciplinary teams with the goal of sharing in the development of schoolwide practices that exemplify the Champions of Excellence distinction. This work will also prepare CHS for the self-reflection component of our upcoming NEASC accreditation. Mr. Sperling has already begun the work of looking at CHS graduation requirements. There was a request for more parent involvement in the process of the program of studies and restorative practice initiatives. DEI members are invited to attend an upcoming SC meeting to share their plans and practices. The full report can be found on the School Committee webpage under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.

Ms. Sarah Shannon, Mr. Spillane and Mr. Mike Green presented the GMS SIP goals. #1: Achieving Educational Excellence and Ensuring Equity: Every student will achieve significant personal and academic growth through a rigorous, equitable and inspiring educational experience that is responsive to individual needs and features research based, high quality instruction. School Focus and Rationale: When structures are in place to monitor student progress and achievement students can be more supported in more personalized and timely ways so they can achieve at higher levels. The GMS Program of Studies will be revamped this year. #2: Cultivating School Culture and Climate: Every student will flourish in an intellectually stimulating and physically and emotionally safe educational environment that supports an authentic sense of belonging and well-being. GMS will focus on ensuring that policies and processes align with this belief system. There will be a comprehensive review of the student/family handbook. GMS will define and begin to implement Restorative Practices within the Code of Conduct and build the capacity of the staff to implement Restorative Practices across GMS. #3: Transforming Teaching and Learning: Every educator will build his/her/their capacity to provide rigorous, relevant, and culturally responsive learning experiences that engage, challenge and support all students. Purposeful curriculum and instructional design that engages students in deeper learning ensures that every student receives transformational experiences that promote student agency, develop individual talents and interests, and foster each child's critical thinking, collaboration and citizenship skills. There was a request to include parents/guardians to increase parent engagement across all areas including PBL projects, restorative practices and more. The full report can be found on the School Committee webpage under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.

4. COVID-19 Update on Vaccination Rates: Mr. Folan provided an update about COVID-19 and vaccination rates in the school buildings. If/when Districts meet 80% vaccination rates, then an appeal can be made to DESE to unmask. Currently, the CHS overall staff/student is at 71%. Mr. Folan shared 7-12 grade level vax status breakdowns. The full report can be found on the School Committee webpage under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes. Vaccine clinics for ages 5-11 are upcoming.

5. 30 North Street Commercial Condo Trustee: Proposal to replace Mr. Barry Nectow with Mr. Stephen Marshall as the Trustee of the facilities warehouse located at 30 North Street.
Move to replace Mr. Marshall as Trustee of the 30 North Street Commercial Condo:
Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran
Vote: 4-0
6. Update on School Committee Vacancy: Chair Merenda provided information regarding the vacancy on the School Committee. There are two candidates, Ms. Laura Arboleda and Mr. David Watchtendonk. Ms. Merenda shared background information on both candidates. Interviews will take place during a joint SC/Select Board meeting on November 9.
- H. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall reported that transportation is facing driver shortages. CPS has 1951 riders on yellow busses. There is an upcoming job fair looking for FT and substitute drivers. Currently, the District is working with three van companies. There have been delays and longer lead times getting students on vans due to a lack of drivers. Oct. 1 SIMS report certification is due on Oct. 28. The comprehensive report will be provided after this deadline. The District received \$944,000 cash capital from the Town. There were over 2 million in Capital requests from CPS Department heads. There is an upcoming finance subcommittee meeting that will then report back to the full Committee. Food services shortages are improving.
- I. Consent Agenda:
Motion to approve the consent agenda outlined below: Nichola Gallagher
Seconded: Maureen Moran
The Consent Agenda passed unanimously. 4-0
The following items were included in the Consent Agenda.
Regular Session Minutes: October 7, 2021, October 15, 2021 Workshop
Policies: BDA- School Committee Organizational Meeting, BDB - School Committee Officers
Warrant: October 22, 2021
- J. Sub-Committee, Task Force, and Liaison Post Updates:
 - Finance subcommittee meeting tomorrow
 - MASC gave feedback that a financial review could be a burden if it needs to report out to both the finance subcommittee and the task force. Members explained that the purpose of the financial review task force is to scope and procure a vendor to complete the financial review. The question was raised as to why there is a need to have both Committees. The task force review is currently an unbudgeted item. The finance subcommittee would ultimately need to review the cost of the review. Mr. Folan wants to ensure that all members' voices are heard during the scope and sequence.
 - CDEI Global Diversity event on Oct. 28.
 - Discussion took place regarding the communications task force and how to show appreciation for staff, students, sports, arts, graduation, parent volunteers, retirees and more. The frequency of ads and the size of the ads were discussed. There will possibly be 7-10 ads placed in the Citizen during the year to acknowledge all pertinent groups/events. There is an advertising line item in the Superintendent's budget.
- K. Other Business: None
- L. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, November 4, 2021, @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.
- M. Adjournment: Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 10:21 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nays

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated October 21, 2021
2. Teaching and Learning Update 10/21/2021
3. MASC Policy Contracts
4. CHS SIP
5. GMS SIP
6. 30 North Street Trustee Documents
7. Policies: BDA, BDB