

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of March 18, 2021
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. **Call to Order** The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Mirliani. Roll Call 4-0.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Chuck Rae	absent

Also Remotely Present:

Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Debbie Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning
Gabrielle McDuffie, Student Member
David Turcotte, Principal, CHS
Sarah Shannon, Principal, GMS
Lauren Pushard, Nurse Leader
Cindy Bonner, Canton Public Health Nurse
Patricia Palmer, Visual Arts Coordinator
Tara Iacobucci, CHS English Teacher
Kyra Coughlin, CHS Student
Alexis Newton, CHS Student
Amanda Ryder, CFM President
Marie Ericson, CFM Secretary
Kevin Vacca, CFM Treasurer

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- B. **Student Member Report** Gabrielle McDuffie gave a report on the Rodman Early Childhood program. She shared that the preschool is currently accepting applications for community peers. The deadline for applications is March 31 and the drawing will be held on April 5.

- C. **Superintendent's Report**

JFK Fundraiser "Raise Craze": Superintendent Fischer-Mueller congratulated and thanked JFK staff, students, administrators, and most importantly, CAPT, for organizing this year's fundraiser event, Raise Craze. The fundraiser ran 2/24-3/10. Students performed acts of kindness in school, at home, and in the greater Canton community. On Wednesday 3/3, all students were treated to a professional storyteller via Zoom, Leeny del Seamonds. The fundraiser raised \$25,782, 1192 acts of kindness were performed, and 252 participants spread kindness.

Getting Ready for All-in: The [FAQ document](#) is found on the [News Blog](#) and the most recent letter to K-5 families is [here](#).

Updates

CPS Device Loss/Damage Report: To get an update on our device inventory and degree of loss and damage, our Director of Technology and Digital Learning Ms. Julie Shore prepared this [memo](#) to provide the information as of March 15, 2021. With over 3200 devices deployed to staff and students, Canton Public Schools Damage and Loss rate has an overall average rate of just over 4%. Within the 4%, the rate of total loss of devices is 0.12%. With the use of warranty purchases, such as Apple Care and HP, and the skilled professionals we have on staff, we are able to evaluate, repair and redeploy almost every device owned by Canton Public Schools for a minimal cost.

Indicators of Excellence

CHS Strength and Conditioning: As schools are getting the opportunity to head back to in-person learning, coaches, like Mr. Adam Hughes, are also doing everything they can to get student-athletes back in the weight room safely and efficiently.

CHS Performing Arts: Five chorus students represented CHS at this year's virtual SEMMEA festival. The CHS Cabaret this past weekend. Congratulations to this talented group of students and another shout out to their dedicated and talented performing arts teachers.

Important Dates and Events

March 19 & 22	No School Grades K-2; PD Day for Grades K-2 Staff
March 23	All-in Grades K-2
March 26 & 29	No School Grades 3-5; PD Day for Grades 3-5 Staff
March 30	All-in Grades Grades 3-5
Tuesday, March 30	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
April 2	No School: Good Friday
April 7	Begins All-in Early Release Wednesdays for Grades K-5
April 8	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
April 19-23	No School: April Vacation

D. New Business

1. **Canton Farmers Market (CFM):** Ms. Amanda Ryder, CFM Board of Directors President, and other members of the CFM Board of Directors, Ms. Marie Ericson and Mr. Kevin Vacca, presented their plans to start a farmers market in Canton. A vote of approval was requested to set up the market on the front lawn of the

Rodman Building. The group presented to the Select Board this week and received a 5-0 vote of approval. CFM is a nonprofit organization. COVID protocols will be followed and a CPS custodian will be on site.

Move to approve the Canton Farmers Market set up on the front lawn of the Rodman Building, Sunday's from 9-3 from June

13-October 24: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote by Roll Call: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Maureen Moran yea

2. Scholastic Art and Writing Awards: Ms. Tricia Palmer and Ms. Tara Iacobucci presented the 2020-2021 Scholastic Art and Writing Award recipients. CHS Senior Alexis Newton and CHS Kyra Newton read their poems aloud.
3. John Crowther Scholarship: CHS Principal Dave Turcotte presented the John Crowther Lacrosse Scholarship for a vote of approval. 2 scholarships will be awarded each year to one boy and one girl Hockomock lacrosse player in the amount of \$500/year for 4 years.

Move to approve the CHS John Crowther Scholarship: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Vote by Roll Call: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Maureen Moran yea

4. COVID Protocols Update: Assistant Superintendent Folan, Ms. Lauren Pushard, and Ms. Cindy Bonner presented proposed updates to the COVID 19 Protocols. The required quarantine time following the identification of a close contact will be lowered from 14 days to 10 days. The Daily Screener has been updated to include questions regarding the full family household and travel questions. The Daily Screener will also now be required for the All-in Model. Students who do not complete the screener before entering the building will be screened at school. Symptomatic students or staff members who get a negative PCR test 72 hours after the onset of symptoms, who have had symptoms resolve, and who have been fever free for 24 hours without medication are not required to wait the full 10-day period to return to school. In these cases, individuals will be required to provide documentation of the PCR test to the Building Nurse for clearance to return to school. Double masking is a recommendation, not a requirement. Close contact criteria remain unchanged, closer than 6' of a positive case for longer than 15 minutes. With students coming all in, quarantining and close contacts may include whole classrooms. Members stressed the importance of staff and students following the protocols and completing screeners prior to entering school buildings. Symptoms considered are not only singular symptoms but also a combination of symptoms, this information is outlined in the updated protocols. Another mitigating factor will be that classroom windows are recommended to be open a couple of inches, and air purifiers will be powered on in each room.

Move to approve the updated COVID 19 Protocol Manual:

Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Vote by Roll Call: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea
Kristian Merenda yea
Nichola Gallagher yea
Maureen Moran yea

5. 2021 MCAS Discussion: Ms. Nichola Gallagher presented background information and a resolution, submitted by MASC Board of Directors, to suspend the 2021 MCAS testing. The resolution rejects the calls for the students of 2022 who missed their tenth grade MCAS testing to be required to make it up during the 2020-2021 school year or ever. Additionally, it demands those students be held harmless for not taking the MCAS and that their graduation requirements be determined by locally controlled voices of the School Committee and School Administration within the remaining graduation requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. There was a lengthy discussion about the wording of the resolution. Further discussion pertained to clarifying language such as the resolution pertains to grades 3-10, not just high school students. There was additional discussion about parent choice to have students opt out or in of MCAS testing. Ultimately, the Committee's decision was to strike the language in the last paragraph, *and we urge the legislature to enact a moratorium on high stakes testing of three years.*

Move to approve the signing of the 2020-2021 MASC and High Stakes Testing Resolution to cancel the Administration of MCAS for the 2020-2021 school year with the striking of the language above from the last paragraph: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote by Roll Call: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea
Kristian Merenda yea
Nichola Gallagher yea
Maureen Moran yea

E. Unfinished Business

1. 2021-2022 Draft School Calendar: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller suggested holding on detailed calendar discussion until the next meeting given the length of tonight's meeting and the upcoming agenda items which still require detailed discussion. An overview was provided. Ms. Rooney explained that two versions will be presented one showing early release days on Wednesday, the other with early release days on Friday. The other important discussion to take place is to determine the first day of school. Contractually, CTA is not required to return to school prior to September 1.
2. COVID Update and "All-in" Update: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and members of the District Administration provided an All-in update. Grades K-2 begin All-in on Tuesday, March 23. March 30 will be the first day of All-in for Grades 3-5. Friday, March 26 and Monday, March 29 are staff prep days and there will be no school for Grades 3-5 students, including Grade 3-5 RLP students on those days. Wednesday, April 7 will be the first in person early release day for elementary students. The traditional "window" used in the Hybrid Model will no longer be available. Students who are quarantined will be able to use technology to engage in the classroom for lessons, and a staff member will provide check-ins.

Custodial and maintenance staff have been working to rearrange rooms. The rooms are being measured to have a minimum of 3 feet between students' seats. Per the

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidance, the measuring between desks will be edge of seat to edge of seat, front to back and side by side. There will be 6 feet of space between students and the teacher's space.

All staff and students on the bus, regardless of age, are required to wear masks at all times and maximum distance between students should be maintained during boarding and transportation. Capacity limitations and physical distancing requirements for students on buses have been lifted through state guidance, except if the District has high community prevalence of COVID-19. Windows will be kept open at least two inches at all times during operation. In adverse weather conditions, every other window will be opened. Students will be assigned to a single bus and a particular seat.

Students and staff will be at least 6 feet apart when not wearing masks while eating lunch. Lunch will also be able to be eaten outside, weather permitting. Cafeterias will have a combination of desks, chairs, tables and floor space for students. Tents will be installed starting Wednesday, March 25 and will be able to be used to extend teaching and learning outside and for eating lunch.

The Galvin Middle School All-in Committee reviewed three different scenarios before determining their timeline for All-in. Monday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 13 will be teacher professional days and there will be no school on these days for students, including those on the RLP. Wednesday, April 14 will be a remote learning day for all students. On Thursday, April 15 all GMS students will begin All-in. GMS landed on 4/12 as the All-in start date as it coincides with the beginning of term 4.

A GMS Change in Enrollment Google Form will be sent out again on Monday, March 22 so parents/guardians can make their final decision about any learning model shift. All classrooms at GMS will be able to have students at a 3 - 4.5 feet physical distance. There are tentative plans to add a third lunch block so that each grade will have its own lunch period. Classrooms, cafeteria, gymnasium and outdoor spaces are expected to be used for lunch in order to have 6 feet of distance. There may be some potential schedule shifts regarding lunchtimes.

DESE has not yet released guidance and timelines for high school students to return to classrooms but it is expected in April. District administrators are meeting with remote teachers to discuss returning to school. Custodial staff has evaluated room capacity at a minimum of 3 feet of spacing. Whenever possible, the distance between seats will be greater than 3 feet. The current plan for lunch spaces includes using all gymnasium and cafeteria spaces for seating, as well as multiple points of food distribution. The high school also plans to create a new schedule, which would likely be similar to the 2019-2020 school year schedule. As with all other grades, two professional development days will be used to allow CHS staff to prepare for All-in.

3. **FY22 Budget:** Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Barry Nectow continued the discussion on the FY22 budget. The School Committee approved the Superintendent budget request with a 5.11% increase and the FinCom target came back with a 3.48% increase, leaving a \$752,185 deficit in the budget. As a result, the School Committee Finance Subcommittee met to discuss options of closing the gap. The committee proposed removing the following line items: GMS Challenge & Enrichment, GMS Special Education Teacher, GMS Adjustment Counselor, GMS Lunch Aides, elementary school Adjustment Counselors, District Data Specialist, Humanities

Coordinator, supplies at CHS and GMS, GMS STEAM curriculum materials, and 7th and 8th grade novels. With these reductions, there is still a deficit remaining totaling \$193,986, or a 3.90% increase compared to the FinCom target of 3.48%. The Finance Subcommittee will meet again before presenting the proposed budget to FinCom. Mr. Nectow explained that the COVID relief money is a one time fix. Moving recurring items into this only provides relief for one year. Some Committee members advocated for the District Data Specialist and the Humanities Coordinator. The rationale for the GMS Health Teacher directly relates to the results of the YRBS.

F. Business Managers Report None

G. Public Comment

Amy Eagles	Questions about lunch procedures in all- in model
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H. Routine Matters

1. Approve Minutes dated February 25, 2021

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Maureen Moran yea

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated February 25, 2021

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Maureen Moran yea

3. Approve Executive Minutes dated March 10, 2021

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Maureen Moran yea

4. Announcement that the warrants dated March 19, 2021, will be delivered by Ms. Moran to the Business Manager tomorrow.

I. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - nothing new to report
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - absent
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - absent
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - meeting 3/23
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report

7. CDEI - Nichola Gallagher - engaging in discussion with Farmers Market
8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda - identifying priority areas

J. **Future Business** Next School Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

K. **Other Business**

L. **Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 10:19 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 4-0.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea

Documents used during the meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated March 18, 2021
2. Canton Farmers Market 2021 Slide Deck
3. Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards 2020-2021 Slide Deck
4. John Crowther Scholarship
5. C19 Protocols for Responding to District Scenarios
6. MCAS 2021 ppt
7. MASC- MCAS Test and Access Test
8. Testimonial of Ways and Means
9. Bill HD 1488 - Act to cancel administration of 2021 MCAS
10. MCAS Resolution
11. SC All-in update March 18, 2021 ppt
12. FY22 Superintendent Budget Request, 3-11-2021