

**Canton School Committee**  
Open Session Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 11, 2023

**A. Call to Order:** Chair O'Halloran asked for a motion to convene the Thursday, May 11th, 2023 School Committee Open Meeting at 5:18 pm. Maureen Moran made the motion; Laura Arboleda seconded. The vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

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

**Attendees:**

Kendall O'Halloran  
Kristian Merenda (arrived at 5:26 pm)  
Maureen Moran  
Laura Arboleda  
Kimberly McCourt  
Derek Folan, Superintendent  
Sarah Shannon, Assistant Superintendent  
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations  
Joanne Campbell, Recording Secretary

Absent: Emma Cummings, Student Representative to the School Committee

**Guests:**

Ms. Deborah Rooney, Director of Teaching & Learning PreK-8  
Ms. Heidi Olson, CHS Teacher/Dept. Advisor, World Language  
Mr. Ryan Garrett, Student Representative  
Anna Sanina, CPACSS Member  
Lauren Cipriano, CPACSS Member

**B. Executive Session:** Committee members immediately entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Chair O'Halloran stated that identification of nonunion personnel was withheld as publicly disclosing that information would compromise the purpose for which the executive session was called.

School Committee Members returned from Executive Session at 6:05 pm.

**C. Student Report:** Ryan Garrett, Student Representative to the Hansen Elementary School, shared the student member report regarding Hansen events. Mr. Garrett highlighted the Boosterthon, currently in its second week including the Fun Run. He particularly noted the students' personal feelings of

accomplishment at the finish line. Mr. Garrett also reported that students are practicing the new Math curriculum, Reveal. He is hearing lots of positive feedback.

**D. Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Folan will present District progress, highlights, and accolades.

**Highlights:**

Junior Prom: This year's junior prom took place at the Cape Club in Sharon. The junior class had beautiful weather for photography and arrived wearing their very best. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful dinner together and lots of use of the photo booth. Thanks to Party Excitement Entertainment for keeping everyone dancing and to all the high school staff who chaperoned the event. Thank you to the Junior Class Stephanie Parker and all of the chaperones for making it a great experience. The Senior Prom is Thursday, May 25.

GMS Performance: GMS students performed in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Thank you to everyone who put in hard work so our students could shine. We appreciate the community support, purchasing 860 tickets for the event.

**Staff Acknowledgements:**

Teacher/Educator Appreciation Week: During the week of May 8-12, we acknowledge and celebrate the work of our great educators in Canton and across the world. Our educators play such a critical role in the teaching, learning and development of our students, and they have chosen a profession that is incredibly difficult, rewarding and impactful. As a community, we say thank you.

School Nurses Appreciation Day: On May 10, we celebrate our school nurses in Canton. They are a team that simply went above and beyond during COVID, and they are still working at a high-level pace to meet the needs of every child and staff. As a community, we say thank you!

**Other Events:**

Asian and Pacific-Island Heritage Month: May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. During this month we recognize the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the culture and achievements of the US.

**Updates:**

Performing Arts Updates: The GMS and CHS orchestras played at the State House this week! What a wonderful opportunity for our students. Thank you to Ms. Pabon for her initiative in coordinating this very special event.

Recently, the Performing Arts faculty participated in a 2-hour professional development on Japanese culture, music traditions, and tonal scales with Mikiko Soto. Musiccounts funded the bus for both the Statehouse and PD session with Mikiko.

Professional Development Update: Friday, April 28 marked our fourth professional learning day dedicated to content of the school year. We are grateful to all of our amazing department coordinators who planned meaningful work for all staff on that day. The day was a success and we are grateful for all who planned and led sessions. Our next learning opportunity will be on May 19.

MSBA/GMS Project: Bids were due today (Thurs. 5/11/23) from Architecture/Design Firms who want to be considered for the MSBA/GMS project. The bids will go to the Design Selection Panel. On June 6 and June 20 there will be review and decisions made.

### **Indicators of Excellence**

Professional Development Presentation: On Thursday, April 27, Deborah Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Jackie Abrams, PreK-5 Humanities Coordinator presented at the Massachusetts Reading Association conference. Their session ***Better Together! Using Decodables and Leveled Readers Together in Ways that Serve Students Best*** supported teachers' understanding of how to engage children as they are learning to read by strategically using decodable texts and leveled readers to practice and apply vital phonics and reading comprehension skills.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: AP exams were administered at CHS in the first 2 weeks of May. There are a total of 512 exams being administered.

### **Important Dates and Events**

May 12	CHS Cabaret, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
May 16	Scholastic Honors Night, CHS Auditorium, 6:30 pm
May 18	World Language Recognition Night, CHS Auditorium, 6:00 pm
May 19	Early Release, PreK-12, Professional Development
May 19	CHS Pops Concert, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
May 21	Luce Fun Run & 5k, Luce School, starts at 10:00 am
May 22-25	District Art Show, 6:00-8:00, CHS Gym
May 23	Scholarship Night, CHS Auditorium, 6:30 pm
May 25	School Committee, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm
May 29	No School - Memorial Day
May 30	Performing Arts Gala, CHS Cafeteria/Auditorium, 6:00 pm

**E. Teaching and Learning:** Ms. Deborah Rooney and Ms. Heidi Olson shared a World Language Curriculum review. To ensure a variety of perspectives, Ms. Rooney and Ms. Olson engaged world languages teachers and administrators from grades Pre-K to 12 to help identify, review and update curriculums in alignment with the new 2021 Massachusetts World Languages Framework. This process included creating course options to increase access, identifying professional learning opportunities, pathways and instructional strategies to enable students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, and cataloging specific learning structures and environments to help improve teaching and learning. Colleagues created a thoughtful World Languages Department Vision Statement that promotes global awareness, equity and multicultural understanding, then reviewed the core curriculum. Applying previously gathered data and district initiatives, the review team determined deficiencies in the current program, proposed a series of recommendations and best practices, and a timeline for incorporating changes into the curriculum to improve learning experiences for all students.

Committee members asked about reestablishing American Sign Language in this curriculum as well as a German language “feeder” through middle school. Ms. Olson explained that ASL became unsustainable during COVID. She continues to advocate for both programs and is working to retain educators with multiple certifications to be able to support a return of ASL and expansion of the German language program at the Galvin. Ms. Moran asked about CHS language classes that are above the School Committee’s recommended class size guidelines and asked how the School Committee can help in its role as the funding mechanism for the district. Ms. Olson did ask the Committee to consider a dedicated language lab in the design of the new Galvin Middle School to encourage practice to gain proficiency in word languages.

**F. Unfinished Business:**

1. **Policy Section E - 2nd Read:** Members of the policy subcommittee presented Section E for a 2nd read. Mr. Marshall included a draft for cameras around campus and asked Committee members to review and comment by Monday, May 15th. Chair O’Halloran also submitted policies from neighboring districts for the committee’s review. It was agreed to hold the vote for a third read at the May 25th, 2023 Open Session.

**G. New Business:**

1. **Canton Parent Advisory Council for Student Services (CPACSS):** CPACSS members, Anna Sanina and Lauren Cipriano shared a CPACSS year-end review. Ms. Cipriano spoke about the goal to revitalize the program through in person events, on-line topics of interest to parents, increasing the Facebook group following, and acting as a general support system. She reported on several virtual and in-person workshops on available software and devices, a resource fair, as well as social events such as ice cream socials and playground meet-ups. CPACSS has also networked with surrounding towns sharing workshops and trying to create more opportunities for parents to learn. CPACSS has raised funds with the help of other Canton CAPTs, but the biggest goal is to interest more parent volunteers to get involved with CPACSS. There was discussion over how to collect funds that may remain in the District. Mr. Marshall will continue discussions with Director of Student Services, Ms. Meghan Byrne.
2. **Q3 Financial Report:** Mr. Marshall presented the Quarter 3 Financial Report, including donations (ending March 31, 2023), noting that salaries make up 82% of the budget. Mr. Marshall continues to redesign the chart of accounts to include new cost centers. Completion of this project is expected to be available by October 2024. Mr. Marshall

reviewed Special Education funding and expenses and reported on the disposition of surplus property (gym equipment) that was in poor condition. This gym space is currently being used for Yoga and Movement classes. He noted that next year's budget was approved at the most recent town meeting and responded to questions by Committee members regarding the current school lunch program, "center of plate" and meal costs in general. With no further questions from Committee members, Chair O'Halloran asked for a motion to approve the Q3 Financial Report, including donations. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Kristian Merenda seconded. The vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
5 yeas	0 nays

3. **Summative Evaluation Self-Assessment:** Superintendent Folan shared his self-assessment as part of the Summative Evaluation process. Mr. Folan summarized the progress of stated goals within each of four Standards—Instructional Leadership, Management and Operations, Family and Community Engagement, and Professional Culture. Mr. Folan summarized his successes in each of these categories including achievement in the growth and well being of students, educator and community engagement, and beginning work on equity recommendations, assessing a self-rating of proficient. Mr. Folan also reported on his success in CEA negotiations, building a District dashboard, restructuring Student Services, academic identity and stronger curriculum, and successfully navigating difficulties in transportation earlier in the school year. He also spoke about his work on achieving goals drawn from recommendations in the School Committee's 2021-2022 Summative Evaluation. School Committee recommendations included progress toward a demonstrable commitment to high standards for learners at all levels in the District (achieved), outlining a targeted and optimal staff planning (achieved), making progress on a longer term plan to improve student retention in the District (in progress), and identifying a longer term plan articulating optimal conditions for teaching the Canton district (in progress). While pleased with his progress, Superintendent Folan did see an opportunity to dedicate more time around student retention and school promotion, two-way communication with parents, welcoming all cultures and removing barriers, and building a sense of belonging and welcoming for every family. The full report can be found on the CPS website.

**H. Public Comment:** No public comments, virtual or in person, were heard.

**I. Director of Finance and Operations Report:** Mr. Marshall had nothing further to report.

**J. Consent Agenda:**

1. Regular Session Minutes: April 27, 2023
2. Executive Session Minutes: April 27, 2023
3. Warrant: May 12, 2023

Committee members requested that both Regular and Executive Session minutes from April 27, 2023 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further review. Chair O'Halloran then asked for a motion to

approve the Warrant for May 12th, 2023 as written and presented. Maureen Moran made the motion; Laura Arboleda seconded. The vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
5 yeas	0 nays

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

**1. Kristina Merenda:**

- a. The next District Planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th and is on track to present at a School Committee meeting by the end of June 2023. A sub-folder is available in the School Committee folder;
- b. Superintendent Evaluation—working on follow-up steps to take and looking to schedule meetings for evaluation;
- c. Master Planning Meeting-unavailable for 5/18n meeting;
- d. MSBA-in process of choosing design team;
- e. BRC-extensive library work in progress.

**2. Kimberly McCourt-nothing to report.**

**3. Laura Arboleda:**

- a. 5/9/23 Scheduled Policy meeting was canceled as Mr. Hardy was unavailable;
- b. CDEI-just getting started-will update when there is activity.

**4. Kendall O'Halloran:**

- a. CCPC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16th;
- b. Content & Communications-CAPT's are highlighted in current ad;
- c. CHS Student, Olivia Schnog, is designing ads now and doing an amazing job.

**5. Derek Folan-nothing to report**

**6. Maureen Moran:**

- a. Ms. Moran shared with the full committee a discussion that she had with Mr. Folan and Mr. Marshall at the April 28, 2023 Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting, during which time she expressed concerns that the School Committee had not voted to authorize the proposed Student Services reorganization. She said the School Committee had voted on the elementary assistant principals and the subsequent changes those positions would have on the existing team chair positions, but had not voted on the proposed Assistant Director of Student Services PreK-5 and Assistant Director of Student Services 6-12. She said the School Committee had not been presented with job descriptions for those positions, as necessitated by School Committee policies GCA, GCF and GDA; job descriptions weren't presented to School Committee until May 1, 2023. Ms. Moran also stated that FTEs have been discussed and that the positions are revenue neutral, but that she hadn't seen finances for the positions. She said she was troubled by the process, as well as that the School Committee should know when positions are being created. A discussion ensued. Ms. Merenda suggested there be a better process on budget review, and Ms. Arboleda requested education on process

and asked for clarification on budget impact with the new assistant director positions.  
This item will be added as a future agenda item.

**C. Other Business:** None

**D. Future Business** The next Open Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.

**E. Adjournment:** With no further questions or requests for discussion on any subjects, Chair O’Halloran asked for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, May 11th, 2023 School Committee Open Meeting at 8:53 pm. Kristian Merenda made the motion; Laura Arboleda seconded. The vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

Ms. Merenda	yea
Ms. Moran	yea
Ms. Arboleda	yea
Ms. Merenda	yea
Ms. McCourt	yea
5 yeas	0 nays

Action Items:

1. Members will forward their edits on Policy Section E to Ms. O’Halloran by Monday, May 15th, 2023.