

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of January 21, 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 via a roll call vote in Executive Session 5-0. Attendance is taken again in Open Session. Roll Call 5-0.

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

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
Dianna Mullen, Director of Student Services
Sarah Shannon, Principal, GMS
Dave Turcotte, Principal, CHS
Josh Fogel, Assistant Principal, CHS
Gabrielle McDuffie, Student Member
Ishita Jaiswall, GMS Student
Roopali Gandhi, GMS Parent

- B. Student Member Report** Gabrielle McDuffie gave a report on the Hansen School. She informed the committee about new reading groups, the strong sense of community in the school, a new rock climbing wall that all students can use following COVID safety guidelines, thanked CAPT for their support and their contribution toward the purchase of the rock wall.

C. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Highlights

Warm Welcome Back: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller thanked staff, parents and students for the warm welcome back.

Canton Adult Transition Program Visit: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller spoke about her visit to the 18-22 year old Adult Transition Program.

CAASA Drug Free Community Grant Update: Chief Doody and Cindy Bonner informed the membership that the CDC has awarded the Drug Free Community Grant to CAASA. The grant will provide \$125,000 per year for 5 years to CAASA for addressing substance use disorder in Canton. A portion of the funds will be used to hire a substance abuse coordinator.

Updates

Elementary Schools Learning Model Update: Elementary Schools Learning Model Update: With the increase in COVID numbers and after careful consideration, CPS made temporary changes to learning models for the three elementary schools. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller

shared those changes and indicated additional temporary adjustments will be made on a case by case basis as needed.

DESE COVID-19 Pool Testing: DESE and DPH introducing COVID-19 screening testing using a pooled strategy in the school setting. CPS has expressed interest in participating in this testing initiative. Pooled testing involves mixing several test samples together in a “batch” or “pool” and then testing the pooled sample with a PCR test for detection of SARS-CoV-21. Other options are also being explored. Superintendent Ficher-Mueller will continue to provide you with updated information in the coming weeks.

While the expenses of the first six weeks of the program are free, districts choosing to continue the testing would need to pick up all the expenses associated with the test, its administration and record keeping themselves.

CPS Vaccination Plan: The district is hopeful that with support from the state, the Town of Canton and the school department will collaborate to serve school employees sometime in mid-late February through March. The timing is dependent on receiving vaccines from the state in a timely manner so that the individuals in the previous subgroups and in Phase 1 are completed. The Canton Health Department is awaiting approval from the state in order to receive vaccines and provide clinics for anyone in the categories outlined in Phase 1.

CHS Water Testing: As part of the ongoing Town of Canton water testing and analysis program, it was recently confirmed that one water bubbler in the Canton High School has a lead level slightly above the Massachusetts Action Level for lead in drinking water at schools. Prior to the start of the school year, all water bubblers in the district were turned off due to COVID-19. Test results showed that all other water samples taken from all public access and management areas (coolers, kitchen sinks, etc.) across our school district are within normal limits.

Flu Vaccination Requirement: The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is removing the requirement for flu vaccination for attendance in childcare/preschool, primary, secondary and postsecondary education. With consideration of the CDC health recommendations, CPS is still offering two additional clinics. Flu Clinic Monday 1/25, 4:00-7:00 pm and Monday 2/8, 4:00-7:00 pm.

Requests from Previous School Committee Meeting: At the last School Committee meeting, January 7, there was a request for information regarding literacy support in the elementary schools and Home Base at GMS and CHS. Our Director of Teaching and Learning and Director of Student Services will each share information on these topics following their future staff meetings in February.

Important Dates and Events

Jan. 22	CHS Virtual Talent Show, 6:30 pm
Jan. 29	End of Term 2, CHS and GMS
Feb. 4	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
Feb 9	CHS Picture Day – Cohort A
Feb. 10	CHS Picture Day - RLP

Feb. 11	CHS Picture Day –Cohort B
Feb. 11	Course Selection Night, Grade 8, 6:00-6:45 Virtual (information forthcoming)
Feb. 11	Course Selection Night, Grade 9-11, 7:00-7:45, Virtual (information forthcoming)
Feb. 15-19	February Vacation Week
Feb. 25	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm

D. Unfinished Business

1. FY22 Operating Budget: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller started the conversation with the previous request for a PACE teacher at GMS. As discussed during the last School Committee meeting, this topic was further discussed at a recent Finance Subcommittee meeting. Also discussed at that meeting was the budget process. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller explained that the School Committee budget process begins with the School Committee budget guidelines. These guidelines are aligned to the Strategic Framework. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller suggested revisiting the budget guidelines this summer to set priorities and guidelines for the budget process moving forward. The budget guidelines will be revisited this summer to prepare for the next budget cycle. There was a lengthy discussion about a proposed GMS enrichment and challenge coach vs. a PACE teacher. District educational leaders explained that the option of coaching for staff vs. a pull out PACE teacher can meet the needs of more students while still providing the option of further challenge and rigor to all students. Further discussion will be centered around what is the best fit for the district. Next steps involve obtaining teacher input. The goal is to give GMS teachers what they need to support students at various levels. A general timeline rollout was discussed which involves reviewing a job description, determining how the position would function in the building and developing a roll out plan.

Mr. Nectow reviewed the FY22 budget proposal. This budget proposal includes the additional 1.0 FTE for the GMS to support enrichment and challenge. The FY22 Superintendent budget requests include 9 new FTE's. The total budget increase is \$2,358,576 or a 5.11% increase with a total budget of \$48,544,927. The supporting funds allocation will be shared with the Town but can be adjusted if needed. The budget proposal will be sent to the Town on January 22. The full report can be found on the website under the Business and Finance tab.

Move to approve the FY22 Budget totaling \$48,544,927: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Vote by Roll Call: 5-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Chuck Rae	yea

E. New Business

1. Project Hope: GMS student Ishita Jaiswal shared her project which helps families during the COVID pandemic. Project HOPE, Helping out People on Edge is working to connect kids in the community with each other. Some examples of how the project is addressing this need is through bookclubs, bike riding, online games.
2. CHS Schedule Update: Principal Dave Turcotte shared the work of the scheduling committee and presented a proposed CHS schedule update. Principal Turcotte shared the committee's objectives, the factors that informed the development of the schedule, feedback from parents/guardians, staff and students, and staff and student survey results. 65.87% of students on the continuum said they agree or strongly agree that they would like to increase in person learning time. 60.3% of all students said they learn best when they attend classes in person at CHS. As a result of this work, Principal Turcotte announced that CHS will roll out the new schedule on February 22. The February 22 date was chosen in hopes of a decline or leveling off of the current uptick in COVID cases. This new schedule has 4 in person classes in the morning and 3 remote classes in the afternoon. Currently the schedule is 3 in person classes in the morning and 4 remote classes in the afternoon. There was a member request to continue to look at Wednesday's as an option for in person learning. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller said Wednesday afternoons are essential for cleaning of buildings and collaboration time for teachers. Wednesday mornings for in person learning will be further explored.
3. Policy Review: Assistant Superintendent Folan will present the following policies for review and a possible vote of approval.
 - a. IKF - CHS Graduation Requirements: Principal Turcotte has plans to get a committee together to review this policy. In the Fall of 2021, CHS will start the NEASC accreditation process. The self reflection portion of this accreditation is a natural time to look at this policy's requirements. The information in this policy is also part of the School Improvement Plan (SIP).
 - b. JLCB - Immunization of Students: As the MA School Immunization requirement has been lifted, the School Committee updated the following policy.

Move to approve policy JLCB with the strikeout to the language in the bottom paragraph stating the the immunization requirement must be met by December 31, 2020: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Chuck Rae

Vote by Roll Call: 5-0

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

The following policies require adoption and/or review for the Student

Services Educational Stability Program Review.

- c. JFABD - Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services (1st read). This CPS policy was compared with the MASC policy and the CPS Homeless Liaison reviewed as well.
 - d. JFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (1st read). This is a new policy. Suggested to adopt the MASC policy.
 - e. JFABE - Educational Opportunities For Military Children (1st read) This is a new policy. Suggested to adopt the MASC policy. This policy is not required but recommended.
4. Analysis of the Staff Conditions for Learning Survey #2: Assistant Superintendent Folan shared the results of the second staff Conditions for Learning survey. The full report can be found on the website under the School Committee tab, Meetings/Agendas/Minutes. There were 163 respondents (approx. 1/3 of staff). Most of the questions were the same as the October survey. Elements of the survey centered around safety, teaching and learning, social emotional learning, structural supports, and technology and digital learning. There were a few new questions in the survey in the areas of structural supports and teaching and learning. There was a question about lessening social distancing from 6' to 4.5'. 74.8 % of staff reported that they would not feel safe with only 4.5' of social distancing. Most staff reported that the hybrid model is extremely challenging to plan for and effectively implement. There are concerns with screen time, student engagement, collaboration time and rising COVID numbers. There was a discussion about vaccine distribution and how that might impact the current learning model. Next steps include a building based analysis of the data, another survey in March, review mechanisms to share COVID data and engage in continued discussions around instructional design.
 5. COVID Update: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Assistant Superintendent Folan provided a school department COVID update. Canton remains in the Red. Moving forward, the messages that are sent to families via Blackboard will include the school where the positive case was identified. Mr. Josh Fogel shared a new COVID Dashboard. The dashboard contains the following information: date range of data being reviewed, student and staff positive breakdowns by school per day and per week, total quarantine staff and students by date range, and cumulative reported positive cases since September 2020. This data will be updated weekly on Wednesdays and Sundays and posted to the website.
 6. Enrollment Update: Mr. Nectow presented an enrollment update. The total number of CPS students is 3235. There were 3240 in December. The RLP makes up 19.4% of the total student body. Overall, enrollment remains unchanged since September. The complete report can be found on the CPS website under the School Committee tab.
 7. 403(b) Third Party Administrator Contract: Mr. Nectow presented a 403(b) contract for a possible vote of approval. He recommended that the Third Party Administrator (TPA) for the 403B offering be replaced. The recommendation is to award a contract to TSA Consulting group, Inc. for a three year term.

Move to approve the 403B third party administrator contract with TSA Consulting Group, Inc. for a 3 year term: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Vote by Roll Call: 5-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Chuck Rae	yea

F. **Business Managers Report** Mr. Nectow reviewed the protocols for enhanced cleaning with all Head Custodians and Facilities Director. He also reminded all transportation companies of their protocols and asked them to review cleaning and riding procedures.

G. **Public Comment** Maryann Sapanara - COVID Questions: school spread, pooled testing, overall data being shared, and future testing post vaccine.

H. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Minutes dated January 7, 2021

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Chuck Rae

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
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Kristian Merenda	yea
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Nichola Gallagher	yea
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Maureen Moran	yea
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Chuck Rae	yea
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2. Approve Executive Minutes dated January 7, 2021

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Chuck Rae

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
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Kristian Merenda	yea
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Nichola Gallagher	yea
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Maureen Moran	yea
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Chuck Rae	yea
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3. Announcement that the warrants dated January 22, 2021, will be delivered to the Business Manager tomorrow by Ms. Moran.

I. **Sub-Committee Reports**

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - nothing new to report
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - meeting held to discuss YRBS and BPIP
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - nothing to report
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report
7. CDEI - Nichola Gallagher - meeting next week to prep for Black History Month
8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda - 9 member appointments almost complete. Ms. Merenda has been appointed. 1st meeting forthcoming.

J. **Future Business** Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

K. Other Business

- L. Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 9:56 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 5-0.

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

Documents used during the meeting:

1. Interim Superintendent's Report dated January 21, 2021
2. FY22 Superintendent Budget Message
3. FY22 Superintendent Budget Request
4. FY22 Budget Package
5. Project Hope Slide Deck
6. CHS Schedule ppt
7. Policies:
 - IKF - Graduation Requirements
 - JLCB - Immunization of Students
 - JFABD - Homeless Students Enrollment Rights
 - JFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
 - JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children
8. Conditions for Learning Survey #2 Staff Survey Results
9. COVID Dashboard
10. Enrollment Analysis dated 1/8/21
11. Award Recommendation for Third Party Administrator for 403B