

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of January 23, 2020  
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

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

Present are:

Kristin Mirliani

Reuki Schutt

Nichola Gallagher - Absent

Maureen Moran

Kristian Merenda

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent

Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator

Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary

Public

Press

Staff

- B. Public Comments/Questions: None
- C. Student Member Report: Corinne Stevens spoke about the TriM (Modern Music Masters) Induction Ceremony that is taking place this evening at CHS. Additionally, she informed the Committee that GMS recently had a guest speaker come in to talk with students and staff about the power of making choices. The speaker is a recovering addict.
- D. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller reported on the following events:  
**Updates**  
Staffing Updates: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller announced the appointment of Ms. Meghan Byrne as the new Assistant Director of Student Services.

The process for the Director of Student Services is in its preliminary stages. Once the interviews are completed and finalists are determined, Finalist Days will be determined the last week in February.

The interview process for the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning is underway. At this time, there are approximately ten candidates being interviewed by a committee made up of 15 CPS staff from across the district. If the timeline remains as planned, Superintendent Fischer-Mueller hopes to bring a recommendation for the next Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning around the end of February or the beginning of March.

**Indicators of Excellence**

INSTRON Engineering Student Visit: On January 14, twenty-nine 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade GMS girls attended a field trip to INSTRON, a Fortune 200 Company located in Norwood. The field

trip was sponsored by *School to Careers* in Canton. *School to Careers* makes STEM connections for girls with companies in STEM-related fields in hopes of inspiring them to pursue STEM-related careers.

MASCD/MassCUE Spring Leadership Conference: Congratulations to Mrs. Shanna Belenky and Mrs. Katie Healy on their acceptance as presenters at this year's MASCD/MassCUE Leadership Conference on March 6, 2020, at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Following the theme of the conference "Designing with the Community in Mind: All Voice at the Table," Mrs. Belenky's and Mrs. Healey's presentation will focus on designing lessons and creating access to all students using robots as a pathway to learning.

**Important Dates and Events**

Jan. 24-25	JFK Play, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
Jan. 31	CHS Talent Show, CHS Auditorium, 6:30 PM
Feb. 6	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 7:00 PM

E. Unfinished Business:

1. 2020-2021 School Calendar and School Start Times: Ms. Debra Rooney presented another version of the 2020-2021 calendar and explained the difference between PD and Common Planning and how the district looks at these variables while aligning with union contracts. This version of the calendar has most half days being held on Friday instead of Wednesday for increased continuity of learning.

**Move to approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar in its entirety as**

**presented: Reuki Schutt**

**Second: Maureen Moran**

**Vote: 4-0**

F. New Business:

1. JFK ADA Walkway Presentation: Mr. Charlie Aspinwall discussed the JFK ADA compliant walkway project. The project includes the installation of a ramp and sidewalk that will provide access to the 3rd base bleacher area at which the new restrooms and storage rooms will be built. The total budget of \$43,000 is earmarked by the Massachusetts Marketing Partnership/Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MMP/MOTT).

**Move to approve the JFK ADA compliant walkway: Reuki Schutt**

**Second: Kristian Merenda**

**Vote: 4-0**

2. Rodman Early Childhood Program Update and Tuition: Ms. Donna Kilday shared several program updates and tuition options for the school year 2020-2021 for a vote of approval.

**Move to approve preschool tuition rates of,**

<b>2 day</b>	<b>\$2,754</b>	<b>3 day</b>	<b>\$4,132</b>	<b>4 day</b>	<b>\$5,509</b>	<b>5 day</b>	<b>\$6,886</b>
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**or a 3% increase for 2020-2021: Reuki Schutt**

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Vote:** 4-0

3. Gunning Family Scholarship Proposal: Mr. Derek Folan presented two Gunning Family scholarships for review and a vote of approval.

**Move to approve two new scholarships:** Reuki Schutt

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Vote:** 4-0

4. GMS Mass IDEAS and i2 Learning: Ms. Sarah Shannon discussed two opportunities that would support the work the Galvin is doing to transform teaching and learning and to move toward more project based and deeper learning curricula: Mass IDEAS Learning Excursion and a partnership with i2 Learning. The first opportunity is an Innovative Schools Learning Excursion to Vista Unified School District in San Diego from March 22 - 25. This opportunity is being funded by two organizations: the Next Generation Learning Challenge and the Barr Foundation. It is also being supported by MASSIdeas. It is something that schools need to apply for and be accepted into. Ms. Shannon wants to apply for this learning excursion for two reasons. First, this opportunity would allow GMS staff to visit a school where this transformation of teaching, learning and the student experience is observable. The second reason this opportunity is appealing is that we know we need to engage the parent and business community in our work. This opportunity explicitly states that the school team that goes must include, along with school personnel, parents, school committee and local business people. Upon return, the team will share their learnings with the staff at GMS, the school committee, parent groups and the business community. Ms. Shannon will work with Business Manager, Barry Nectow to review logistics and she will keep the Committee posted if they are accepted.

The second opportunity, because of the work the staff did during STEAM week, i2Learning approached GMS with a proposal. They are looking to partner with three schools, the Galvin being one of those three schools. An innovation school in Boston and a grades 4-6 school in Ware, MA being the other two. Their goal is to partner with three schools over the next year and a half to collaboratively develop fully interdisciplinary, project-based, year long curriculum by grade level based on the Massachusetts State Standards. They do not want to create the curriculum in a vacuum and then teach it to us. They want the Galvin Middle School teachers to be integrally involved in the creation of the work. Once the curriculum is created, we would then implement it as a pilot starting in September, 2021.

After completing surveys and talking with GMS staff, it was determined that the 6th grade teachers were ready to engage in this work with i2. For the two grades that aren't participating in the partnership right now, they will be provided with professional development to creating PBL curriculum as well. To do this, GMS will continue their partnership with PBLWorks (formerly Buck Institute for Education) and offer PBL 101 workshops and support visits. Details about the partnership with i2Learning:

- What we teach in 6th grade come Sept 2021 will not change; how we teach it will. We will teach the 6th grade standards in a way that is truly interdisciplinary and project-based.

- Teachers will work and be trained in the summer (5 days this summer, up to 10 days next summer) and i2 Learning will pay them for their time.
- i2Learning has agreed to fund a full-time Implementation Specialist position at GMS to support the work the teachers do to develop the curriculum and through the implementation.
- I2 Learning is a non-profit organization. The curriculum that gets created will be open-source curriculum for other schools in Massachusetts to access and use.
- I2 Learning's work is supported by at the state level by Commissioner Riley as well as Lt. Governor Polito, both of whom visited GMS during STEAM week and were very impressed by the work of the students and staff.
- Teachers can be as involved as they want to be in the creation of curriculum.

Committee members had several questions. Overall, the Committee was supportive of the idea and innovative thinking. Concerns about grades 7 & 8, not participating and then students only participating for one year and the potential lack of curriculum continuity. Also, concern about the extra hours teachers would have to do in the beginning. Ms. Shannon will keep the Committee updated on any new information.

5. Policy Review: Chair Mirliani announced that this policy is not ready for review and will be presented at a future meeting.

G. Business Manager's Report: Mr. Nectow reported that the new bus app will be rolled out to GMS and CHS tomorrow. He also reported that the Governor's budget came out yesterday. The first figure proposed is 300k phased in over 7 years. CPS has two upcoming finance meetings; Capital Meeting next week, then 2/10 is the first visit to the Finance Committee. Finally, the Capital Article that was approved at the last meeting will not be a free standing article, instead, it will be a motion. This change came per feedback from Town Counsel.

H. Routine Matters:

Approve Minutes dated January 9, 2020

**Move:** Reuki Schutt

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Vote:** 4-0

Approve Executive Minutes dated January 9, 2020

**Move:** Reuki Schutt

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Vote:** 4-0

Mr. Nectow reported that the warrant dated January 31, 2020, will be reviewed and signed by Maureen Moran this evening.

I. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CPC - Nichola Gallagher - Absent
2. BRC - Kristian Merenda - nothing new to report.
3. Wellness- Maureen Moran - Ms. Moran and Ms. Gallagher are members of the juvenile substance abuse task force, they recently attended a vaping workshop. The next Wellness meeting is on February 4, 2020

- 4      yeas                          0      nays