

Canton School Committee
Open Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 5, 2023

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Merenda called for a motion to convene the Thursday, January 5, 2023 Canton School Committee Meeting at 5:00 pm. Laura Arboleda made the motion; seconded by Maureen Moran. Vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
Nichola Gallagher (arrived at 5:10 pm)	

Attendees:

Kristian Merenda
Kendall O'Halloran
Maureen Moran
Laura Arboleda
Nichola Gallagher
Derek Folan, Superintendent
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations
Joanne Campbell, Recording Secretary

Guests:

Ms. Donnal Kilday, Director, Rodman Preschool
Ms. Lauren Cipriano, Rodman Preschool CAPT President
Ms. Felicia Gomes, Rodman Preschool CAPT Vice-President
Mr. Jeffrey Sperling, CHS Principal
Mr. Josh Fogel, District Data Analyst Manager
Mr. Jonathan Mulhern, GMS Principal
Ms. Meghan Byrne, Director of Student Services

- B. Executive Session:** Committee Members immediately went into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, Unit A and Unit E, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

Committee members returned from Executive Session at 6:05 pm

C. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Folan presented District progress, highlights, and accolades.

Highlights

Welcome Back: Happy New Year! On behalf of the school community, I offer a warm welcome back from the break.

Indicators of Excellence

DECA Competition: DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Yesterday's competition at the Envision Hotel in Mansfield was a huge success! CPS had eight out of eleven students qualify for the state competition, including Nadira Simon earning 1st place in her category.

World Language Induction Night: It was my pleasure to take part in the World Language Induction Night on Thursday, December 22, 2022. Congratulations to all the students who earned this recognition.

Update

ForsythKids Dental Program: The Nursing Team recently paired with the ForsythKids Dental Program. Last month, a dentist performed dental exams, cleanings and fluoride applications for almost 30 students at the Luce and approximately 25 students at JFK. They returned this month for Hansen, GMS & CHS.

Important Dates and Events

Jan. 16	No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 19	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm
Jan. 20	GMS 6th-8th Grade Orchestras and Chorus Concert, GMS Gymnasium, 1:30-2:00 pm
Jan. 27	Early Release, PreK-12, Professional Development
Jan. 27	JFK Presents Annie Jr., CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Jan. 28	JFK Presents Annie Jr., CHS Auditorium, 3:00 pm
Jan. 31	GMS 6th-8th Grade Band Concert, GMS Gymnasium, 1:30-2:00 pm

D. Teaching and Learning Report—PreK Spotlight -- Ms. Donna Kilday shared highlights of the preschool program including a new ACCESS (All Children Can Expand Skill Sets) classroom that offers more intensive support to students. Ms. Kilday also provided a presentation on AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) devices. These tools, picture rings, Go-Talk with core boards, and iPads supply language in some way and help augment communication between student and teacher. Ms. Kilday stated that these tools do not negatively impact the ability to learn spoken language. In fact, students greatly benefit from the devices as they help communication between peers and encourage greater verbal output eliciting more conversational language. Ms. Kilday introduced CAPT President, Lauren Cipriano, and Vice-President, Felicia Romaine-Gomes who shared highlights of the activities they have planned and executed to help the community embrace inclusion in

the community including several fundraisers and events like “preschool in the park” and teacher appreciation luncheons.

E. New Business:

1. **Negotiations Update:** Superintendent Folan provided an update on the Canton Teachers Association (CTA) negotiations. Both sides continue to work with a mediator. Mr. Folan noted that the School Committee, administration, educators and union officials are in constant communication offering as much transparency as the law allows, and are committed to finding a common ground positioning Canton students at the center while keeping within the feasibility of budget sustainability. School Committee members proceeded to give personal statements reminding the community that the School Committee has an obligation to represent and be fiscally responsible to the entire community. There was a calling for an understanding of their roles throughout the negotiation process and a call for patience and civility.
2. **FY24 Budget Roll Out:** Mr. Marshall presented the 1st read of the FY24 Budget. He explained the budget process and announced that the state budget will not be released by the governor’s office until March 1, 2023. This may delay allocations. Mr. Marshall described the first read as a “wish list” not all of which will be brought forward. Determinations will be based on alignment with District goals. Line-by-line explanations of the current iteration of the budget were presented. Mr. Marshall illustrated the rationale for moving some items forward and offered justification for holding some requests back.
Specific discussions included:
 - a. Semesterization of CHS scheduling: Mr. Sperling explained the benefits of this change, particularly giving students more options for classes that are of interest to them.
 - b. Elementary School Assistant Principals: The addition of 3.0 FTEs for Elementary Assistant Principals would allow for a budget-neutral reorg of the student services department as explained by Ms. Byrne, Director of Student Services. Ms. Byrne presented her restructuring vision of hiring two Assistant Directors of Student Services who would be district-facing and manage curriculum and one Elementary Team Chair who would concentrate on IEP regulations. A reorg doc was shared as part of the budget. All docs can be found on the School Committee webpage: Public Meetings/meetings/agendas/minutes.
 - c. Restorative Practice at GMS-in line with one of the District goals, this budget item would allow training of specific staff.
 - d. Ms. Moran and Ms. Arboleda stated their support of the elementary world language teacher position.
 - e. Mr. Marshall called out a 14% increase in Out of District Tuition mandated by the State as well as increases in Out of District transportation citing rising fuel costs and inflation.
3. **2023-2024 District and School Committee Calendar:** Superintendent Folan presented the 1st read of the District and the School Committee meeting calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. The new calendar includes a before Labor Day start of the 23-24 school year and Friday PD days to maximize professional learning. Committee members were pleased with the calendar as presented and expressed their gratitude for having the 2023-24 calendar available for review so early in the year.
4. **Director of Student Services Contract:** Superintendent Folan presented the employment contract for the Director of Student Services, Meghan Byrne, beginning July 1, 2023. With no

questions or concerns elicited from Committee members, Chair Merenda called for a motion to accept the employment contract as written and presented. Nicola Gallagher made the motion; seconded by Kendall O'Halloran. Vote was recorded as 5-0.

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

4. **District Goal Update:** Superintendent Folan and Mr. Fogel reported on Priority #1 and Priority #3, Goal #1 District goals:

Priority #1: Equity Audit report timeline update: Superintendent Folan reported that the Equity Audit is on time. The first draft is expected in mid-January. Administrators will strategize and share the initial results publicly with the School Committee at a March 2023 meeting.

Priority #3:

- **Share data sources that serve our district and school-wide conversations.**

Ever-growing dashboards and interactive analysis tools have been developed to track, analyze, display and monitor academic performance, student behavior, attendance, forecasts and predictions, and progress towards district and school wide goals and objectives. These tools have assisted users to discover levels of insight that aids in sharp trend discovery and can help formulate performance boosting strategies across the district.

- **Share meeting structures to support data literacy development (ie. Department and grade-level meetings, ALT, ILT).**

Principals, Team Chairs and Department Coordinators meet with Mr. Fogel regularly to review data points, then use the data in departmental meetings, PLC and grade-level meetings as well as ALT and ILT meetings. Mr. Fogel attends some of these meetings. The focus on data during these meetings allows data-informed decisions and tracks progress toward meeting school goals.

- **Discuss data coaching for secondary department chairs to increase data literacy (how to interpret, analyze and utilize selected data sources) to enhance instructional practices to increase student achievement.**

Meeting structures with teacher teams, grade level teams, etc, are typically held after taking raw data from a number of sources, consolidating it, and presenting it in a tailored, customized visual way which enables teams to gain a deeper insight into valuable information, empowering users to find actionable answers to questions. Drilling down into specific pockets of information, creating benchmarks, and measuring success on a continual basis allows our team to be data driven, and as a result, more comfortable and successful in using the tools and interpreting data. Once the winter benchmark and screening window closes, the teams will meet with Mr. Fogel and explore new data sets that are responsive and effective for *in the moment* decision-making, and provide a panoramic breakdown of performance by allowing teams to drill down into essential metrics.

F. Public Comment: Ms. Rachel Wallace, the parent of an elementary school child, spoke in support of educators regarding continued union negotiations. Ms. Wallace looked to the School Committee for an understanding of how this is affecting teachers and students.

G. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall reported that bus transportation is operating well, but still feels there is room for improvement. The Transportation Consultant continues to work on identifying issues and providing operational improvement suggestions. The consultant is expected to present conclusions and recommendations in early March and is available to continue consulting for the District as needed. The Human Resources consultant, Dr. Pam Gould has been interviewing Central Office personnel and will provide updates. Dr. Gould is charged with job description writing and handbook review and coordination.

H. Consent Agenda:

1. Regular Session Minutes: December 15, 2022
2. Executive Session Minutes: December 15, 2022, December 22, 2022
3. Warrant: January 6, 2023

With no requests to remove any items from the consent agenda, Chair Merenda called for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as written and presented. Ms. Gallagher made the motion; seconded by Laura Arboleda. Vote was 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
Nichola Gallagher	abstained

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

1. **Ms. Emma Cummings**, Student Representative to the School Committee, was elected as Director of Communications for the Massachusetts Association of Students.
2. **Stephen Marshall** gave a brief update on the OPM position for the new building. Requests were sent out in December 2022, proposals are due back the week of 1/9/23. A short list of candidates will be decided upon; interviews will follow; the final candidate will meet with MSBA for final approval.
3. **Kendall O'Halloran** announced the next Policy Meeting will be held on January 12th and in Content, an ad ran last week. The committee is still looking for a student interested in graphics to join the team. CCPC is scheduled to meet on Jan. 10th.

J. Other Business: None

K. Future Business: The next Open Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2023, @ 6:00 pm.

L. Adjournment: Chair Merenda called for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, January 5, 2023 School Committee Meeting at 9:20 pm. Kendall O'Halloran made the motion; it was seconded by Maureen Moran. Vote was unanimous (5-0) and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea

Laura Arboleda yea
Nichola Gallagher yea

Action Items:

- Mr. Sperling will return to a later School Committee meeting to give an in-depth explanation of semesterization including a discussion of PE/Wellness similarities and differences; how it will maintain core classes and how it will affect class size. Mr. Sperling, with the help of Dr. Chamberland, will prepare templates of classes for the School Committee.
- Ms. Moran requested job descriptions for the Math tutor and Assistant Principal positions and further discussion.
- Ms. Moran asked for more information on hiring District Tutors to staff an academic support program.

Documents viewed/discussed:

Superintendent's Report dated 1/5/2023

PreK Spotlight Presentation

FY24 Budget Requests

2023-2024 School Calendar

2023-2024 School Committee Meeting Calendar

Director of Student Services Contract: Meghan Byrne

District Goals Update: 1/5/2023