

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of January 6, 2022
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

Members of the public were also able to view a live stream of the meeting via <http://cantoncommunitytv.org/>

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 6:01 pm by Vice Chair Gallagher.

Present Are:

Nichola Gallagher
Maureen Moran
Kendall O'Halloran
Laura Arboleda

Also Present:

Derek Folan, Interim Superintendent
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations (present remotely)
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Public
Press
Staff

- B. Public Comment: Mr. Sokolove requested an increase in pay for substitute teachers. Ms. Ann Mackiewicz requested an increase in pay for substitute teachers.
- C. Student Member Report and Student Advisory Committee Introductions: Joshua reported on his conversation with JFK Administration. Highlights included: STEAM projects, in-person learning, color coded system for students to communicate with teachers how they are feeling, 5th-grade musical, book buddies, world language club, robotics club. Joshua reported that these activities make for a cohesive school experience for students.

Mr. Folan introduced the newly elected, non-voting member of the School Committee and Student Advisory Committee member, Ms. Emma Cummings, grade 9. On behalf of Principal Sperling, Mr. Folan shared leadership activities that Emma has been involved with. The other Student Advisory Committee member is Danica Seto, grade 10, who will attend the next meeting.

- D. Interim Superintendent's Report:

Highlights

GMS Winter Concert and CHS Winter Concert: Both of these annual performing arts events took place before the December vacation, and truly exemplified excellence and a shining moment for our talented students and staff.

GMS/CHS Jazz Concert: The Jazz Concert was held on December 17, 2021.

Kaetsu Ariake High and Canton High: Mr. Folan spoke about the continued relationship between Kaetsu Ariake High School of Tokyo, Japan & Canton High Mass.

Events/Acknowledgements This Month

School Board Appreciation Month: The Canton Public School District extends its deepest thanks to our Canton School Committee members for their commitment to our students, staff and parents, and for supporting us to continually improve.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Appreciation Day: National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is on January 9. Thank you to Lieutenant Charles Rae, Officer Ensley Cotard (CHS), Officer Mike Brady (GMS), Officer Eric Kascavitch (Elementary) and Officer James Galanis (Elementary).

Updates

Test Kit Distribution: On January 1 and January 2, the District distributed the Antigen Test Kits from DESE to CPS staff members at JFK, from 1-3 and 1-5, respectively.

Post Secondary Planning Night Reminder: The CHS Post Secondary Planning Night is scheduled for January 13, 2022, in the CHS Auditorium.

Champions of Excellence

DECA: Thanks to the efforts of CHS Math and AP Economics Teacher Adam Maislin and CHS Jeff Sperling, CHS students participated in their first-ever DECA competition yesterday. The District is looking forward to growing DECA in the years to come.

CHS Alum Julia Minichiello: Congratulations to Class of 2019 graduate Julia Minichiello for winning the TikTok Challenge 'Sing 2' with her cover of Alicia Keys' "Girl On Fire".

Important Dates and Events

Jan. 13	Post Secondary Planning Night, CHS Auditorium, 6:00 pm
Jan. 14	PreK-12 Early Release
Jan. 17	No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 18	GMS Winter Concert II, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Jan. 20	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm
Jan. 21	CHS Drama presents Talent Show, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm

- E. **Teaching and Learning Report:** Ms. Dianna Mullen, Dr. Allison Horton, and Ms. Melissa Hurd provided an update on the GMS Therapeutic Program. Staff explained that this program keeps students in the District who would typically be placed in an out-of-district placement. Students are identified based on IEP qualifications under emotional impairment. There are currently 8 students, 3 of who are full-time in the classroom. Interventions are increasing students' time in the classroom. Teaching and training for school staff have taken place. To date, the program has saved the District approximately \$422,683.

- F. **New Business:**

1. **Early Childhood Tuition Proposal and PreK Spotlight:** Ms. Kilday shared highlights on the Rodman PreK. Currently, there are 82 students, 51 are community peers. The Prek is a play-based program with explicit instruction weaved in. Ms. Emde discussed the Rodman Reads early literacy program. Ms. Kilday welcomed CAPT members virtually and the School Committee presented them with Certificates of Appreciation. Ms. Kilday presented the proposed 2022-2023 PreK tuition rates at both a 2% and 3% increase. Neighboring town comparisons were shared. Next year, the PreK will have 4 and 5-day options only. Current and proposed tuition rates:

5 days (20 hrs)- current \$5617, 2% \$5729, 3% \$5785

4 days (16 hrs)- current \$4495, 2% \$4585, 3% \$4630

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Tuition Rates with a 2% increase:

Maureen Moran

Seconded: Kendall O'Halloran

Vote: 4-0

2. Canton Community Preservation Committee (CCPC) Projects: Mr. Marshall requested a vote of approval for the prioritization of the CPS Canton Community Preservation Commission (CCPC) Projects. Mr. Marshall recommended the following order of priority:

1. Galvin Basketball Court Resurfacing \$54,095
2. Hansen Front Playground Replacement \$285,000
3. Lighting at Gibson Field \$200,000

Motion to approve the prioritization of the CCPC Projects as

recommended: Maureen Moran

Seconded: Laura Arboleda

Vote: 4-0

3. COVID-19 Update on Vaccination Rates and Protocol Update: Mr. Folan provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccination rates and protocols. He stressed the importance of focusing on teaching and learning. Important DESE and DPH COVID-19 Response Scenarios updates were shared and include: positive case isolation changed to 5 day, rather than 10. Return date is contingent on no symptoms, self-administered "home" Antigen Tests are now part of the process and protocols, close contact identification -- no whole class testing. Repeat viral testing before a return is not recommended. The impact of the virus and mitigation strategies were shared. The District vaccination rate is holding at about 74%. Request to work in partnership with BOH to explore the feasibility of offering at-home test kits for the community. The full DESE/DPH Protocol document can be found on the website under the School Committee tab - meeting/agendas/minutes.

Public Comment: Chair Gallagher invited additional public comment participants to speak.

Ms. Maryann Sapanara asked that the Committee consider adding to the protocols that an antigen test be taken prior to returning to school.

Mr. Kathleen Howley expressed concern with returning to school after 5 days, specifically with eating lunch without masks.

Members had a lengthy discussion about whether an antigen test should be requested/recommended/suggested prior to returning to school. The availability of test kits is a concern. Without medical expertise available at the meeting, members chose to adopt the protocols as is and have a medical professional attend the next meeting. Mr. Folan will follow up with Dr. Muse.

Motion to approve the DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID -19 Scenarios as written: Maureen Moran

Seconded: Laura Arboleda

Vote: 4-0

4. Annual Town Meeting Articles: Mr. Marshall presented the May Annual Town Meeting Articles for a vote of approval.
- a. Galvin Middle School Feasibility Study: To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available funds or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, in order to conduct a feasibility study related to the replacement or

renovation of the Galvin Middle School or to take any other action related thereto. GMS Feasibility study is estimated to cost \$1.5M.

- b. Increase Special Education Reserve Account: To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available funds or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, in order to increase any Special Education Reserve Account or to take any other action related thereto.

Motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting Articles as presented :

Kendall O'Halloran

Seconded: Maureen Moran

Vote: 4-0

5. FY23 Budget Rollout: Mr. Folan and Mr. Marshall presented the preliminary budget for FY23. Per pupil expenditure analysis and staff FTE comparisons with neighboring schools were shared. Mr. Marshall shared all budget requests made and the proposed Superintendent's budget recommendations. This is one of three budget presentations. The requests brought forward reflect a 5.5 % increase in the budget from last year. The full budget message can be found on the School Committee webpage under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.

- G. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall reported that both substitute and bus driver pay will be analyzed and a proposal will be presented at the next meeting.

- H. District Goal Update: Mr. Folan provided an update on the following District goals:
The Program of Studies Of the Galvin Middle and Canton High School will be presented at the February 3 School Committee meeting. Virtual family forums per grade level were conducted where Interim Superintendent received ideas, feedback and overall input about the school community experience. There are plans to meet with site councils. The dashboard with the family survey data was shared with the Committee. Staff surveys around all professional development experiences, noting staff feedback/future interests and the PD's relevance, effectiveness and impact will be going out within the next couple of weeks.

- I. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda outlined below: Kendall O'Halloran

Seconded: Laura Arboleda

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously: 4-0

The following items were included in the Consent Agenda:

Regular Session Minutes: December 16, 2021

Executive Session Minutes: December 10, 2021, December 16, 2021, December 22, 2021

Warrant: January 7, 2022

- J. Sub-Committee, Task Force, and Liaison Post Updates:

- MASC Legislative Committee met and discussed how an idea becomes a resolution and how it ultimately becomes legislation
- District calendar task force is next week. Zoom is an option. Ms. Gallagher shared the names of members of the Task Force
- Policies are being prioritized with MASC, meeting soon
- Communications: new ad will be shared soon
- CPC reviewing presentations
- Upcoming Negotiations meeting on 1/19/22.

