

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of October 15, 2020  
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. Chair Mirliani announced that the Committee is just returning from Executive Session where a roll call vote of 5-0 opened the meeting.

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

Also Remotely Present:

Derek Folan, Interim Superintendent  
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator  
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary  
Debbie Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Dianna Mullen, Director of Student Services  
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning  
Kelly Cavanaugh, CHS Asst. Principal/RLP Administrator  
Dr. Michael Green, Luce Interim Principal

- B. **Interim Superintendent's Report**  
**Superintendent Activities Highlights**

Luce Interim Principal: Dr. Michael Green joined the Dean S. Luce Community beginning Tuesday, October 13. Dr. Green has experience as a former Superintendent in Easton and a former elementary principal and teacher.

Remote Learning Pathway Administrator: CHS Assistant Principal, Ms. Kelly Cavanaugh, added the responsibility of the Remote Learning Pathway (RLP) Administrator. Ms. Cavanaugh will support educators, families and students who are on the RLP this year. Joining Ms. Cavanaugh as the RLP Communications Liaison is Ms. Courtney Song.

**Updates**

Open House Dates: All Open Houses will be held virtually. Building Principals will be sharing dates and links with families shortly.

Metrics Update: Canton moved into the "red" based on positive cases over the course of a two-week period. In following DESE guidance, the district will examine data and other metrics for a three-week period. At this time, we are going to stay in the Hybrid Model.

JFK, CHS Remote Learning: Throughout the last week, as a District and in consultation with the Health Department, JFK Elementary and Canton High School were in remote learning on a temporary basis. JFK is currently in remote through the end of this week, primarily for the staffing issues that resulted in quarantining and adherence to safety protocols.

CHS opened Wednesday for SATs and then a return to the Hybrid Model today. Principal Turcotte will be addressing the deeply concerning aspects of the house party that prompted the closure.

Close Contacts: The advent of positive cases has introduced the implementation of COVID-19 safety protocols, specifically the identification of “close contacts”. The Health Department determines close contacts of a positive case by conducting an interview and analyzing the interaction between people. Major considerations include 6-foot distancing, duration of 10-15 minutes, indoors or outdoors, and mask-wearing. Close contacts, when identified, need to quarantine for 14 days.

Close contacts of close contacts do not need quarantine.

There was a question about COVID protocols and close contacts. It is not just one factor. Movement patterns are looked at. Protocols do not kick in until a positive case is known. Then the 48 hour look back begins to help identify close contacts.

Town COVID-19 Call: During a Town COVID Task Force Meeting last week, Dr. Muse reviewed data around COVID-19 and discussed the challenges of the coming months. More than ever, Dr. Muse stated that we need to wear masks, socially distance, continue to practice hand hygiene, and monitor ourselves through self-screening. It is a full-time commitment and a shared responsibility.

School Resource Officers (SRO): The Canton Police Department announced that SRO Officers McCourt and Taylor will be joining the detective ranks. As a result, CPS has new SRO’s at the middle and elementary levels.

Officer Michael Brady will be working at the Galvin. At the elementary level, Officer Eric Kascavitch and Officer James Galanis will be sharing the SRO duties.

Flu Clinics: In collaboration with CVS Healthcare, Flu Clinics were held the first week of October in four CPS buildings for staff, students, and families. These clinics were planned to help assist families in meeting the new Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s influenza vaccine requirement for all MA school students, PreK-12. Students are expected to receive the vaccine by 12/31/2020 unless a medical or religious exemption is provided. This requirement is an important step in reducing the number of respiratory illnesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Indicators of Excellence**

Educator Performance: Educators have made an incredible commitment to our students, the profession of education, and overall excellence. Different school activities will be highlighted each week in this Superintendent’s Report.

Virtual Fall Coffeehouse: CHS Drama Club held a Virtual Fall Coffeehouse on Friday, October 9. There were performances from some of Canton High School’s very own poets, singers, musicians, and more.

CHS Athletics Opening: CHS Bulldog Fall teams are off to an amazing start with a combined 15 wins, 1 loss, and 2 ties. The strength and conditioning program has grown this year with more students participating this year than ever before. Thanks to the efforts of Athletic Director Danny Erickson and his team, CHS is finding great, new, healthy ways to keep our Bulldogs active during these times.

**Important Dates and Events**

Oct. 23	One Act Plays (Virtual), 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Oct. 29	School Committee, 7:00 pm
Nov. 3	No School, Election Day (Staff PD)
Nov. 7	Cantonstock (Virtual), 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Nov. 11	No School, Veterans Day

**C. New Business**

1. Policy Review: Interim Superintendent Folan presented the following policy for 2nd read and a vote of approval.

**Motion to approve policy IJNDB - Staff Acceptable/Student Responsible Use**

**Policy:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

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

2. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Representative: Chair Mirliani requested a member to serve as the representative for this newly formed Town of Canton Group.

**Motion to approve Nichola Gallagher as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion representative for the school department:** Kristian Merenda

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

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

3. Conditions of Learning Survey Results: 1030 families responded to the survey sent on October 9. Interim Supt Folan reviewed the preliminary results. Categories reviewed included: safety, teaching and learning, social emotional learning and well being, structural supports for students, technology and digital learning. Patterns observed included: concerns about screen time, focus on teaching and learning as we continue Hybrid -- from both the student and staff perspective, continued emphasis on safety measures, focus on social and emotional wellness and connections. Next steps: student surveys, staff survey analysis, school-level analysis and school-based survey, if needed (GMS, for example), adjustments based on feedback and data from parents/guardians, staff and students. A GMS On Demand Learning (ODL) survey was sent today. Adjustments may be made to scheduling based on feedback.

4. Transportation Contracts: Mr. Nectow reviewed the current transportation contracts and made the following proposal to reduce transportation contracts for the 2020-2021 school year. Both large vendors, Connolly Bus Company and Vanpool, expressed willingness to discuss pricing adjustments as a result of the current operating model CPS is in.

The proposals are as follows: Vanpool, September 1, 2020 – September 15, 2020 – Reduce the daily van rate by 50%. Non-transportation due to COVID related closures or abbreviated school schedules – Reduce the rate on non-school days by 22% of the daily van rate. Connolly Bus, September 1, 2020 – September 15, 2020 – Reduce the daily bus rate by 47%. Non-transportation due to COVID related closures or abbreviated school schedules – Reduce the rate on non-school days by 4.6% of the daily van rate. If school is in full remote for 10 days or more, the daily rate will be reduced by 46.4% If the changes proposed are approved, the district will save \$45,041 from the Connolly Bus contract and \$41,466 from the Vanpool contract. This savings assumes CPS remains in hybrid through the end of the school year.

**Motion to approve the transportation contracts with changes:** Kristian Merenda

**Second:** Nichola Gallagher

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

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

5. Building Rental Rates: Mr. Nectow proposed to increase rental rates by 2%. This request is in line with supporting the 2% increase in custodial labor rates.

**Motion to approve the adjusted building rental rates:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

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

#### D. Public Comment

Kendall O'Halloran	Request for more information regarding notifications/listings specific to active cases and total confirmed cases and open windows in school with respect to the
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MOA. Question about mask exemptions and how and why students with a mask exemption can be in a classroom with other students.
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Members requested more COVID information to be posted on the website specific to the total number of confirmed cases and active number of cases specific to each school. There was further discussion about the number of students who are exempt from the mask policy requirements. Members requested the actual number of students who are exempt. There was a lengthy discussion about HIPAA privacy requirements, and what information the School Committee is entitled to know. There was additional discussion of what information policy should be based on. Director of Student Services, Ms. Mullen, identified the safety protocols being used in situations where there is an unmasked student in a class and she discussed the additional steps being taken to ensure safety for the rest of the class.

There was another request for an audit of the COVID screeners in order to review data regarding how many are being completed daily.

A member expressed concerns with GMS students' readiness to complete MCAS testing as it relates to time on learning hours.

- E. **Business Managers Report** Mr. Nectow reported that the Luce Playground CCPC proposal made it through the preliminary round, the final proposal will be presented to the next meeting. The bus app is no longer available, currently researching a new one. The USDA extended the free meal program through June. Finally, Mr. Nectow reported that there may be CARES Act money from the municipality side that could reduce the need to draw from Fincom reserves. The next Fincom meeting will be on October 22. Capital planning is in process. There may be a need to put another meeting on the calendar for November 5 to allow for members to see Capital for 2 meetings prior to getting it to the Town on time.

F. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated September 25, 2020

**Move:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

Kristin Mirliani        yea

Kristian Merenda        yea

Maureen Moran        yea

Nichola Gallagher        yea

Chuck Rae        yea

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated October 1, 2020

**Move:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

Kristin Mirliani        yea

Kristian Merenda        yea

Maureen Moran        yea

Nichola Gallagher        yea

Chuck Rae        yea

3. Approve Minutes dated October 1, 2020

**Move:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

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

4. The announcement that the warrants dated October 16, 2020, have been approved.

**G. Sub-Committee Reports**

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - meeting being held next week.
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report.
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - meeting next week.
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - Capital meeting to be scheduled prior to the School Committee meeting where the topic will be on the agenda.
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report.
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report.

**H. Future Business** Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 7:00 pm. There was a discussion about the need to add another meeting for the purpose of reviewing the Capital Budget. This meeting may be held on November 5, 2020.

**I. Other Business** A member requested information regarding the total number of move-ins to the district this school year.

**J. Adjournment** Kristian Merenda motioned to close the Open Session at 9:01 pm. Nichola Gallagher seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 5-0.

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