

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of October 29, 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 opened the meeting.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Nichola Gallagher	Absent
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
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning
Dave Turcotte, Principal, CHS
Sarah Shannon, Principal, GMS
David Brauninger, Principal, Hansen
Emily DiDonna, Principal, JKF
Yeshi Lamour, Principal, Luce
Michael Green, Interim Principal, Luce
Donna Kilday, PreK-2 Coordinator
Lauren Pushard, District Nurse
Elizabeth Nightingale, Nurse Leader
Elizabeth Francis, Park and Recreation Director

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

Nurse Leader: Elizabeth Nightingale's last day of work being tomorrow (October 30) As a result of the interview process, the current District Nurse, Ms. Lauren Pushard, will serve as the Interim Nurse Leader, vote will be taken at tonight's School Committee meeting.

Halloween Guidance: This [Safe Halloween Guidance](#) was shared with CPS from the Canton Fire Department (CFD). This information is available on our website under the News Blog.

Virtual Open Houses: Schools have engaged in virtual Open Houses this week and they will continue into next week as well.

Updates

Assessments: All schools are preparing to administer assessments to help assess student learning needs, identify potential learning gaps, and gather important data that will help to drive instruction.

CAPT/CAPE Meeting: CAPT and CAPE met with the Superintendent on October 21 to discuss their partnership with the schools during this upcoming year.

Technology: The Tech team was able to secure 189 Acers. This leaves the supply about 25 short of our current demand. There is a remaining unfilled order on wait.

Air Purifiers: 387 air purifiers have been deployed to classrooms, just in time as we make the shift to the heating season. The air purifiers are a key element of our safety plan around air quality. Additionally, our second round of air quality tests will be conducted in early November.

Attendance in Hybrid: This update is designed to provide clarity around attendance for Hybrid. Attendance is critical for learning. Attendance is taken every day, and it is data that we analyze carefully at the District and the state level. Students are expected to attend the Hybrid session in person on their designated days. Families should not be self selecting remote experiences on in-person Hybrid days. However, those students who are quarantined or do not pass the daily screener, and they are healthy enough to do so, may attend remotely. If students have significant symptoms, they are encouraged to take a sick day and follow the regular protocols for calling in.

Winter Sports: We are expecting to receive some guidance around the second week of November. Essentially, the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) needs to set the guidelines, and then MIAA sport committees will put forth sport-specific modifications. All will need to be approved by DESE and the MIAA, as it was in the fall. Our Hockomock League athletic directors are currently planning on their league protocols, and Mr. Erickson will be working on the CHS winter sport safety protocols with the Health Department.

Indicators of Excellence

National Principals Month: There was a moment to commend our Principals, as National Principals Month comes to a close.

Custodial and Maintenance Teams: A big thank you to our Facilities Director Brian Lynch, our custodians and our maintenance teams for their exemplary work in promoting a healthy, clean and safe school environment. They do daily cleanings and then conduct the enhanced cleanings on Wednesdays and Saturdays. As a team, they engaged in several training sessions and protocol reviews to learn how to use the new equipment and ensure a high level of safety.

National Merit: The following CHS students earned a Letter of Commendation as part of the National Merit Scholarship Program.

*Emma Cao Anisha Cherukuri Jack Hernon Sean Isaac Holly MacMullen
Amanda Signorini Harshitha Valluri*

John and Abigail Adams: Congratulations to the class of 2021 recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. This year, 67 students met the requirements to receive this honorable award.

Golf Team: Congratulations to Coach Mike Barucci and the undefeated CHS golf team for securing their 4th straight Hockomock League Championship.

Important Dates and Events

Nov. 3	No School, Election Day (Staff PD)
Nov. 5	School Committee, 7:00 pm
Nov. 7	Virtual Cantonstock, 12:00-4:00 pm
Nov. 11	No School, Veterans Day
Nov. 12	School Committee, 7:00 pm

C. New Business

1. **Gibson Field CCPC Application:** Ms. Elizabeth Francis, Parks and Recreation Director, requested a vote of approval to submit a CCPC application for Gibson Field repairs including the rehabilitation of the baseball and softball diamonds, laser grading the infield, new pitcher's mounds, and replacing infield sod. The total project cost is \$30,000.

Motion to approve the Gibson Field CCPC application: Kristian Merenda

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Chuck Rae yea

2. **Interim Nurse Leader:** Interim Superintendent Folan recommended Ms. Lauren Pushard to fill the position of Interim Nurse Leader.

Motion to the appointment of Lauren Pushard as the Interim Nurse

Leader: Maureen Moran

Second: Chuck Rae

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Chuck Rae yea

3. **Conditions for Learning Survey:** Interim Superintendent Folan shared the details of the staff Conditions for Learning Survey. There were 291 responses. Topics measured were: safety, teaching and learning, social emotional learning and well being, structural supports for students, and technology and digital learning. Trends included concerns about screen time, the need to focus on teaching and learning in the Hybrid -- from both the student and staff perspective, the continued emphasis on safety measures, focus on social and emotional wellness and connections and

communication. Next steps include a student survey being completed this week, school-level analysis and school-based survey if needed, adjustments based on feedback and data from parents/guardians, staff and students, strategies to address best practices for strong instruction in Hybrid, staff voice and student's voice. Interim Superintendent Folan acknowledged the hard work of staff. He referenced staff members whose responses fell in the 1-2 range on survey questions. The district will continue to gather comparative data to be sure the district is addressing staff concerns. There was a request for teacher comments on the Survey. Interim Superintendent Folan will consult with CTA for future surveys.

Building Principals shared their analysis on the staff and family surveys. Each Principal shared positive takeaways, themes and recommendations. Common themes across elementary were concerns with screen time, more options for paper and pencil work to reduce screen time, and increased opportunities for connections within school communities. Principals thanked the technology team for their responsiveness and hard work.

Preschool staff and parents had a concern about any shift to full remote and screen time.

GMS themes included more consistency with Google classroom, time on learning concerns, utilization of ODL and student connections and relationships. Ms. Shannon will present the GMS survey schedule results and a schedule update at next week's School Committee meeting.

Some CHS themes that emerged also included excessive screen time concerns, desire for more in person learning time, improved connections both staff to student and student to student. At this time, 9th grade students do not have their 1:1 Chromebooks assigned yet, however, there are loaners available until this shipment comes in. There was a request to revisit the current CHS schedule configuration. The discussion continued about the number of staff who are teaching remotely and how to continue to work towards getting students in the building for more consistent teacher/student interactions.

Members thanked parents and teachers for their efforts. Teachers and administrators will continue to plan for developmentally appropriate material for students that can help lessen screen time.

4. COVID Update: Interim Superintendent Folan provided an update regarding the district's red status. He explained that the governor made adjustments to state guidance, whereby towns that are in red are advised to remain in hybrid unless there is evidence of transmission in school. Currently, there is no transmission in CPS. There have been positive cases, but with the requirement of mask wearing, social distancing, and contact tracing, Interim Superintendent Folan recommended that CPS remain in hybrid. CPS communicates daily with BOH. Committee members also participate in the Town of Canton COVID task force to keep apprised of Town cases and trends. The Governor recently announced that the Town is moving back to Step 1, phase III due to its red status. The Town has identified age groups in the data provided to the community, this information is available on the Town of Canton website.
5. Policy Review: Interim Superintendent Folan reviewed the following policy for a possible vote of approval.

JLCB - Immunization of Students - This is MA General Law. The policy was also reviewed by the district's attorney. Mr. Rae asked about legal challenges at the State level with the requirement of mandatory Flu vaccination; he asked

whether the state law should supersede the CPS policy, therefore not be stated in this policy as written.

Motion to waive the 2nd read of policy JLCB: Maureen Moran

Seconded: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

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

Motion to approve policy JLCB as proposed: Maureen Moran

Seconded: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 3-1

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Chuck Rae	nay

Chair Mirliani announced that Superintendent Fischer-Mueller will be returning in 12 weeks, not the anticipated 8 weeks. Her intended return date is early January.

6. FY20 Financial Report: Mr. Nectow reviewed the FY20 full Financial Report. There was a total of \$46,976,647 in expenses in FY20. \$58,519 was returned from the Operating budget back to the Town. 81% of the budget is salaries while 95% of the budget comes from OOD tuitions, transportation, utilities and salaries. There were savings in tuition, transportation, utilities and PD this year due to the COVID school closure. There were revenue shortfalls in building rental, food services, user fees, parking fees and CHS musical. The district received \$125,000 in cash donations and approximately \$1,200,000 in state and federal grants. The full FY20 Financial Report can be found on the School Committee webpage under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes/Reports.

D. **Public Comment** None

E. **Business Managers Report** Mr. Nectow reported on two acts taken by the Town of Canton on the school's behalf. First, as a result of a recent meeting where CPS made a request to Fincom for an FY21 reserve fund transfer request, \$370,000 has been approved and will be added to the Operating Budget. Second, the Select Board voted to allocate \$227,000 of CARES act money to the school department to be used by December 31 for COVID related expenses.

F. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated October 13, 2020

Move: Kristian Merenda

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea

- Chuck Rae yea
2. Approve Minutes dated October 15, 2020
Move: Maureen Moran
Second: Kristian Merenda
Roll Call Vote: 4-0
Kristin Mirliani yea
Kristian Merenda yea
Maureen Moran yea
Chuck Rae yea
3. Approve Executive Minutes dated October 15, 2020
Move: Kristian Merenda
Second: Maureen Moran
Roll Call Vote: 4-0
Kristin Mirliani yea
Kristian Merenda yea
Maureen Moran yea
Chuck Rae yea

4. The announcement that the warrants dated October 30, 2020, have been approved.

G. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - attended the first meeting. Moving into the application stage soon.
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report.
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - BPIP policy review committee formed will be ready in the spring. In touch with the consultant on the YRBS.
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - Working on Capital budget. Meeting next week.
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report.
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - absent

H. Future Business Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

I. Other Business Ms. Moran inquired about respirators for custodians while using the electrostatic sprayers. A question was raised about possible changes to how the Lucy Calkins literacy program will be taught, Ms. Rooney will follow up. A request was made to gather a sense of damages and usage of school owned equipment. What happens when a device is damaged, how is communicated/labeled with devices that are on loan. Ms. Shore will follow up.

J. Adjournment Maureen Moran motioned to close the Open Session at 9:11 pm. Chuck Rae seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 4-0.

- Kristin Mirliani yea
Kristian Merenda yea
Maureen Moran yea
Chuck Rae yea