

**Canton School Committee
Thursday, October 5, 2023
Open Meeting Minutes**

A. Call to Order: Chair O'Halloran called for a motion to convene the Thursday, October 5, 2023 School Committee Open Meeting meeting 5:39 pm. Ms. Moran made the motion; Ms. Arboleda seconded. Roll Call vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea

4 yeas 0 nays

Attendees:

Kendall O'Halloran
Laura Arboleda
Kimberly McCourt
Maureen Moran
Danika Seto, Student Representative (arrived at 6:11 pm)
Derek Folan, Superintendent
Stephen Marshall, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Sarah Shannon, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
Joanne Campbell, Recording Secretary

Absent: Kristian Merenda

Guests:

Justin Thibeault, Ai3 Representative
Mike Pirollo
Joshua Fogel, Data Analytics Manager
Mr. Jonathan Mulhern, GMS Principal
Ms. Deborah Rooney, Teaching and Learning

B. Executive Session: School Committee members immediately entered into Executive Session for Purpose 7: Approve minutes; comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements

Committee members returned to Open Session at 6:02 pm.

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

Champions of Excellence

Canton High School NEASC Collaborative Conference at CHS: The [New England Association of Schools and Colleges](#) (NEASC) visiting team is a group of current and retired administrators and current teachers from across the region. The NEASC visiting committee was on site on October 4-5 to review the report across the [5 NEASC Standards of Accreditation](#). The objective of the self-reflection is to assess the school on each of the 5 NEASC Standards and identify several priority areas and goals all with an eye on the decennial accreditation visit in 2025. Access this [LINK](#) for a CHS-developed website that captures all information about the NEASC Collaborative Conference.

The team arrived at 7:30 am on Wednesday for the two-day visit. Two CHS students, juniors Emma Cummings and Maegan Horrigan, provided a comprehensive tour and welcome for the guests. The majority of the day consisted of meetings with various stakeholders as well as sessions focused on specific standards. The visiting team also observed classes and was provided access to all courses during the scheduled class period. At the conclusion of Day 1, the team compiled all they learned about CHS and began to prepare their report.

Day 2 agenda included work on their reports, scheduling additional meetings as needed, and closing out the visit with the principal and steering committee. The final report will contain recommendations for areas of improvement leading into the decennial visit, as well as suggestions on resources, facilities improvements, and affirmation of the identified Priority Areas. We do not expect that report for several months, but action steps towards addressing several of the priority areas are already being developed.

On behalf of our school community, we thank the NEASC visiting team for their time and effort to help us improve, and we extend the highest commendations to the entire CHS staff for their collective work on this accreditation process.

CHS National Merit Commended Students: Congratulations to the five students at Canton High School who have been named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Gavin Demanche, Dominic Gray, Hannah Isaac, Derek Mar, and Anika Valluri are among approximately 34,000 students from across the nation who are being recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) for their “exceptional academic promise.”

Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk: Over 160 Canton students completed the Sunday, October 1st, 6-mile Breast Cancer walk around the Charles River. As one of the top teams in 2022, 6 CHS students were honored at the Hatch Shell. Two of them, Charlotte Clyve and Fatima Sidibay, also spoke to the thousands in attendance at the Hatch Shell. The group this year has raised almost 10K, pushing the CHS total to over \$155K since 2002.

GMS Community Forum No. 1: The first GMS Community Forum was held on September 27 in the CHS library. Over 50 members of the school community listened to the GMS Project Overview, as presented by Ai3 and LeftField, and took part in a hands-on activity placing sticky notes for ideas and hopes on the site map of GMS for the GMS Building Project. Our next Community Forum will be October 25 at the GMS Library.

Technology and Library Time: I had the opportunity to visit Hansen Elementary this week, and want to spotlight a great teaching and learning moment. Staff members Justin Martin and Emma Harding conducted a lesson teaching Grade 1 students some technology steps on using an iPad and accessing educational software. Students then had the opportunity to search for books that interested them.

Highlights

GMS Fit4Funds: What an awesome day for the Galvin Middle School and the GMS CAPT's Fit4Funds, the annual fundraising event for the GMS community. Students participated in a variety of fun fitness-based activities. So far, the event has raised \$30,000. Proceeds help fund Grade 8 activities, field trips and enrichment events for students.

JFK CAPT Event: JFK held a CAPT-sponsored assembly. The speaker/performer, Manny, talked to the students about being bullied as a child, being kind to one another, and how to be a buddy, not a bully. He told students that the golden rule is to treat everyone the way they would like to be treated. He also spoke about kindness and how being kind to one another can make the community a better place. Thank you to JFK CAPT for bringing this event to the JFK community.

CPR Training: 50 staff members from across the District became certified in CPR and trained in AED use. Nurse Leader Lauren Pushard arranged the training sessions. She hopes to schedule another 50 staff members for training in the spring.

Champions of Wellness Road Race: The Champions of Wellness 5k takes place on Sunday, November 19. Members of this group will be joining us at the next School Committee meeting on October 19. We look forward to gathering more information about their initiatives.

Acknowledgments

National Custodian Day: School Custodians were celebrated and honored Monday, October 2. They are not a group that looks for the spotlight, however, they certainly appreciated the kind words and commendations from members of our school community. Our buildings are points of pride and shine daily, setting the stage for great teaching and learning. Each school crew received some pizzas and thank you notes on behalf of the School Committee, administration and staff.

National Principals Month: October is National Principals Month. This is a great opportunity to say thank you for the daily leadership of our great Principals. They carry out the educational vision and set the tone for culture in the buildings. They are continually in service of the students, staff and families they lead. They will be acknowledged at the next School Committee meeting.

Updates

New Signs: Thank you to the Town of Canton for installing the new signs and speed limit devices on Pecunit Street near Hansen and GMS and for keeping our school community safe. The Town of Canton received the upgrades through a grant.

GMS/CAASA Safe Teens, Strong Futures Speaker Event: On October 16, GMS and CAASA are co-hosting a substance abuse prevention event. The Wellness Department, in its work with CAASA, coined these events “Safe Teens, Strong Futures”. The event is open to all, with particular focus on middle school families and students. The interactive workshop will help middle school families and students identify, address, and prevent substance abuse. Daniel Tratt is the guest speaker and there will be many substance use items that families can see and learn about. CAASA will provide food. Any questions may be directed to PreK-12 Wellness Coordinator, Adam Hughes.

Important Dates and Events

Oct. 9	No School - Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day
Oct. 13	CHS Coffee House , Outside CHS Cafeteria, 7:00-9:00 pm
Oct. 19	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm
Oct. 21	Hansen Fall Festival, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Oct. 25	GMS Community Forum #2, GMS Library, 7:00-8:30 pm
Oct. 27	Early Release, PreK-12, Professional Development

Chair O’Halloran exercised her right as chair to adjust the agenda to allow **New Business (D-1)-Ai3 Educational Program Review** to present out of order.

Ai3 Educational Program Review: Representatives from Ai3 reviewed the GMS Building Project Educational Program. Superintendent Folan acknowledged the efforts of the Project Management team at LeftField and reviewed the Project Schedule timeline for MSBA submissions. Educational Consultant, Mr. Mike Pirollo explained the process of identifying and developing the Educational Vision process around Curriculum, Instruction, Learner and Learning Environment, and project goals that will bring this vision to fruition.

Mr. Folan introduced the **GMS Education Program** document written in partnership with Ai3, and gave an overview of the 80 page document. He addressed considerations for grade configurations 5-8 and 6-8 and highlighted how the major components of the Educational Program-Inclusion, Community Spaces and Safety and Security would be implemented in the design of the building. Noting that the document is a first draft and a first read, a second read will be presented at the Thursday, October 19th School Committee Open Session. Mr. Folan encouraged the community to be an active part of this process and invited all to attend the next Open Form on Wednesday, October 25th, 7-8:30pm at GMS. Grade configuration will be a part of the agenda.

Ms. McCourt suggested that administration connect with educators for their perspective on each of the grade configurations. Justin Thibeault of Ai3 will follow up on this request.

The full GMS Education Program document may be found on the School Committee webpage, Meetings Agendas and Minutes, [Oct 5 Meeting Materials \(Module 3 educational program\)](#).

D. Unfinished Business

1. **School Committee Operating Protocols:** Chair O'Halloran confirmed that the mandatory training schedule noted under "How the Canton School Committee Will Improve" is correct. Members then reviewed the School Committee Operating Protocols. Ms. Moran registered a general concern over the heavy-handedness of the document, voicing an uneasiness that the Committee might be kept from doing their diligence for the community. It was noted that the document is updated on an annual basis. Concerns and considerations for the document may be addressed each year.

Hearing no requests for further discussion, Chair O'Halloran called for a motion to approve the 2023-24 School Committee Operating Protocols as written and presented. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Kimberly McCourt seconded. Voting was recorded as follows:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	nay
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
3 yeas	1 nays

There was a question on the timeline for responding to a member's request for information that is not in existence. Post Committee approval of the request, and with the understanding that the nature of the request may require more time, the administration would endeavor to have information available by the next School Committee meeting. In the event that additional time is necessary for gathering appropriate information, Ms. Arboleda suggested administration correspond with the requestor via email the expectations of the time frame for response.

At this time, Ms. Moran followed up with a request for contracts for all major vendors be placed in the School Committee shared drive. There was an additional request regarding Professional Development reimbursements. Ms. Moran requested specific information about names of courses that were being reimbursed as she felt it might be a good mechanism to support educators and help the School Committee and larger community understand trends. Mr. Folan asked that this request be forwarded to counsel for advice. He will return with contractual guidance post consultation.

D. New Business:

2. **MCAS & Accountability Report:** Mr. Fogel shared the District-wide MCAS data and the Accountability Scorecard. Of particular note, the District achieved its

2022-23 goal of increasing achievement to *meeting and exceeding* state scoring expectations in Math by 5%. Mr. Fogel also noted that Math, ELA, and Science scores are trending in a consistently positive direction based on Massachusetts standards meaning they are remaining stable or increasing from 2022 scores.

Mr. Fogel explained the new Mass. Accountability formulas and criteria designed to return scoring to the 2019 performance levels and how it will be measured. Each school will receive an accountability report that will take into consideration chronic absenteeism (missing more than 10% of school days), advanced coursework completion from 2022 and 2023, four year graduation rates, annual dropout rate from 2022, and extended engagement rates from 2021. He then presented the 2023 CPS Accountability Data to help illustrate the scoring of “overall progress” toward improvement targets in these categories.

Based on these criteria, CPS has formulated a 2023-24 District Goal of seeing an average student growth of 2 percentile rank for the selected population of students in the lowest performing quartile, based on the state’s accountability system. Focus Areas will continue a math focus while also including writing across all grades and content areas, MTSS structures, high quality teaching, leading and learning and equity professional development.

Individual student reports will be sent out via US Mail on Thursday, October 12th. Families who are new to Canton are asked to call their previous school district to receive their child’s/children’s report. Online resources are also available via the CPS website.

The full 2023 MCAS & Accountability District Results may be found on the School Committee webpage, Meetings Agendas and Minutes, [Oct. 5 Meeting materials](#), [MCAS Presentation](#).

3. **Concussion Protocols (JJIF) 1st Read**: Members of the Policy Subcommittee presented policy JJIF for a 1st read noting that this policy is athletic/team based has not changed; however, practices have improved and are reflected in the draft. MASC representative, Jim Hardy, did not recommend any changes within the document, except to recommend that all Appendices mentioned in the document be included at the back of the policy. Ms. O’Halloran stated that all Appendices will be added into the document for the second read, and asked Committee members to send her any comments, feedback and thoughts in a separate document via email by Wednesday, October 18th.
4. **Policy Section H 1st Read**: Members of the policy subcommittee presented policy Section H for a 1st read. Ms. O’Halloran suggested the Policy is fairly straightforward and asked Committee members to send her their comments, feedback and thoughts in a separate document via email by Wednesday, October 18th.

D. Public Comment: Canton Resident, Jennifer O'Donnell, voiced concern over the hierarchy and chain of command within the Canton Public School system, particularly when managing complaints regarding the superintendent. Ms. O'Donnell also noted an unease about CPS surveys.

E. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall had nothing further to report.

F. Consent Agenda:

1. Regular Session Minutes: August 3, 2023, September 21, 2023
2. Executive Session Minutes: August 15, 2023, September 21, 2023 (approved in Executive Session October 5, 2023)
3. Warrants: October 6, 2023.

Chair O'Halloran announced the contents of the Consent Agenda asking if there were any requests to remove any item. Ms. O'Halloran asked to remove Regular Session Minutes from August 3, 2023 pending further information from Ms. Merenda. Hearing no further requests, Ms. O'Halloran called for a motion to approve Regular Session Minutes from September 21, 2023 and Warrants for October 6, 2023. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Kimberly McCourt seconded. Voting was unanimous and recorded as:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

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

1. Laura Arboleda-nothing to report
2. Maureen Moran-the Budget & Finance Subcommittee meeting will be held on
3. Kendall O'Halloran:
 - i. CCCP-nothing further to report-continuing process;
 - ii. Content & Communications-next ad will not be published until Fall Sports ends;
 - iii. Ms. O'Halloran thanked CAPT & CAASA members for their support;
4. Stephen Marshall-Sustainability Committee has not met yet, but he is hopeful they will begin shortly;
5. Derek Folan-nothing further to report.

H. Other Business: None

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

J. Adjournment: Hearing no questions or requests for further discussion, Chair O'Halloran asked for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, October 5, 2023 School Committee meeting at 8:24 pm. Maureen Moran made the motion; Laura Arboleda seconded. Voting was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as follows:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

Action Items:

1. Mr. Folan asked that the request for access to specific Professional Development information be forwarded to counsel for advice. He will return with contractual guidance post consultation.

Documents Reviewed:

Superintendent's Report, October 5, 2023
Galvin Middle School Project Update 10.5.23
Galvin School Building Educational Program
Canton School Committee Operating Protocols, Draft 10.3.2023
Canton Public Schools 2023 MCAS & Accountability District Results
CPS Concussion Management Policy (JJIF)
CPS Policy Section H