

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of November 4, 2021  
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 7:00 pm by Chair Merenda.

B. Open Session:

Present are:

Kristian Merenda

Nichola Gallagher (left meeting at 10:00 pm)

Maureen Moran

Kendall O'Halloran

Also Present:

Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent

Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations

Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary

Public

Staff

C. Student Member Report: Mr. Joshua Ribisi-Chan visited the Dean S. Luce School. He met with Principal Lamour and two 5th grade students. He reported that staff and students are benefiting from being back in school and enjoying activities such as STEAM Week and 5th Grade Circus activities. Students are also working on writing speeches for Veterans Day.

D. Interim Superintendent's Report:

CPS Job Fair: Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Meghan Byrne, Ms. Sarah Shannon, Ms. Tara Young, and Ms. Kim Eardley, the job fair held on November 3 was well attended and a true success.

Cantonstock: Cantonstock is taking place on November 6 from 12-4. Please see below for additional details.

CHS Drama Fall Play, Clue: Show dates are listed below under Important Dates and Events. Arts.

Hansen Penny Wars: Hansen CAPT organized this year's fundraiser, Penny Wars. Hansen students brought in over 1,500 pounds of coins and raised over \$11,000. Hansen CAPT has offered to buy brand new recess equipment for all of our classrooms. Students are working with their teachers this week to determine items to be purchased.

Canton Diversity Equity Inclusion (CDEI) Global Diversity Event: The town's CDEI committee held a Global Diversity event last week, co-sponsored by the Canton Public Library. It provided the community and opportunity to learn more about the CDEI goals, ongoing projects, and community relationships.

**Events/Acknowledgments This Month**

Veteran's Day: On behalf of the District, we are pleased to honor three members of our staff who are veterans:

- Dr. Nick Fitzgerald, CHS assistant principal
- Katie Healey, CHS science teacher(Engineering and Robotics)
- Justyn Pelchat, GMS tech specialist

### **Updates**

**MSBA update:** As part of the MSBA Senior Study, the District engaged in a Zoom call to discuss the Statement of Interest, reviewed the town's financial readiness for a building project and feasibility study, and assessed community readiness. On October 26, a building tour identified the physical deficiencies and how it impacts the educational vision.

### **Champions of Excellence**

**CHS Fall Sports Update:** The Bulldogs notched a 14-0 regular season record and a 5th straight Hockomock League Davenport Championship, earned a Division 2 North Championship, and finished second in the State Final. A special congratulations to CHS sophomore Mekhala Costello for qualifying and playing in the New England Championship at Mohegan Sun Golf Club, where she finished in 9th place.

A salute to the Hockomock Davenport Champion Field Hockey Team remarkable for its unbeaten stretch to a 15-3 overall record.

**MIAA Playoffs:** Along with the golf team completing their championship season, the Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, and both Soccer teams are looking to join. The [Canton Athletic Blog](#) provides more information about these upcoming MIAA statewide tournament matches.

**Entrepreneur Class:** Congratulations to Kevin Sullivan and Bonnie Bousquet on the ongoing success of their Entrepreneur Class. This course is designed to encourage students to examine all the major steps involved in starting a new business. Virtually, through the new interactive touch boards, the class welcomed guest Speaker Allen Goldman, founder and CEO of Skindinavia, a cosmetics brand that began in 1995 with global distribution.

**CHS Students Opera House Visit:** Thanks to a generous ticket donation from The Rodman Foundation, 35 CHS students and 3 staff were fortunate to see the musical Hadestown at the Citizen Opera House in Boston thanks to the generous donation from the Rodman family.

**PreK Visit:** Acknowledgement of the power of play and the balance of academics and learning in this very welcoming environment.

**Canton High School College Applications:** Over 1,400 applications submitted for early acceptance, accounting for nearly 56 percent of the senior class.

### **Important Dates and Events**

Nov. 5	Luce 5th Grade Circus Performance, Luce Gymnasium, 7:00 pm
Nov. 6	<a href="#"><u>Cantonstock</u></a> , CHS, 12 - 4 pm
Nov. 9	School Committee Joint Session Meeting with Select Board, 5:30 pm, Town Hall Salah Meeting Room
Nov. 11	No School, Veterans Day
Nov. 12	CHS School Committee Student Forum, CHS Library Conference Room,

	1:00 pm
Nov. 18	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, <b>5:00 pm</b>
Nov. 18-20	CHS Fall Play <i>Clue</i> , CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm. See above for additional info.
Nov. 19	GMS School Committee Student Forum, GMS Library, 9:00 am
Nov. 21	CHS Fall Play <i>Clue</i> , CHS Auditorium, 2:00 pm. See above for additional info.
Nov. 30	CHS National Honor Society Induction, 7:00 pm, CHS Auditorium, Nichola Gallagher attending

E. Teaching and Learning Report: Ms. Jaclyn Abrams discussed how CPS screens for dyslexia and how CPS is addressing dyslexia in its curriculum through the Renaissance STAR CBM from an early literacy grant which helped fund the tools for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. She also discussed the elementary Social Studies entry plan and the Social Studies & History Pre-K to 12 collaboration that is taking place. Ms. Abrams has been participating in the state's History and Social Science Leaders Network, which was sponsored by DESE this year. This provides an opportunity to network with other similar districts to share resources and challenges as we move forward with the implementation of the new frameworks.

F. New Business Items:

1. 2021-2022 School Improvement Plans (SIPs) for Elementary and PreK: All Principals acknowledged and thanked their school council members. Ms. Kilday shared her goals: 1) Achieving educational excellence and ensuring equity: The school focus will be on students achieving significant personal and academic growth through a rigorous, equitable and inspiring educational experience that is responsive to individual needs and features research based, high quality instruction. The plan calls for improving math outcomes for all preschoolers. Student data identified the need for support in the ability to apply rote math skills to novel situations including those involving math based vocabulary. 2) Cultivating school culture and climate by improving social and emotional skills for students, specifically those demonstrating anxiety and/or depression and those with a history of trauma. Internalizing behaviors were noted to be increased on the SEL screener during the Spring of 2021. Increased parent/guardian understanding of social and emotional development. 3) Transforming teaching and learning through a purposeful curriculum and instructional design that engages students in deeper learning ensures that every student receives transformational experiences that promote student agency, develop individual talents and interests, and foster each child's critical thinking, collaboration and citizenship skills. Key actions were shared for each goal.

Ms. Lamour shared the Dean S. Luce Plans. 1) Goal achieving educational excellence and ensuring equity. Every student will achieve significant personal and academic growth through a rigorous, equitable, and inspiring educational experience responsive to individual needs and features research-based, high-quality instruction. Luce plans to be intentional about analyzing and using data to help us to make intentional instructional decisions to ensure that all students have access to rigorous, standards-aligned, and high-quality tier-1 instruction across all content

areas each day. 2) Cultivating school culture and climate. Every student will flourish in an intellectually stimulating and physically and emotionally safe educational environment. The plan is to reacclimate students who have had a loss of -in-school learning time and structure to a full-time and highly structured school environment. The plan notes that it is imperative to have a stable and engaging class and school environment to allow all learners to learn at the highest level possible. 3) Transforming teaching and learning through intentionally implementing a strong Tier-1 curriculum for all students. Students who need more (extensions or interventions) will get what they need by way of our daily What I Need (WIN) blocks in or out of the classroom. Key actions were shared for each goal.

Mr. Brauninger shared the Hansen SIP. 1) Achieving educational excellence and ensuring equity whereby every student will achieve significant personal and academic growth through a rigorous, equitable and inspiring educational experience that is responsive to individual needs and features research based, high quality instruction. The Hansen School will collect, review, and utilize student data to make instructional decisions that are intentional and that allow access and opportunities for student growth. 2) Cultivating school culture and climate by recognizing and spending time reacclimating students who have had a loss of in-school learning time and structures, to a full-time, highly structured, and safe school environment. 3) Transforming teaching and learning by encouraging educators to build his/her/their capacity to provide rigorous, relevant, and culturally responsive learning experiences that engage, challenge and support students. Mr. Brauninger expressed the importance of every student having access to a strong Tier I curriculum.

- Suggestion for the District to create an information sheet explaining restorative practices
- Members requested that a future meeting include a presentation on the multi-tiered system of support (MTSS)

Ms. Sarah Shannon spoke about the JFK SIP priorities. 1) Achieving educational excellence and ensuring equity by providing an equitable and rigorous learning experience for all of our students. The Kennedy School will collect, review, and utilize student data to make instructional decisions that are intentional, and that allow access and opportunities for growth. 2) Cultivating school culture and climate by ensuring that every student will flourish in an intellectually stimulating and physically and emotionally safe educational environment that supports an authentic sense of belonging and well-being. 3) Transforming teaching and learning by having educators build the capacity to provide rigorous, relevant, and culturally responsive learning experiences that engage, challenge and support all students. Purposeful curriculum and instructional design that engages students in deeper learning ensure that every student receives transformational experiences that promote student agency, develop individual talents and interests, and foster each child's critical thinking, collaboration and citizenship skills.

All full School Improvement Plans can be found on the School Committee webpage under the meeting/agendas/minutes tab.

2. Capital Presentation: Mr. Stephen Marshall presented the FY23 Capital budget proposal for an initial review. Mr. Marshall explained that cash capital requests are at least \$5,000 or more and can include items such as program improvements, building repairs/improvements, and/or extraordinary maintenance. Long-term debt capital monies are for projects over \$100,000 and allocated for future use. Mr. Marshall reviewed the summary of requests made by staff and the

proposed superintendent's requests. The cash capital requests fall in the areas of building repairs/improvements, information technology, program improvements, furniture and fixtures and vehicle replacements. The total proposed superintendent's requests amount to \$944,000.

Mr. Marshall discussed the debt capital projects and the proposed timeline and allocations. Projects include unit ventilators at Hansen, JFK and GMS and a roof replacement at the Luce school, building ACs, district wide brick repointing, and a rooftop unit for CHS.

**Move to approve the FY23 Budget as presented:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Vote:** 4-0

3. Update on School Committee Vacancy: Chair Merenda explained that the two interested candidates for the vacant seat will be interviewed during a joint meeting with the Select Board on Nov. 9. The final appointment will take place on Nov. 23. with the Select Board.
4. Policy Review, policy EBCFA: Mr. Folan shared the DESE mask mandate extension that requires masks until Jan. 15, 2022. Districts that meet the 80% vaccination rate threshold can apply for a waiver. The School Committee will review this policy at the Jan. 20, 2022 meeting. If CPS meets the 80% threshold, this policy will be reviewed at the next regularly scheduled meeting following criteria being met.

**Move to approve policy EBCFA as presented:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Vote:** 4-0

5. District Goal Update: Mr. Folan discussed his entry plan. He will be presenting dates and opportunities for forums by grade level. His goal is for the November/December time frame. Forums will be presented via Zoom. Questions and subjects to consider for discussion will be sent to families prior to the forums.

G. Public Comment: None

H. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall reported that the 3 Canton Community Preservation Committee (CCPC) applications were deemed acceptable and will be moved forward. He will have another update at the next meeting. Esser III application is still in the approval process. ARPA applications are being reviewed at the Nov. 23 Select Board Meeting. CPS presented four requests: Hansen unit ventilator, premium pay, bleacher repairs and GMS feasibility study reimbursement.

I. Consent Agenda:

**Motion to approve the consent agenda outlined below:** Maureen Moran

**Seconded:** Kendall O'Halloran

**The Consent Agenda passed unanimously:** 3-0

**The following items were included in the Consent Agenda:**

Regular Session Minutes: October 21, 2021

Warrant: November 5, 2021

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

- Comprehensive Financial Review task force will meet again next week to finalize the scope
- MASS Annual meeting taking place this week
- Communications - slotted for 5 regular segments through the year. Ms. O'Halloran will fill in the calendar with additional details
- Attorney review task force - discussion about how payment is processed for legal services and what the contract for legal counsel looks like

K. Other Business: None

- L. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, November 18, 2021, @ 5:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.
- M. Adjournment: Maureen Moran motioned to close the Open Session at 10:13 pm. Kendall O'Halloran seconded. It was voted 3-0.

3 yeas                      0                      nays

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated November 4, 2021
2. Teaching and Learning Update 11/4/2021
3. Rodman PreK SIP
4. Luce SIP
5. Hansen SIP
6. JFK SIP
7. Policy EBCFA
8. Capital Summary and Details