

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of November 5, 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.

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

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
Michelle Gobbi, Business Analyst
Sarah Shannon, Principal, GMS

B. **New Business**

1. GMS Schedule Survey Results and Schedule Update: Ms. Sarah Shannon reviewed the results of the survey and shared updates. Ms. Shannon gathered feedback from staff, students and parents/guardians. Approximately 342 parents responded to the schedule survey. GMS is in the middle of a revision process. The plan is to implement the new schedule in November. Exact date TBD. Ms. Shannon shared the feedback regarding the utilization of On Demand Learning (ODL) block, engagement during ODL, and the effective use of time in ODL. Ms. Shannon explained that the student voice was loud and strong during this process. There was a discrepancy between the parent responses and student responses. Students responded to ODL for the above topics were more favorable for the use and effectiveness of ODL with 91% reporting that they always or often are engaged in doing schoolwork for the whole ODL period. While approximately 40% of parents reported that their child was always or often engaged in schoolwork for the whole ODL period. The proposed new schedule consists of a shortened check in time by 5 minutes, eliminating check out, a shortened ODL period to 43 minutes, classes extended from 60 to 68 minutes long. ODL will be supervised by team teachers 3 days/week and specialist teachers 1 day/week. There will be a shift in meeting time opportunities for staff and a loss of professional development time. The proposed schedule also includes 222 minutes of learning per subject per week, 161 minutes of synchronous, 61 minutes of asynchronous instruction. The instruction will include direct instruction, independent learning, group work, asynchronous work, and homework. The total instructional time is 889.6 hours. Ms. Shannon led a discussion about what social-emotional learning (SEL) is and why it is important to teach and why it is educationally sound practice. Some members continue to express concern with the lack of instructional hours and core content time.
2. Master Plan Implementation Committee: Chair Mirliani sought a volunteer to serve as

the School Committee voting member on this town committee. Ms. Moran volunteered to participate on this committee. Ms. Merenda will assist as needed.

3. Interim Superintendent Contract Vote: Chair Mirliani presented the Interim Superintendent contract for a vote of approval. The details of the contract were discussed during Executive Session last week.

Motion to approve the Interim Superintendent's contract for a 12 week term: Maureen Moran

Second: Chuck Rae

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Chuck Rae yea

4. FY22 Capital Presentation: Mr. Nectow presented the FY22 Capital Budget. The full cash capital summary of requests can be found on the School Committee website under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes/Reports. Cash capital requests were in building repairs/improvements, grounds improvements, informational technology, safety and security, program improvements and furniture and fixtures. The finance subcommittee met earlier this week to preview all requests. Given a reduction in a technology item, there will be a revised summary presented to the Committee at the next meeting. The tech team will be doing a more thorough study about connectivity within the district, then will reevaluate their information technology needs. The reduced funding of the Ruckus access points will address immediate needs. The superintendent cash capital project requests grand total is \$766,902.

Ms. Shore spoke about the technology requests of iPads for incoming K students and Chromebooks for incoming third grade students. There was a discussion about leasing vs. purchasing technology. Mr. Nectow will be meeting with the Town Finance Director next week to walk through the pros and cons of this option. The tech department staff does conduct iPad reviews. Some apps are pulled out to strip down the devices for students. This task is a work in progress. There was a follow up discussion about the communication between families and the district about damaged devices. The district is working on agreements with a focus on being fair and equitable. Whether or not to offer/require insurance will be reviewed. Currently, repairs are minimal and have been done in house. Members asked to see a report at the end of the year regarding the number of devices that were lost/stolen/damaged to account for money spent and lost.

Mr. Nectow reported that the district has full exterior camera coverage on all buildings. Program improvements in the curriculum were reviewed. This year's capital funding requests are centered around literacy. The district will be doing a deeper dive into both the math and social studies curriculum with the hope of bringing these curriculum items forward next year. For the moment, operating budget money will support math instruction. There was a request for subheadings in the Capital report and parity across district requests.

Mr. Nectow also reviewed the debt capital plan. Debt capital is for bigger items being allocated over a five year period (2021-2025). One of the debt capital requests is unit ventilators at Hansen and GMS. Mr. Nectow explained that the Hansen ventilators can be equipped with AC, but the Galvin units will not be equipped with AC as the district is hoping for a total remodel/upgrade at this school in the coming

years. As discussed in this week's subcommittee meeting, Mr. Nectow will continue to explore updating the electrical capacity at all three elementary schools. As another subcommittee follow up, Mr. Nectow reported that solar panels can not be installed at the JFK until the roof is replaced as part of a future capital plan project. The other debt capital item is a rooftop unit at CHS. Mr. Nectow reported that the district continues to apply through MSBA for the GMS remodel. The latest application submitted was in April. The average time for project completion once accepted is 7 years.

C. Public Comment None

D. Business Managers Report Mr. Nectow reported that the HVAC vendor is installing UV lights on the rooftop units. This lighting provides another layer of virus protection. Also, the second round of air quality testing is being conducted next week.

E. Routine Matters

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated October 29, 2020

Move: Chuck Rae

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Chuck Rae yea

2. Approve Minutes dated October 29, 2020

Move: Kristian Merenda

Second: Chuck Rae

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Chuck Rae yea

F. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - nothing new to report
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - nothing more to report
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - absent

G. Future Business Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

H. Other Business Ms. Moran followed up with a request for members to see staff comments from the Conditions of Learning Survey. Interim Superintendent Folan said this is not an option this time. In the future, staff will be notified of the sharing of survey comments.

- I. **Adjournment** Chuck Rae motioned to close the Open Session at 9:26 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 4-0.

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