

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of December 16, 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 6:01 pm. Motion to go into Executive Session with respect to contract negotiations with nonunion personnel - Interim Superintendent made by Nichola Gallagher. Seconded by Kendall O'Halloran. It was voted by roll call 4-0.

Nichola Gallagher	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea

- B. Open Session: Vice Chair Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Present are:

Nichola Gallagher  
Maureen Moran  
Kendall O'Halloran  
Laura Arboleda

Also Present:

Derek Folan, Interim Superintendent  
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations  
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary  
Public  
Press  
Staff

- C. Interim Superintendent's Report:

**Interim Superintendent's Highlights**

Community Forums: These forums provided important feedback for the Superintendent's Entry Plan report. Families who were unable to participate will have another opportunity, via a google form, to share their feedback.

Holiday Shops: Thank you to our CAPT volunteers for coordinating the Holiday Shops in each of our Elementary schools.

GMS Robotics: Congratulations to the GMS Robotics Team M (Mobile Movers) for taking home the 2nd place trophy for their robot design.

KyleCares \$2500 Grant:

KyleCares presented the Canton Public Schools with a \$2,500 grant to support mental health programming at Canton High School. They have been amazing partner around mental health, supporting the Minding Your Mind programming and sparking the start of the Active Minds Chapter at CHS and the Student Wellness Advisory Group.

GMS and CHS Clubs: CPS is proud to offer an array of clubs for our students to be a part of. Examples and broad details of clubs were shared

**Updates**

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): The 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey held on Thursday, December 9 was a successful collaboration of administrators, teachers, and students. The purpose of the

survey was to collect important health behavior data from students in our school district. The anonymous student survey focused on major risk behaviors that threaten the health and safety of young people. The results of this survey are given to a hired consultant who specializes in scrubbing data to give us the most accurate results possible. Survey results to address areas of growth that will impact future programming around important health related topics.

Post Secondary Planning Night: Thank you to Guidance Director Dr. Meredith Chamberland and all of the CHS Guidance Staff for offering this fantastic learning opportunity. The CHS Post Secondary Planning Night is scheduled for January 13, 2022, in the CHS Auditorium.

### **Champions of Excellence**

World Language Induction Ceremony: The World Languages Honor Societies Induction Ceremony was held on December 9. This event recognizes the outstanding academic achievement of learners of ASL, French, German, and Spanish.

CHS Sports: Winter sports are in session. For the most up-to-date information on events, tickets and live streaming, please refer to the CHS Athletics Blog.

National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony: 82 students were inducted into NHS on Monday, December 13. Students with a 3.3 GPA or higher are invited to apply. During the application process, students who are juniors need a minimum of 50 hours of community service and seniors need to have a minimum of 75 hours of community service. Students in both grade levels also need to have a minimum of two leadership roles in school or in the community and exemplary character, and then a Faculty Council reads through the applications to select students.

Computer Science Activities: Computer Science Education Week was December 6-10. Elementary Digital Learning Specialists led classes in learning about the Hour of Code.

### **Important Dates and Events**

Dec. 17	GMS/CHS Jazz Concert, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Dec. 21	CHS Winter Concert, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Dec. 23	Early Release, PreK-12, Winter Break
Dec. 24 - Dec.31	No School, Winter Break
Jan. 3	School Resumes
Jan. 6	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, <b>6:00 pm</b>

- D. Teaching and Learning Report: Ms. Patricia Palmer and CHS Seniors Kylee Sheehan and Ashley Dumangas shared information regarding the CPS Visual Arts Department course offerings and examples of artwork. Ms. Palmer demonstrated how the District is aligned with the MA Core Arts Curriculum Framework. Standards are grouped into 4 clusters. Students shared their artwork and shared why art is important to them.
- E. New Business:
1. COVID-19 Update on Vaccination Rates: Mr. Folan provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccination rates in school buildings. The CHS remains at approximately 73%.

2. CPS Enrollment and Data Review: Mr. Marshall provided an update on enrollment, demographics, and class size. Data shared was based on October 1 data submitted to DESE. The current enrollment is 3149 students. Enrollment has been consistently flat over the past 10 years as a whole. The average class size is 20.4 students. Members requested a closer look at percentages for demographic numbers, specific to children with special needs and/or 504 plans. Members inquired whether classrooms that have higher class sizes have EAs and/or are supported. The full report can be found on the School Committee web page under minutes agendas meetings. All information can also be found on the DESE website as well.
  3. District Goal Update:
    - a. Mr. Folan discussed the plan for programming that will support extensions, enrichments and accelerated learning opportunities accessible to all students at the different grade levels. Mr. Folan explained that instruction and the art of teaching/instruction leads to offering these opportunities. Continually working on with staff through PD offerings. Offering schedule block, i.e. X block, also allows for students to extend learning. Members would like to see more teacher-led extensions vs. computer-led.
    - b. Mr. Folan assessed the value and engagement of the current communication strategies, including the Superintendent's Blog, the District and school-based websites, and social media strategies. Survey results will be shared in January.
  4. District Calendar Task Force: Vice Chair Gallagher discussed the process of examining and building the CPS District calendar. A parent co-Chair has been identified. The planning group met to review goals and determine desired outcomes. The task force is looking for parents and staff to join the focus group. A message will be sent out District-wide with additional information. Meetings will begin in January on Thursdays, off weeks of the School Committee meetings. Long term plan is to deliver a presentation at the 2nd meeting in March.
- F. Public Comment: None
- G. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall reported that all Operating Budget requests have been received and the subcommittee is meeting next week to review requests. The 1st presentation of the budget is scheduled for the first meeting in January. The three CCPC projects will be prioritized at the first January meeting. The May Annual Town Meeting articles will also be discussed at the 1st January School Committee meeting. ESSOR funds have still not been released.
- H. Consent Agenda:  
**Motion to approve the consent agenda outlined below:** Maureen Moran  
**Seconded:** Kendall O'Halloran  
**The Consent Agenda passed unanimously:** 4-0  
**The following items were included in the Consent Agenda:**  
Regular Session Minutes: December 2, 2021  
Executive Session Minutes: December 2, 2021  
Warrant: December 17, 2021
- I. Sub-Committee, Task Force, and Liaison Post Updates:
- Finance subcommittee meeting on 12/22
  - Comprehensive Financial review meeting tomorrow
  - Ms. Moran and Ms. Merenda attended the MPIC on 12/8. The planning process was reviewed
  - Norfolk County Substance Abuse Task Force met and shared programming ideas. CAASA's Program Director, Melanie Floyd, presented about the Green Bandana project and other CAASA initiatives

- CAPE/CAPT working on getting a scope of how much they spend and how much they do for schools. Members will be invited to an upcoming meeting as a show of appreciation.
- Policy on hold until January, awaiting word from MASC
- CCPC presentation of applications took place, there is another meeting to review submissions in January. CPS team will work on prioritizing the three projects they submitted
- Communications: Ad going in the Citizen next week
- Ms. Gallagher was appointed to the MASC Legislative Committee, the first meeting is next week
- CDEI met and shared calendar updates

J. Other Business: Formal welcome to new member Laura Arboleda.

K. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, January 6, 2022, @ 6:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.

L. Adjournment: Kendall O'Halloran motioned to close the Open Session at 8:54 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas                      0        nays

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated December 16, 2021
2. Vax Rates for December 16, 2021
3. Enrollment and Class Size Report, December 2021