

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of December 17, 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 in Executive Session 5-0. Attendance is taken again in Open Session. Roll Call 5-0.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	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
Dianna Mullen, Director of Student Services
Dave Turcotte, Principal, CHS
Sarah Shannon, Principal, GMS
Josh Fogel, CHS Assistant Principal
Dr. Meredith Chamberland, Guidance Director
Ryan Gordy, Wellness Coordinator
Anisha Cherukuri, Student Member
Elias Jabbour, Student Member
Gabrielle McDuffie, Student Member

- B. **Student Member Report** Principal Dave Turcotte introduced this year's School Committee Student Representatives, Anisha Cherukuri, Elias Jabbour, and Gabrielle McDuffie. Anisha Cherukuri gave a report on CHS. She spoke about the challenges and successes of the new remote learning environment.

- C. **Interim Superintendent's Report**

CPS Nursing: Interim Superintendent Folan highlighted the CPS nurses. He shared the important role they have played in the school community during the COVID pandemic.

CHS Pep Rally: Thank you to CHS teacher Bonnie Bousquet and the Character Crew for coordinating this event.

Senior Lunch: Took place this week.

Hansen School Visit: Interim Superintendent Folans spoke about his visit to the Hansen School. He spoke about the great teaching and learning going on throughout schools.

Updates

MCAS Update: DESE made some adjustments to the MCAS testing schedule. MCAS ELA and Math testing for current Juniors, which was previously scheduled for January 14 -

February 5, has been postponed. Current Seniors who have not yet completed their MCAS competency determinations will still have an opportunity to take the MCAS ELA and Math. The revised testing dates for the Juniors will be shared as soon as that information comes in.

ACCESS testing update: The testing window for ACCESS testing for English Learners has been extended. Testing can now take place from January through May. All testing sessions must be completed in person. English Learner students on the Remote Pathway will be receiving a letter in the next few days with more information.

Flu Clinics: **December 21, 3:00-8:00 pm** [Click here to register](#)

December 29, 3:00-8:00 pm [Click here to register](#)

December 30, 2:00-7:00 pm [Click here to register](#)

Students will be required to have received a flu vaccine by December 31, 2020 for the 2020-2021 influenza season, unless either a medical or religious exemption is provided. Immunization exemption forms can be obtained through the school nurses.

Conditions for Learning Survey: The second Conditions for Learning survey was shared with families on Monday evening. The deadline for completing the survey is tomorrow, December 18 at 4:00 pm. As of this morning, there are 773 responses.

Indicators of Excellence

Career Center: Thanks to the efforts of students in the career center, CHS students and parents shipped over 20 boxes filled with “goodies “ to the servicemen and servicewomen at Fort Sill.

Chromebook Distribution: The district has distributed 3,275 devices to date. 9th graders recently received their Chromebooks.

CHS Senior District Results: Congratulations to the students who made it to Senior Districts and All State. They will participate in the virtual festival on January 8 and 9.

Important Dates and Events

Dec. 19	CHS Drama Fall Play Production, Virtual, 7:00 pm "She Kills Monsters" by Qui Nguyen
Dec. 20	CHS Drama Fall Play Production, Virtual, 2:00 pm "Sideways Stories from Wayside School" by Louis Sachar
Dec. 23	Early Release, PreK-12 Winter Break
Dec. 24 - Jan.1	No School, Winter Break
Jan. 4	School Resumes

Jan. 7	School Committee, 7:00 pm
Jan. 18	No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

D. New Business

1. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): Mr. Ryan Gordy, Mr. Dave Turcotte, Mr. Josh Fogel, Ms. Sarah Shannon, Dr. Meredith Chamberland presented the 2019 YRBS that was administered on March 26, 2019. This presentation is delayed due to COVID. The district was waiting for information from the CDC. 387 7th and 8th grade students were represented and 851 CHS students. Each Principal analyzed data from their school and compared the percentages to the 2017 YRBS results. Topics surveyed included: bullying, school climate, mental health, alcohol, marijuana, vaping, physical activity, dating violence and driving behavior. The percentage of students who reported suicidal thoughts was 18.7% at GMS, which is up from 13.5 % in the 2017 YRBS. The % of students reporting being bullied is down from 32.7% in 2017 to 14.3. There was a request to add the wording *used within 30 days of survey date* and *what number of suicide attempts resulted in medical services* added to GMS YRBS as this wording is in the CHS survey. There were other questions that the Committee would like to see added to the next survey. The use of marijuana and electronic vaping are up slightly at CHS from the last survey. The percentage of students attempting suicide at CHS is down significantly from 12.5% in 2017 to 4.2% in 2019. The Wellness Coordinator and the Director of Guidance reviewed steps the district will be taking to increase student connectedness and improve social-emotional health. Some of these steps include partnerships with Kyle Cares, Active Minds, Mind your Mind and developing a Student Wellness Advisory Group (SWAG). There was a discussion about how the questions asked in the survey are formed and there was a request for some rewording and for additional questions relative to social media and technology to determine if these cause added anxiety. The full 2019 YRBS can be found on the School Committee webpage under reports for this evening's meeting.
2. Advanced Placement (AP) Results and Analysis: Mr. Dave Turcotte and Dr. Meredith Chamberland presented the AP results. In 2019-2020, there were 501 AP tests taken; approximately 25% of CHS students. 80.6 % of students scored a 3, 4 or 5, which, compared to peer districts, 80.6 % places Canton in the top half, with the highest 92% coming from Needham, and the state average falling at 71.6 %. There was a discussion about thinking about future planning for pre-AP course offerings and increasing the variety and the number of courses offered. Dr. Chamberland shared that Canton offers far more courses than neighboring towns. If students request to take an exam that we do not have, Canton can proctor that test. She also shared that pre-AP classes have had mixed results in other towns. Pre AP classes can inadvertently discourage students from taking an AP class. Canton allows any student to sit for AP exams, there are no entrance barriers. Other peer districts have criteria for students who are eligible to sit for AP exams. Request to see in next year's report, the number of exams being administered and entrance barriers pertaining to comparable peer towns.
3. COVID Update: Interim Superintendent Folan provided a school department

COVID update. There has been an uptick in cases which is becoming a challenge to engage in a consistent learning model. The District continues to have no school based transmission. The Town of Canton is still in the yellow range but in the high range of yellow. The district will remain in hybrid and continue close and constant monitoring. Interim Nurse Leader Pushard shared some new CDC and DPH guidelines that the district may need to consider. These include a change to a strict 7 day quarantine, after day 5 with no symptoms, can test out of quarantine on day 8 if the test (antigen or PCR) is negative. Another CDC and DPH option is with no symptoms and no test, can come out of quarantine on day 11. At this time, CPS is sticking with the current protocols, but these may change. The next town-wide COVID update will be on December 30 at 4:00 pm, all are welcome to attend virtually.

4. Policy Review: Interim Superintendent Folan presented the following policies for 2nd read and review for a possible vote of approval.

- a. BEDH - Public Comment - 2nd read

The Committee reviewed this policy presented with attorney recommendations that are based on case law and her work with other districts. There were questions pertaining to sections 2 and 8 with regard to speaker interruptions by the Chair, there appears to be conflicting language. Other wording to reconsider was the clause stating that public comment should pertain to an item on the agenda, and it was suggested that the language of *the School Committee also adheres to Mass General Law* be added to the last paragraph. This policy will be reviewed again at the January 7 meeting.

- b. KBA - School/Family Relations Goals - 2nd read

Move to approve policy KBA as written: Maureen Moran

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote by Roll Call: 5-0

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

- c. KE - Public Complaints - Recommended to table to an upcoming meeting for further discussion with the district attorney.

- d. EBCFA - Face Coverings - Reviewed - no changes. Suggestion to review again at the end of the school year.

Move to revisit policy EBCFA at the end of the school year: Chuck Rae

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote by Roll Call: 5-0

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

5. FY22 Operating Budget Rollout: Interim Superintendent Folan and Mr. Nectow presented the FY22 budget proposal. The complete budget and all recommendations can be found on the website under the School Committee tab and/or the Business and Finance webpage. The proposed budget analysis showed comparative data from Canton's 13 neighboring towns peer group.

Items compared were: per pupil expenditure (Canton falls in the middle of the towns), administration and instructional leadership (Canton fall lowest at \$1,211 compared to all towns), average teacher salary (Canton falls just above the middle of other towns), and teacher salary as a percentage of per pupil expenditure (Canton fall just below the state/lower middle of other towns). The budget reflects a 4.94 % or \$2,283,544 increase over last year. The overall FY22 budget proposal is \$48,469,895. The new requests for FY22 totals \$753,440. The budget will be reviewed two more times before being voted on January 21, 2021. The beginning of February is when the Town will send a budget target for the school department. Members asked for clarification as to how requests are determined and placed into the Strategic Objective categories. There was a discussion about the GMS Special Education program. Ms. Mullen explained that the Special Education Teacher and Adjustment Counselor are needed to run this proposed new program for students with social-emotional needs on their IEP. Ms. Mullen explained that the proposed new program will be better for students as they will not need to attend an out-of-district placement; this also results in a cost savings of approximately \$86,000 to the district. To start, the program would have 3-5 students. Members requested a breakdown or org chart for the following departments: Wellness, Guidance, and Special Education. There was also a request to add a Program for Academic and Creative Enrichment (PACE) teacher at the GMS.

E. **Business Managers Report** Mr. Nectow shared that the Committee will need to consider articles for the Town warrant at the January 7 meeting.

F. **Public Comment** None

G. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated December 3, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Maureen Moran yea

Chuck Rae yea

2. Approve Minutes dated December 3, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Maureen Moran yea

Chuck Rae yea

3. Approve Executive Minutes dated December 9, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

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

4. Announcement that the warrants dated December 18, 2020, will be delivered to the Business Manager tomorrow by Ms. Moran.

H. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - the CPS project was presented at the last meeting. Subcommittee members will continue discussion and present again to CCPC next month.
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - installed 1st exhibit and restaurant opening for take out soon.
7. CDEI - Nichola Gallagher - the committee is interested in learning more about the languages spoken at our schools.
8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda - nothing new to report

There was a follow up discussion regarding the makeup of the subcommittees.

A proposal may be brought forward to review the current subcommittees to determine if they best serve the school department. There was a suggestion for additional School Committee members to attend various subcommittee meetings. Town by laws determine the number of committee members.

I. **Future Business** Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, January 7, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

J. **Other Business** Chair Mirliani announced that School Physician, Dr. Muse's, contract was reviewed during the executive session this evening.

Move to approve the School Physician contract for Dr. Muse for the 2020-2021 school year: Chuck Rae

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote by Roll Call: 5-0

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

There was a request made for an update/presentation regarding Special Education and the Remote Learning Pathway to be made at the next meeting in January. Interim Superintendent Folan confirmed that these updates will be presented at the January 7 meeting.

K. **Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 10:33 pm. Chuck Rae seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 5-0.

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

Documents used during the meeting:

1. Interim Superintendent's Report dated December 17, 2020
2. Official 2019 YRBS Presentation
3. AP Presentation 12_16_20
4. FY22 Superintendent Budget Message - final
5. FY22 Superintendent Budget Request 12-6-2020 final
6. FY22 Budget Package 12-17-2020
7. Policies: KBA: School/Family Relations Goals, BEDH: Public Comment, EBCFA: Face Coverings