

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of December 2, 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 6:02 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.

Kristian Merenda	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Maureen Moran	yea (arrived at 6:03 pm)
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea (via phone)

- B. Open Session: Chair Merenda called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Present are:

Kristian Merenda  
Maureen Moran  
Kendall O'Halloran  
Nichola Gallagher

Also Present:

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

- C. Student Member Report: Madeline Pushard reported on the Galvin Middle School. She shared information about the Robotics and Cross Country Team. Grade 8 students went to CHS to see Clue. GMS has a new lunch schedule that allows students to have 5 extra minutes.

- D. Interim Superintendent's Report:

**Interim Superintendent Highlights**

School Safety Update: Superintendent Folan shared that the recent Michigan school shooting serves as a stark reminder that school safety must remain paramount and a foundational element of our school culture. He reassured the community that we have maintained an unwavering commitment to our school safety preparation, drills and protocols. This month, principals will be walking the buildings with SROs and the head custodians to inspect the buildings and egresses.

GMS and CHS Forums: Thanks to the students who represented their schools -- GMS and CHS -- on the forums with the School Committee and Administration.

Luce School Visit: Superintendent Folan visited the Luce Elementary School and saw Ms. Wade and Ms. Fabbiano's 5th grade students present their non-fiction books, which they wrote and created, to the first graders and kindergarten students. He also saw more non-fiction writing in Ms. Durang's class, and math stations in full swing in Ms. Woodland's class -- with facilitation from math specialist Ms. Brass.

### **Updates**

**CHS Accreditation:** The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which awards accreditation, will conduct its Decennial visit to Canton High School in 2025. CHS will start the 3-year preparation process in the Fall of 2022. NEASC last visited CHS in the fall of 2012. Due to a shift in NEASC standards and a change in CHS administration, the CHS visit was shifted to 2025.

**MSBA Update:** CPS received correspondence from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) that the Galvin Middle School's Statement of Interest (SOI) and determination of the recent Senior Study will be discussed at the MSBA meeting in March 2, 2022.

### **Champions of Excellence**

**GMS Cross Country:** The GMS cross country season closed in a successful manner. Thank you to Coach Dineen and Coach Gonzalez for their time and commitment, and congratulations to the team.

**CHS Southeast Massachusetts Educators Association (SEMMEA):** SEMMEA Senior Districts Audition winners were announced and they will participate in the festival on January 7th and 8th. Additionally, the students who scored high enough to be recommended for an All-State Audition will compete for a chance to perform at Symphony Hall.

**CHS Band:** Members of the CHS Band walked over to Cornerstone to perform for their Thanksgiving festivities last week.

**CHS Fall Play:** The production was extremely well done.

**Unified Basketball vs. the First Responders:** The annual tradition of the Unified Basketball Team vs. Canton's First Responders proved to once again be one of the best events of the year.

### **Important Dates and Events**

Dec. 6	Elementary Family Forum, <a href="#">Via Zoom</a> , 7:00 pm
Dec. 9	PreK Family Forum, <a href="#">Via Zoom</a> , 5:00 pm
Dec. 9	World Language Induction, CHS Auditorium, 6:00 pm, <i>Nichola Gallagher attending</i>
Dec. 10	Early Release, PreK-12, Professional Development
Dec. 13	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm, <i>Kristian Merenda attending</i>
Dec. 15	GMS Winter Concert, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Dec. 16	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 7:00 pm
Dec. 17	CHS/GMS 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

**Action Step:** Follow up student Forums with the School Committee in Spring.

- E. Teaching and Learning Report: Director of Student Services, Ms. Dianna Mullen and Director of Teaching and Learning Ms. Deb Rooney spoke about Canton's Multi-tiered systems of support. A Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is a framework for how school districts can build the necessary systems to ensure that each and every student receives a high quality educational experience. Ms. Mullen shared how MTSS relates back to District goals. Ms. Mullen explained the rationale for Student Response Teams. (SRT). Meetings with the SRT team happen weekly. The goal of the SRTs is for students to succeed in general education classrooms with interventions that are targeted to students' learning needs, with attention to monitoring and documenting progress, close evaluation of that progress and determination of appropriate next steps. SRT is a group of educators across multiple roles that engage in collaborative inquiry and problem solving with a presenting general education classroom teacher. Tier 1 response is available to all general education students. Tier 2 Support provides additional support to Tier 1 and is generally done in small groups. Tier 3 is more intensive support, often explicit, intensive and focused. Ms. Mullen defined the District Curriculum Action Plan (DCAP) and explained that it provides an accounting of resources and accommodations available to students and classroom teachers i.e. written organizer, fidget toy. Ms. Mullen is currently working on standardizing language and will present to faculty at upcoming staff meetings. Current trends/requests for assistance are: social emotional support and behavioral supports. Always looking at best practices. Resources include additional curriculum, online programs, IXL. Goal: to see progression through tiers, get back to tier 1. The full report can be found on the School Committee website under meetings/agendas/minutes.
- F. New Business Items:
1. Welcome New Member: Chair Merenda announced the new School Committee member, Ms. Laura Arboleda.
  2. Advanced Placement Results and Analysis: Mr. Jeff Sperling and Mr. Josh Fogel presented the District's Advanced Placement Results. The Commonwealth has not released all 2021 data yet, so the neighboring comparative data will be released at a later date. Mr. Fogel reviewed the timing and structure of the 2020 and 2021 tests. Passing rate 2020 was 80%, 2021 was 62 %. Across the board in all exams, 2021 showed lower passing rates. Mr. Fogel explained and showed that this is a trend across national averages. Mr. Fogel shared the selected population of participants and the students currently enrolled in AP classes. Mr. Sperling discussed next steps: Program of Studies presentations and course selections and review AP offerings/seek to expand/evolve, spring '22 review teaching assignments, develop expectations for professional development and invite AP teachers to attend training and workshops. Consider mentor/mentee model for 1st time AP teachers, examine expectations/standards for AP teaching, offer an academic showcase model for GMS students. Guidance seminars begin to take place in 10th grade and expectations are made clear. Suggestion to actively consider more challenging course offerings and additional classes (i.e. languages, history, etc...) at the middle school level. The full report can be found on the School Committee website under meetings/agendas/minutes.
  3. COVID-19 Update on Vaccination Rates: Mr. Folan gave an update on the COVID-19 vaccination rates in school buildings. The current CHS rate is approximately 71%, therefore the District is not trending towards being able to apply for a waiver. MIAA mandated masks

for winter sports. The full report can be found on the School Committee website under meetings/agendas/minutes.

4. **District Goal Update:** Mr. Folan provided an update on the following District goals:
  - a. By December 2021, assess the value and engagement of the current communication strategies. Mr. Folan is pushing out surveys, mid December and holding forums this month to determine what is working and what needs to be improved. Additional communications have been pushed out to share school happenings and offerings. A local PR firm is developing the new brochure.
  - b. By December 2021, create the Indicators of Excellence Dashboard and determine the strategy for sharing elements of Dashboard internally and externally. Mr. Fogel explained that the dashboard can show areas of need and areas of excellence (i.e. MCAS scores, AP data). The dashboard will highlight and explore student learning outcomes, experiences, and enrollment. Request for consistency across schools to be able to compare yearly.
  - c. By December 2021, design and implement professional development opportunities related to educational equity, belonging and implicit bias, and launch school-based Equity/DEI teams. Work is being done to develop teams at the building level. Suggestion to see integration among different teams: CFED, CSed, DEI.
  - d. Throughout the 2021-22 school year, design and implement action steps that will support students impacted emotionally and academically by the COVID-19 pandemic, address barriers to student growth and achievement, and create conditions for high-level learning. The District added an extra Educational Assistant at each elementary school and an adjustment counselor to meet the needs of the youngest students.
5. **Q1 Financial Report, Donations and Grants:** Mr. Marshall presented the Q1 grants. Grants include Title grants that provide reading tutors and literacy support, high quality PD to staff, multi language learner materials and PD. IDEA grants typically support out-of-district tuition and some PD, COVID funding grants that will not continue. Summer grants include after school or out of school funds. Additional grants are displayed on the full report which can be accessed on the school committee web page under meetings/agendas/minutes.

**Motion to approve the Q1 grants:** Nichola Gallagher

**Seconded:** Kendall O'Halloran

**Vote:** 4-0

Q1 financial report was reviewed. The FY22 voted school operating budget is \$48,292,662 if increased by FY21 encumbrances of \$3,019,950, the total operating budget for FY22 is \$52,409,265. Total FY22 operating budget expenditures, through 9/30/2021, were \$9,055,286; as of 9/30/2020 there is \$42,175,609 encumbered leaving a balance of \$81,716. This does not account for circuit breaker transfer or revolving funds transfers which will occur at the end of the year. The FY22 operating budget consists of salaries totaling \$40,332,811 and expenses totaling \$7,959,851. Salary expenses make up 83% of the operating budget. The combined total of salaries, out-of-district tuition, transportation and utilities, totaling \$45,927,543, makes up 95% of the operating budget. Total spending is expected to be approximately \$57,900,000. Mr. Marshall reported on Special Education expenses (tuition/transportation, grant, circuit breaker, reserve funds), revolving accounts and grants. The donation total to date is \$6,796.94.

**Motion to approve the donations:** Nichola Gallagher

**Seconded:** Kendall O'Halloran

**Vote:** 4-0

The full report can be found on the School Committee website under meetings/agendas/minutes.

G. Public Comment: None

H. Director of Finance and Operations Report: None

I. Consent Agenda:

**Motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted:** Nichola Gallagher

**Seconded:** Maureen Moran

**The Consent Agenda passed unanimously.**

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

- Regular Session Minutes: November 18, 2021
- CHS Out of State Field Trip Request: School to Career Lumber and Building Construction Trades (LBM) Expo in RI on December 9, 2021
- Calendar Memo with three minor changes. Add and \* on 12/24/ 12/31 and 6/20 indicating District offices are closed in observance of holidays.
- Warrants: December 3, 2021

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

- The policy subcommittee team hopes to return by January. Awaiting update from MASC
- AdHoc School Calendar Advisory Committee is being led by Ms. Gallagher. She and Ms. Moran reached out to previous members to determine if they will continue with the group. New committee members are welcome
- The Norfolk County Sheriff's task force on substance abuse and mental meetings are resuming this month. Melanie Floyd from CAASA will be speaking at the next meeting
- CDEI moving forward with the community quilt project
- Finance subcommittee meeting on 12/22 to review operating budget requests
- CCPC has 2 December meetings and 1 January meeting scheduled to review all project requests. School projects will be presented on 12/14.

K. Other Business: After receiving feedback from members, Chair Merenda proposed an earlier start time for School Committee meetings beginning January 2022. Members discussed options of a 5:30 pm or 6:00 pm start time. Further discussion suggested holding Executive Session after Open Session. The Committee decided on a 6:00 pm start time, to begin with. Will review it again after this new implementation, then determine if a 5:30 pm start time is feasible.

Another unanticipated discussion pertained to staff check-ins with/for quarantined students to minimize learning loss. The District will re-engage the discussion with Principals to gain feedback and input given the increase in the number of quarantine students.

L. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2021, @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.

M. Adjournment: Kendall O'Halloran motioned to close the Open Session at 9:50 pm. Nichola Gallagher seconded. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas                      0 nays

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated December 2, 2021
2. Teaching and Learning Update, Canton's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support 12/2/2021

3. Vax Rates for Dec. 2, 2021
4. Memo regarding CPS Calendar Change
5. FY22 Q1 Grant Awards
6. Final FY22 Q1 Financial Report
7. CHS AP Data Review