

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of February 4, 2021
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. **Call to Order** The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:01 pm. Chair Mirliani announced that Executive Session was canceled this evening. Roll Call 4-0 taken after the Student Member report.

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

Also Remotely Present:

Derek Folan, Assistant 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
Meredith Chamberland, Guidance Director
Anisha Cherukuri, Student Member

Chair Mirliani announced that Superintendent Fischer-Mueller was unable to attend this evening's meeting due to a death in her family.

- B. **Student Member Report** Anisha Cherukuri gave a report on staff and student work at JFK. She talked about some aspects of the curriculum, MCAS prep, and PD and collaboration taking place among teachers. The 5th grade read *Because of Mr. Terupt* and the author Rob Buyea will be visiting JFK to teach students about the writing process. Anisha shared other grade level activities as well.

- C. **Superintendent's Report** *Read by Assistant Superintendent Folan*
Superintendent Highlights

RLP Poetry Share: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller virtually attended Ms. Jenn O'Connell's 4th-grade RLP poetry share on Wednesday, January 27, in remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. She shared her experience and examples of student work.

Hansen School Great Kindness Challenge: Staff and students from both cohorts of the Hansen School 4th grade kicked off the Great Kindness Challenge by greeting everyone at morning drop.. Additionally, kind acts were recognized and celebrated all week throughout the building.

Preschool Kindness Week: Preschoolers have been busy noting acts of kindness both in school and at home.

Last month, Mrs. Hynes' PreK class explored different winter activities. STEAM activities and examples of student work were shared.

Canton Creates: Thanks to the hard work and talent of Visual Arts Coordinator, Patricia Palmer and her staff, the 2020-2021 [Canton Creates!](#) Art Gallery Website has been published and is available for viewing. This virtual space has been made to celebrate the creativity of students in the Canton Public Schools.

Updates

Home Base: Home Base is a General Education Tier II and III intervention provided to all students within the GMS and the CHS. It has been set up to provide transition support for students who may be returning from hospitalizations, concussions, or are experiencing school refusal/attendance concerns. Home Base also serves as a stepping stone to students transitioning back from out of district placements and 45 day assessments. Home Base is a setting for identified students to work on regulation strategies when feeling anxious or experiencing other social emotional issues such as grieving a loss. Students are identified for this resource through the school Student Support Team. Currently, as of January 2021, approximately 70 students at the CHS and 40 students at the GMS are supported through this program. There were discussions and clarification as to what Tier 1, 2 & 3 supports look like. All are general education support with Tier 3 being the highest level of intervention that may be happening in the classroom but also could be a pull out service with a specialist. Home Base does not have a caseload. Intervention strategies can be put into place in Home Base where students fade in and out of the classroom. Home Base provides social emotional support, therefore has a therapeutic component, but it is not special education, it is designed as intervention support. It is not a program designed for students presenting with behavior struggles.

Literacy Support: Intervention has an important role in supporting students who may be in need of more support to meet academic expectations. This year, COVID safety protocols have required us to think differently about how we provide intervention, especially as it relates to pull out services. Students with the highest level of need both on the continuum and in the RLP are being identified for support by the reading and math specialists at the elementary level and those supports are happening virtually. It has been a challenge to fill the Title 1 tutor part time positions this year. Ms. Rooney shared that students on the RLP are receiving supports and have been all along. However, typically, specialists are targeted to work with children at tier 2 and tier 3 and there are not as many students at this level on the RLP. Children continue to switch between continuum and RLP models therefore, the scheduling of services is constantly changing.

“All-in” Process: It is the intention of the Administration and School Committee to have students back in school safely to the greatest extent possible. In preparation for this, a Steering Committee is being established. With the CPS Strategic Framework as the scaffold, the primary function of the “All-in” Steering Committee is to guide the refining of the original “All-in” plan within the [CPS Comprehensive School Reopening Plan](#) of August 2020, in order to successfully return students and staff of the Canton Public Schools to their buildings safely, efficiently and effectively. There was a question about how parent volunteers will be selected for the group. The answer is not known yet. The group is meant to be a smaller, working group with broad outreach to all stakeholders.

MCAS: DESE has released the following MCAS dates for grades 3-8. The district is still awaiting confirmation of CHS testing window dates.

ELA: April 5-May7

Math: April 26-May 28

Science Technology & Engineering: April 27-May 28

Indicators of Excellence

Junior District Festival: The following students auditioned and were accepted to the Junior Districts Festival. They will participate in the virtual junior festival on March 13th.

Hannah Isaac- Chorus Alto (grade 9)

Abigail Silvasy- Chorus Soprano (grade 9)

Rosalyn Grady- Band- Flute (grade 9)

Gayatri Dixit- Band- Flute (grade 9)

Lianna Camille- Orchestra- Viola (grade 9)

Megan Cloherty- Band- Flute (grade 7)

Tyler Goldowsky- Band- Trumpet (grade 8)

Anthony Wang- Band- Trumpet (grade 8)

Canton Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee (CDEI): The CDEI committee has launched a new initiative for Black History Month. GMS Dean of Students, Mr. Karim Gibson, has been selected as an outstanding representative of the Canton Public Schools who has made a positive impact on our community. The Canton Citizen will also be writing an article spotlighting Mr. Gibson.

Important Dates and Events

Feb 9	CHS Picture Day – Cohort A
Feb. 10	CHS Picture Day - RLP
Feb. 11	CHS Picture Day –Cohort B
Feb. 11	Course Selection Night, Grade 8, 6:00-6:45 Virtual (information forthcoming)
Feb. 11	Course Selection Night, Grade 9-11, 7:00-7:45, Virtual (information forthcoming)
Feb. 15-19	February Vacation Week
Feb. 25	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
Now - March 5	Kindergarten and <i>New</i> 1 st Grade Student Registrations (see attached flyer)

D. New Business

1. Scholarship Approval: Principal Dave Turcotte presented the Trinity Episcopal Church of Canton scholarship for a vote of approval. The scholarship grants 2, \$1,000 scholarships to any Canton resident of any religion. Not all scholarships are name blind.
Move to approve the Trinity Episcopal Church Scholarship for 2 awards of \$1,000 each.: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran
Vote by Roll Call: 4-0
Kristin Mirliani yea
Kristian Merenda yea
Nichola Gallagher yea
Maureen Moran yea
2. CHS Program of Studies: Principal Dave Turcotte and Dr. Meredith Chamberland presented the 2021-2022 CHS Program of Studies (POS). Principal Turcotte explained that the 2021-2022 POS preserved all courses offered in the 20/21 POS. Most revisions reflect adjustments to course content rather than course offerings. There will be grade level assemblies next week and webinars for families. The POS will be also available on the CHS website. Principal Turcotte explained some minor changes in course content for classes in Science, Engineering & Technology, Social Studies, World Language, Visual Arts and Performing Arts. Due to the pandemic, community service hours have been adjusted from 80 hours/year for several graduating classes: 2022/50 hours, 2023/60 hours, 2024/70 hours, 2025/80 hours.
Move to approve the 2021-2022 Program of Studies: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran
Vote by Roll Call: 4-0
Kristin Mirliani yea
Kristian Merenda yea
Nichola Gallagher yea
Maureen Moran yea
3. 2020-2021 (COVID) School Calendar Update: Assistant Superintendent Folan presented an update to the 2020-2021 School (COVID) Calendar. Due to the snow day on 12/17, the last day of school is now 6/21. The district still needs to incorporate 2 staff PD days. These days were preserved for transition days as needed. How and when these days will be used is still to be determined.
4. Policy Review: Assistant Superintendent Folan presented the following policies for the 2nd vote of approval. These policies are needed for adoption for the CPS Student Services Department Education Stability Review and the following MASC policies were recommended for adoption.
 - a. JFABD - Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services.
Replace the current CPS policy with the MASC policy.
 - b. JFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care. New MASC policy to be adopted.
 - c. JFABE - Educational Opportunities For Military Children
New MASC policy to be adopted.**Move to approve policies JFABD, JFABE and JFABF:** Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran

Vote by Roll Call: 4-0

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

5. COVID Update: Assistant Superintendent Folan provided a school department COVID update. Canton remains in the Red however, the district is trending in a positive way as case numbers are going down. The District is getting closer to the Yellow designation. The Steering Committee will be exploring all in return options. Assistant Superintendent Folan gave a brief update on the vaccinations. There will be Town vaccinations available, however, there will be more vaccinations available locally. The District will continue to update staff and communicate any information it receives accordingly.

Mr. Nectow discussed the DESE sponsored Pool Testing program that the District will participate in. Mr. Nectow provided a brief description of the program. A group of 10-25 people in a “pool” will take a test. This test is sent to the lab. If one comes back positive, then a second test will be given to that pool. The second test will delineate the negative people and the positive result(s) will quarantine. The district will begin pool testing after February vacation. CPS elected to choose a vendor that will do all first level testing and recording., the vendor's name is Concentric by Ginkgo. The district will be responsible for the second level of testing. The District is working with the Nurse Leader to develop the plans for the second layer of testing. Everything is free to the district until the end of March. At that point, the District will determine if they will continue with the program. Additional information and specific details of this program will be forthcoming.

6. FY21 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Financial Report: Mr. Nectow reviewed the FY21 Q1 and Q2 Financial Report. He reported that the FY21 voted school operating budget is \$46,186,271: if increased by FY20 encumbrances of \$2,891,332, the total operating budget for FY21 is \$49,077,603. Total FY21 operating budget expenditures, through 9/30/2020, were \$7,986,457; as of 9/30/2020 there is \$37,799,007 encumbered leaving a balance of \$3,292,140. The FY21 operating budget is comprised of salaries totaling \$38,515,161 and expenses totaling \$7,671,110. Salary expense makes up 83% of the operating budget. The combined total of salaries, out-of-district tuitions, transportation and utilities, totaling \$44,268,890, makes up 96% of the operating budget. The report detailed all School Department expenditures. COVID-19 certainly is having an impact on the school department budget including a large increase in spending related to COVID-19. However, working with the Town as well as State and Federal grant, some budget savings and reduced spending, will allow the school department to cover all costs associated with operating the school department in FY21. The total operating budget deficit is -\$1,542,212. The total offsets are \$1,780,000, leaving an excess of \$237,788. The total special education expenses over budget are -\$4,073,606. With offsets including grant money, circuit breaker, and special education reserve fund money totals \$4,245,522, the excess is \$171,916.

The complete copy of the report can be found on the School Committee

web page under Reports.

7. Equipment Disposal: Mr. Nectow requested a vote of approval for the disposal of surplus equipment from the CHS shop. Some of the outdated equipment may be donated.

Move to approve the disposal of surplus equipment for the CHS shop: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Vote by Roll Call: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Maureen Moran yea

- E. **Business Managers Report** Mr. Nectow informed the Committee that the next round of Cares Act funding, Esser 2 of close to \$10,000 is in process. Also, a prevention grant of \$122,000 will be coming to schools. The Governor released its budget last week. Mr. Nectow reported that Districts did not get the Ch70 funds they had hoped for since enrollment down in public schools. This Ch. 70 funds will drive some of the upcoming Revenue Forecast Committee meetings. We should have a budget target by the next meeting. Mr. Nectow reported that the Capital Committee Meeting has not been confirmed. Mr. Nectow also announced his retirement. He intends to retire in the summer of 2021.

- F. **Public Comment** Ms. Patty Willis read a statement from CTA regarding their disappointment with a disparaging statement made by a School Committee member. She spoke about the efforts of all teachers and their desire to return to school in person. She emphasized that members were not making excuses. Ms. Denise Geoghan commented that students and staff need to return to all in as soon as possible.

G. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Minutes dated January 21, 2021 HOLD
2. Approve Executive Minutes dated January 21, 2021

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Maureen Moran yea

3. Announcement that the warrants dated February 5, 2021, will be delivered to the Business Manager tomorrow by Ms. Moran.

H. **Sub-Committee Reports**

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

6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - working on the fabrication of exhibits, there may be some opportunities for students to engage
7. CDEI - Nichola Gallagher - nothing to report
8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda - nothing new to report

I. **Future Business** Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

J. **Other Business**

K. **Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 8:45 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 4-0.

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

Documents used during the meeting:

1. Interim Superintendent's Report dated February 4, 2021
2. Trinity Episcopal Scholarship
3. CHS 2021-2022 Program of Studies
4. Summary of Changes to CHS 2021-2022 Program of Studies ppt
5. POS FY21/22 Executive Summary
6. Policies:
 - JFABD - Homeless Students Enrollment Rights
 - JFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
 - JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children
7. FY21 Q1 and Q2 Financial Report
8. Equipment Disposal
9. Enrollment Analysis dated 1/8/21