

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of February 6, 2020
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Kristin Mirliani.

Present are:

Kristin Mirliani
Reuki Schutt
Nichola Gallagher
Maureen Moran
Kristian Merenda

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Public
Press
Staff

- B. Public Comments/Questions: None
- C. Student Member Report: Michael Dorcelus visited the Hansen School and reported on many activities the Hansen community participated in during Kindness Week. He reported that he was impressed with the elementary students' skills and ability to use Google Classroom. Finally, Michael talked about grade 1 *Starbooks Cafe*. where students invited their parents in for coffee and a sampling of their writing samples.
- D. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller reported on the following events:

Superintendent Activities Highlights

Finalist for the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning: Mr. Derek Folan is the Finalist for the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Tomorrow, February 7 is the Finalist Day. There will be two Community Forums and three Staff Forums.

The Superintendent will make her recommendation to the School Committee for their approval of the next Assistant Superintendent of the Canton Public Schools at the next School Committee meeting, February 27.

GMS Panel Presentation: Monday, February 10, 7:45 pm -8:45 pm, GMS will host a presentation focusing on Drug Use Among Adolescents. This presentation will touch on vaping, alcohol and other substance use.

Hansen Colored by Kindness: During the week of January 27-31, the Hansen School participated in the 'Great Kindness Challenge'. Throughout the week, students were charged with engaging in kindness activities and actions.

JFK Play: Congratulations to the JFK 5th Grade on their production of Shrek the Musical Jr.

Elementary Literacy Updates: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller informed the Committee of her visits at both the Hansen and the Luce schools to observe different literacy practices.

Luce Top Secret Science Night: Top Secret Science visited the Luce School last week. During the day, each grade met with Scientist Mike Bergen to participate in STEM experiments, and on Wednesday and Thursday evening, over 200 students brought their parents back to school to take part in additional STEM activities.

Updates

Staffing: Interviews for the Director of Student Services took place this week. Thank you to all interview committee members for their time and commitment to this important task.

An update on the progress of this search will be provided at the next School Committee meeting

2020-2021 Calendar and Start Times: The 2020-2021 School [Calendar](#) and [School Start Times](#) have been approved by the School Committee and are available on the CPS Website.

Indicators of Excellence

Performing Arts News: Tri M (Modern Music Masters) Honors Society welcomed its newest members at an induction ceremony on January 23. Congratulations to all.

Important Dates and Events

Feb. 7	Finalist Day for the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Community Forums (all community members and staff are welcome) , 8:00-8:45am and 4:30-5:30pm, Rodman Building, Room 28. Staff Forums , 7:15-7:45am Canton High School Library, 2:45-3:15pm Galvin Middle School Library, 3:30-4:15pm JFK Library.
Feb. 7-8	Dean S. Luce School Play, Madagascar, Jr., CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Feb. 10	GMS Panel Presentation, Drug Use Among Adolescents, GMS Cafe, 7:45 pm -8:45 pm
Feb. 12	Early Release, PreK-12 PD
Feb. 17-21	No School, February Vacation
Feb. 25	Puberty Information Night, for 4 th and 5 th grade parents, Dean S. Luce Cafeteria, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Feb. 27	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 7:00 PM

E. New Business:

1. Safety and Security Presentation: Several CPS staff members presented components of CPS's comprehensive safety and security measures. Some components discussed were: facilities' security measures, bus safety, digital security, student safety & social/emotional, and behavioral health, attendance, threat assessments, and discipline trends regarding suspensions. Members of CHS, GMS and Elementary spoke about building based security and safety. Staff shared CPS guiding principles that *staff understand, believe deeply and are accountable for the safety and security of every student and staff member, and for the social emotional and behavioral growth for every child*. Members offered feedback to presenters and asked questions. Members liked where CPS fell with regard to absenteeism and suspensions compared to our neighboring towns. A discussion about the GMS strategies room clarified that even though the classroom is not open all blocks, students still have access to guidance staff or office staff if needed. There was discussion about how CPS notifies parents regarding repeated absences; staff confirmed that all information about absences is in the student handbook and is mandated by pupil absence notification laws. All schools' safety infrastructures are not exact, but very close; CPS continues to work on updating infrastructures.
2. CHS Program of Studies: Mr. Derek Folan and Dr. Meredith Chamberland review the 2020-2021 Program of Studies. The entire copy of the Program of Studies is available on the website under the School Committee Tab/Meetings, Agendas and Minutes/Reports. The green highlighted sections indicate additions/revisions that were designed to meet the various needs of CHS students. There are minor changes in several departments with regard to Honors and CP offerings, Mandarin is no longer offered as a World Language, and there are some minor revisions to course descriptions and curriculum.
Move to approve the 2020-2021 Program of Studies: Reuki Schutt
Second: Nichola Gallagher
Vote: 5-0
3. Out of State Travel Requests: Mr. Derek Folan requested permission and a vote of approval to travel out of state for the following events:
 - a. Quinnipiac College Visit: College exploration tour of Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT on April 16, 2020.
Move to approve the Quinnipiac College tour: Reuki Schutt
Second: Nichola Gallagher
Vote: 5-0
 - b. Out of State Travel Request: Visit the United Nations, 911 Memorial in NYC with the Global Studies and International Business Economics students on March 23, 2020.
Move to approve the NYC trip on March 23, 2020: Reuki Schutt
Second: Kristian Merenda
Vote: 5-0
4. Scholarship Approval: Mr. Derek Folan presented two new scholarships for review and a possible vote of approval.
 - a. Gray, Gray, & Gray Scholarship
Move to approve the \$2,000 Gray, Gray & Gray scholarship: Reuki

Schutt
Second: Nichola Gallagher
Vote: 5-0

- b. Friends of Dr. Levrault Scholarship
Move to approve the \$1,200 Friends of Dr. Levrault scholarship:
Reuki Schutt
Second: Nichola Gallagher
Vote: 5-0

- 5. Policy JKAA: Ms. Debra Bromfield presented Policy JKAA for review and a possible vote of approval.

Move to waive the second read of Policy JKAA: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Reuki Schutt
Vote: 5-0

Move to approve Policy JKAA: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Reuki Schutt
Vote: 5-0

F. Unfinished Business:

- 1. FY21 Budget: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Barry Nectow informed the School Committee that the Town's Revenue Forecast Committee gave a targeted number of a 4.68% increase for the FY21 budget. The School Committee approved a 6.34 % increase at the December 19, 2019 meeting. Mr. Nectow, Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and members of the School Committee will attend the Finance Committee meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020. The gap between the percentage numbers is approximately \$800,000.

- G. Business Manager's Report: Mr. Nectow provided a brief review of the FinCom process.

H. Routine Matters:

Approve Minutes dated January 23, 2020

Move: Reuki Schutt
Second: Kristian Merenda
Abstain: Nichola Gallagher
Vote: 4-0-1

Mr. Nectow reported that the warrant dated February 14, 2020, will be reviewed and signed by Maureen Moran this evening.

I. Sub-Committee Reports

- 1. CPC - Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report.
- 2. BRC - Kristian Merenda - nothing new to report.
- 3. Wellness- Maureen Moran - Ms. Moran reminded the audience about the upcoming Panel Presentation at GMS on Monday evening regarding Drug Use Among Adolescents. She also informed members that the mandated SBIRT screenings are scheduled to begin in March with 7th-grade students and completed by CPS nurses. Next meeting is scheduled for 2/26/20 @ 3:00 in the Rodman Conference Room.

