

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of March 30, 2021
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. Roll Call 5-0. Chair Mirliani announced that Executive Session was canceled.

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

Also Remotely Present:

Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
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
David Turcotte, Principal, CHS
Sarah Shannon, Principal, GMS

Vice Chair Merenda acknowledged Chair Mirliani's last meeting on the School Committee this evening. Family members, members of the community, Administration and members of the School Committee thanked Chair Mirliani for her hard work and dedication to the CPS community. Senator Timility read a proclamation from the State Senate and Mr. Mike Loughran read a proclamation from the Canton Select Board.

B. **FY22 Budget Public Hearing**

Chair Mirliani requested a motion to open the FY22 budget hearing.

Motion to open the FY22 budget public hearing: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 5-0

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

Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Nectow provided updates to the FY22 budget. The operating budget originally approved by the School Committee in January represented a 5.11% increase whereas the FINCOM target is a 3.48% increase, which equates to a difference of \$752,185. Members of the Central Administration and School Committee met with FinCom last week to discuss their work to bridge the difference between the budget amounts. A revised version of the budget has now reduced the difference from \$752,185 to \$261,986.

The revised budget did not include funding for the Special Education Therapeutic Program for GMS, which was a priority for the District and would require \$125,000 to start the

program. As a result of the FinCom meeting, it was proposed that the therapeutic program would be funded using funds from the Special Education Reserve Account. This would reduce the request for funding to the reserve account from \$660,000 to \$535,000, and the \$125,000 would be used as one-time funding to begin the therapeutic program.

The District is looking at further potential savings opportunities should additional funding not be able to be provided by FinCom to resolve the current \$261,986 difference. Options include possibly reducing a 1st grade section at JFK as a result of projected enrollment numbers, and the cost savings from tuition and transportation by bringing students back from OOD placements. Educational Assistant needs are also being examined for next year.

This budget version includes the request for an FTE Humanities Coordinator and GMS Health Teacher. There was a lengthy discussion about the therapeutic program. Ms. Moran raised concern with bringing students back from a therapeutic school setting to a therapeutic room. Ms. Mullen explained the transition, step down and IEP processes that are conducted with families, CPS staff and OOD placements that guide the coordination of students' services.

There is another meeting with FinCom tomorrow night. The vote for this budget can be extended to April 8. FinCom may be able to help bridge the budget gap. More information will be provided at the next meeting. Committee members asked to wait on the budget vote until the next meeting so they have additional information and time to review the request.

Motion to close the FY22 budget public hearing: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 5-0

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

C. Unfinished Business

1. FY22 Budget: See above
2. 2021-2022 Draft School Calendar: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller announced that the calendar will be voted on at the April 8 meeting. CTA is holding a start date vote on April 1. Ms. Rooney shared that early release days will likely be held 1x/mo. Families and CTA will be polled to determine whether Wednesday or Friday is the preferred early release day.

D. New Business

1. COVID Update and "All-in" Update: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and members of the District Administration provided an All-in update. Tuesday was the first day of All-in for K-5 students. Wednesday, April 7 is an in person early release day for K-5 students.

Tents have been installed at elementary schools to be used to extend teaching and learning outside and for lunch. Masks are required for everyone on the bus regardless of age. Maximum distance between students should be maintained during boarding and travel, and students are assigned a seat.

As of April 5, students on the Learning Continuum are expected to be in school. Students should not be learning remotely unless they have COVID-19 symptoms, are identified as a Close Contact or test positive for COVID-19. Students in these scenarios use technology to engage in the classroom for lessons and staff members will provide check-ins throughout the day for interaction and to answer questions.

Before-school music lessons will resume on Monday, April 5 with a revised schedule. Music lessons will comply with the recommended guidelines from DESE. Lessons will be held outdoors when feasible. The PACE schedule has been updated for in-person learning, and RLP classes remain remote. Parents/guardians will receive communications regarding schedule changes. Lunch accommodations continue to be evaluated for potential improvements and parents/guardians with questions or concerns about lunch arrangements are encouraged to contact their building principal. Pooled testing for JFK student, K-2 will begin on Tuesday, April 6.

Thursday, April 15 will be the first All-in day at GMS. Monday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 13 will be teacher professional days and there will be no school on these days for students, including those students on the RLP. Wednesday, April 14 will be a remote learning day for all students. A webinar is scheduled for GMS families to review all-in process and timeline on Wednesday, March 31.

The Rodman Early Childhood Program will begin all-in on April 8 and will welcome back 11 community peers. Monday, April 5 will be a no school for professional development day to prepare for All-in. May 17 will be a no school day for teacher PD.

DESE has not yet released a mandated timeline for high schools, however, it has provided high school administrators with guidelines regarding time-on-learning that generally state that students will be expected to attend a full school day equivalent to the length of their school day pre-pandemic.

CHS has targeted Wednesday, April 28 as the first day for All-in learning, at which point the typical full-day schedule of 8 a.m. to 2:29 p.m. five days per week will resume. Monday, April 26 and Tuesday, April 27 will be CHS staff professional development days.

CHS families received a survey to indicate their final decision between All-in or the RLP. There is a final opportunity for CHS families to change their students' learning model in a survey that is currently open and will close at noon on Monday, April 5.

Meetings with remote teachers have begun to establish plans for the remainder of the year to prepare for All-in. A majority of remote staff will return on or before April 26.

CHS is currently assessing space and needs in regard to room capacity. It has been determined that there is enough available seating with the proper spacing indoors for lunch periods, however, plans to offer outdoor seating for lunch are also being developed. Details regarding adjustments to the CHS schedule are still being finalized and will be shared when available.

Prior to April vacation, CHS administrators will provide additional communication to students and families regarding the All-in model in the form of FAQs, webinars and student assemblies. CHS administrators are also working to get feedback from student leadership groups regarding student needs, and plan to enlist the support of Link Leaders to help orient freshmen students who have been working remotely as they transition to All-in.

2. **Recent Acts of Violence:** Ms. Nichola Gallagher proposed releasing a joint statement from the Canton Select Board, Canton Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee, and the Canton School Committee condemning acts of racism, violence, and hate in all forms to foster a welcoming and inclusive community. To embrace the traditions and values of the groups within the community and advocate for human and civil rights; work to ensure all individuals in the Town of Canton enjoy equal opportunity, regardless of their race, color, ethnicity, religious beliefs, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, and mental or physical ability. The Committee will revisit this at an upcoming meeting to ensure it is aligned with CPS policy guidelines.

- E. **Business Managers Report** Bus pass applications will be mailed on April 28. The first deadline to sign up for the bus is May 28. After this date, there will be a late fee of \$50 for all applications processed until June 18. After June 18, all applications will be placed on a waitlist and will be notified by October 1 if there is availability on the bus, there is no guarantee for a seat on the bus for applications received after June 18.

- F. **Public Comment** None

G. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Minutes dated March 18, 2021

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 Executive Minutes dated March 18, 2021

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

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

H. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - nothing new to report
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - FinCom meeting tomorrow night
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - driving towards fabrication. Discussions continue about pulling in students for some projects.
7. CDEI - Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report
8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda - Priorities: work on complete streets program, support municipal housing trust, trail master plan implementation, support municipal energy aggregation, affordable housing, rezoning 138.

- I. Future Business** Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

J. Other Business

- K. Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 8:49 pm. Maureen Moran 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. FY22 Superintendent Budget Request Summary
2. SC All-in update March 30, 2021 ppt
3. CHS All in ppt