

**Canton School Committee
Open Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 2023
Minutes**

A. Call to Order: Chair Merenda asked for a motion to convene the Thursday, April 6th, 2023 School Committee Open Meeting at 5:06 pm. Maureen Moran made the motion; seconded by Laura Arboleda. The vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Ms. Merenda | yea |
| Ms. Moran | yea |
| Ms. Arboleda | yea |
| Ms. McCourt | yea |
| 4 yeas 0 nays | |

Attendees:

Kristian Merenda
Kendall O'Halloran (arrived at 5:20 pm)
Maureen Moran
Laura Arboleda
Kimberley McCourt
Derek Folan, Superintendent
Sarah Shannon, Assistant Superintendent
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations
Joanne Campbell, Recording Secretary

Guests:

Yeshi Lamour, Principal, Dean S. Luce Elementary School
Jenni Putnam, President, Luce CAPT
Coach Shulman, Coach, CHS Boys Hockey Team
Dr. Cassandra Davis, Public Consulting Group (PCG)
Amanda Preston-Sicari, Public Consulting Group (PCG)

B. Executive Session: Committee members immediately entered into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy with respect to negotiations with CEA.

C. School Committee Reorganization: School Committee members returned to the Thursday, April 6th, 2023 School Committee Open Meeting. Superintendent Folan called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. After a moment of silence for long time GMS substitute teacher, Mr. Harlen, Mr. Folan opened the floor for nominations for the role of School Committee Chair. Kristian Merenda nominated Kendall O'Halloran; Maureen Moran seconded. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Folan closed nominations for School

Committee Chair. Mr. Folan asked for a roll call vote for all those in favor of Kendall O'Halloran as School Committee chair:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Ms. Merenda | yea |
| Ms. O'Halloran | yea |
| Ms. Moran | yea |
| Ms. Arboleda | yea |
| Ms. McCourt | yea |

5 yeas 0 nays

After a unanimous vote, Superintendent Folan congratulated Ms. Kendall O'Halloran on her appointment as Chair.

Chair O'Halloran then opened the floor for nominations for the role of School Committee Vice-Chair. Laura Arboleda nominated Maureen Moran; Kendall O'Halloran seconded. Hearing no other nominations, Chair O'Halloran closed the nominations and asked for a roll call vote for all those in favor of Maureen Moran as School Committee Vice-Chair:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Ms. Merenda | yea |
| Ms. O'Halloran | yea |
| Ms. Moran | yea |
| Ms. Arboleda | yea |
| Ms. McCourt | yea |

5 yeas 0 nays

After a unanimous vote, Kendall O'Halloran congratulated Ms. Moran on her appointment as School Committee Vice-Chair.

Chair O'Halloran opened the floor for nominations for the role of School Committee Clerk. Maureen Moran nominated Laura Arboleda; Kendall O'Halloran seconded. Hearing no other nominations, Chair O'Halloran closed the nominations and asked for a roll call vote for all those in favor of Laura Arboleda as School Committee Clerk:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Ms. Merenda | yea |
| Ms. O'Halloran | yea |
| Ms. Moran | yea |
| Ms. Arboleda | yea |
| Kimberly McCourt | yea |

5 yeas 0 nays

After a unanimous vote, Chair O'Halloran congratulated Ms. Arboleda on her appointment as School Committee Clerk.

D. CHS Boys Hockey Division 2 State Championship Recognition: Superintendent Folan and School Committee members welcomed the CHS boys Hockey team and congratulated them on their recent win propelling them to MIAA Division 2 State hockey champions. They were applauded for their excellence in

achieving this impressive “goal” as well as their sportsmanship, character and honor on and off the ice. Coach Shulman was also recognized for his legacy of winning and instilling grace, humility and dignity through his coaching.

E. Student Report: There was no student report for this meeting.

F. Superintendent’s Report: Superintendent Folan presented District progress, highlights, and accolades.

Highlights

Spelling Bee: Thank you to the Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE) President Janice Troy, CAPE Treasurer James Goodrich and the many volunteers for their efforts in this year's Spelling Bee. Approximately 385 tickets were sold and \$3,300 was raised.

Please also join me in congratulating the following winners!

3rd grade SUPER SPELLER

ZOMBEEES

Isaiah Adams Martin

Edward Mulhern

Emily Joyce

Jason Lam

Ava Joyce

Halle Brown

4th Grade SPELLTICS

Lucas Colmey

Wawira Nyaga

Daniel Lindo

Paul Colmey

Reva Apte

Nathan Siegal

5th Grade LUCE SUPER SPELLERS

Gagana Gogineni

Claire Wang

Alex Peterson

Kyle Yuen

Lucia Armando

Cayden Wayland

GMS Marauder Map

Eva Pearson

Olivia Barry

Colette Ma

Nyomi Faulk

Julie Beckham

Helper Bee Chase Zani

Updates

School Safety: The tragic events in Nashville and another round of “swatting” incidents continue to challenge school communities across the country. These incidents are unnerving and underscore the importance of vigilance, continued drills and constant review. CHS recently conducted a review of its safety protocols with SRO Ensley Cotard and the administration, and Chief Rafferty visited all of the schools after Nashville. On Saturday, April 22, the Canton Police Department and Fire Department will conduct an active assailant training session at JFK, from 8-4pm. We will be providing full notice to the community early next week. The JFK building and property will be shut down for the day.

The Strategic Planning Committee: Strategic Planning is underway and the Committee has already met twice. In working with the Strategic Planning facilitators from Teaching Learning Alliance (TLA), we are examining a great deal of data in setting the mission, vision, and core values and the priorities/acceleration areas for a long-term plan.

Elementary Restorative Practices Webinar: The elementary schools conducted a webinar last night to discuss Restorative Practices, featuring one of our Restorative Justice trainers. It was recorded and it will be shared through the weekly Smores.

Hansen Elementary Principal Search: On behalf of the community, I want to thank Hansen Principal David Brauning for his nine years of leading the Hansen and his 11 years in the District. He is a tremendous leader and a beloved principal, and we wish him the best as he becomes the Hopkinton Elementary Principal. Mr. Brauning is moving much closer to home and his family with this career move.

The Hansen Elementary Principal Search Process is underway and we encourage the Hansen community to engage in the survey or focus groups to help inform the search for a new principal.

Artists in Bloom: The Artist in Bloom two-day exhibit made a wonderful return and was a great success. Thank you to PreK-12 Visual Arts Coordinator Patricia Palmer, the visual arts staff and the Canton Garden Club for her work in coordinating the event.

Great Canton Clean Up Day: The inclement weather did not prevent this event from being a huge success. Thanks very much to all the volunteers who came out to help, and a huge thanks to Mr. Jeff Sullivan for his efforts in coordinating this town-wide event.

Indicators of Excellence

CHS Performing Arts: Last week, Dr. Eric Melley from Providence College visited and worked with the CHS Band and Mimi Rabson from Berklee College came and did a workshop with CHS Orchestra. Mixed Company, an a cappella group from Yale University came and performed for the GMS choruses and CHS chorus. So happy to bring in community musicians and allow the students to work with such talented people.

Academic Discussions at Westfield State: Shout out to Seniors Mackenley Paul and Savannah Williams for participating in a Zoom forum sponsored by Westfield State University professors to join in an academic discussion about race and social issues taught through the lens of literature. Mackenley and Vannah spoke (and answered questions on the spot) from over 50 teachers, professors and college/graduate students about their experience with the book *Born a Crime*. CHS English Department Head Rebecca Ashley said, “The responses they gave were incredible and I am in awe of their poise and intellect. I think they just changed some teachers’ and future teachers’ perspectives on teaching about social issues!”

Important Dates and Events

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|---------------|--|
| April 7 | No School, Good Friday |
| April 17 - 21 | No School, April Break |
| April 27 | School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm |
| May 8 | Town Meeting, CHS Auditorium |
| May 21 | Luce Fun Run 5k, Luce School, starts at 10:00 am |

G. Teaching and Learning: Principal Yeshi Lamour described the Luce School as a dynamic, diverse and inclusive community that strives to create a sense of belonging for all members. Ms. Lamour noted the school’s demographics as well as how students are supported in Math and ELA through teams and structures. Ms. Lamour spoke about Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), particularly efforts of SHINE that recognize and celebrate student initiatives, and the introduction of a fifth grade Student Council.

H. New Business:

1. **Luce CAPT Spotlight:** Ms. Jenni Putnam, Luce School CAPT President, presented an overview of CAPT’s finances and how monies are disbursed, membership, and program highlights this year. She noted Character Visits, the Luce Fun Run (scheduled for Sunday, 5/21/23) and the June 4th Family Fun Day. Ms. Punam discussed current and anticipated volunteer opportunities and invited the Luce community to attend the next CAPT meeting on Tuesday, April 11th to learn more about volunteering as well as all the programs the CAPT supports. Members of the School Committee and Superintendent Folan presented Ms. Putnam with a certificate of appreciation for her work, dedication, and spirit of volunteerism.
2. **Equity Audit Presentation:** Superintendent Folan, Assistant Superintendent Shannon, Dr. Cassandra Davis and Amanda Preston-Sicari, both of Public Consulting Group (PCG), presented the Equity Audit findings. Before introducing the PCG consultants, the School Committee Solidarity Statement was read and Superintendent Folan stated that it is important to have independent reports to know all experiences being felt in the District. While audit findings uncovered some blind spots, the District is committed to be ambassadors to all students, and will use the data gleaned from the report to improve every aspect of the District’s equity plan, ensuring success for every student.

Dr. Davis began with an explanation of the difference between equality and equity, and provided detailed information on the framework, methodology and scope (five areas including Leadership, Professional Learning, Student Outcomes and Access to Advanced Learning Opportunities, Climate and Culture and Human Resources Policies and Practices) of the audit. PCG representatives noted the District's commitment to equity with favorable steps already taken towards educational equity in CPS, and provided two priority recommendations, a District wide Equity Vision and a Canton Equity Implementation Program. Next steps included defining and communicating existing visions and placing statements of this vision squarely in District communications in multiple languages, identifying, creating and accomplishing SMARTIE goals. PCG consultants emphasized the importance of hiring a DEI Director to own the development of this Equity Implementation Plan and suggested hiring a recruitment team to focus on developing and instituting policies and practices across the District. School Committee members discussed intentions and expectations for equity-based decision-making and retention of a diverse workforce with PCG representatives. The full Equity Audit can be found [here](#).

Residency Recertification Letter: Superintendent Folan and Mr. Marshall shared the updated Residency Recertification Letter and form and discussed procedures for completing and submitting Residency Certification for incoming 6th and 9th graders (current 5th and 8th graders). Mr. Marshall reminded all that the due date for submission is Friday, June 16th, 2023. Forms may be submitted via email or by USPS. Further information may be found on the website [here](#).

Committee members suggested making language translations of paperwork available as well as offering a wider variety of digital options for submission.

With no further questions or discussion requested by any members, Chair O'Halloran asked for a motion to accept the Residency Recertification letter and form as written and presented. Ms. Merenda made the motion; Ms. Arboleda seconded. The vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

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|----------------|-----|
| Ms. O'Halloran | yea |
| Ms. Merenda | yea |
| Ms. Moran | yea |
| Ms. Arboleda | yea |
| Ms. McCourt | yea |

5 yeas 0 nays

I. Public Comment:

1. In light of recent events in Nashville, Canton resident, Mr. Brian Moore, spoke about School Safety. He recognized and appreciated all that has been done to make Canton schools safer, but asked for more, including an SRO in every building, police cruisers in front of every building, and the creation of a Director for School Safety.
2. Ms. Amy Eagles, JFK teacher and Canton resident, spoke of school safety as well in regards to polling at the JFK while school is in session. She presented pictures of safety concerns and asked the District to schedule a conversation considering all aspects of school safety.

3. Mr. William Griffin was expected to comment via video conference, but was not connected when given the opportunity to speak.

J. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall had no further business to discuss or report.

K. Consent Agenda:

- 1.Regular Session Minutes: March 6, 2023, March 23, 2023, and March 28, 2023 Workshop
- 2.Out of State Travel Request: GMS Canobie Lake Park, June 12, 2023
3. Warrant: April 7, 2023

Chair O'Halloran announced the contents of the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any requests to remove an item for further discussion or changes. Hearing none, Ms. O'Halloran asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as written and presented. Kristian Merenda made the motion; Maureen Moran seconded. The vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Ms. O'Halloran | yea |
| Ms. Merenda | yea |
| Ms. Moran | yea |
| Ms. Arboleda | yea |
| Ms. McCourt | yea |
| 5 yeas 0 nays | |

L. Update of Sub-Committee, Task Force and Liaison Posts: As a part of the reorganization of the School Committee, Chair O'Halloran asked each member to speak about their current roles on various committees, give updates, and state whether the member would like to continue in that role.

Ms. Kristian Merenda currently serves on the Adhoc Superintendent Committee; District Planning and Evaluation Process, Ad-Hoc Comprehensive Financial Review, Master Planning Implementation Committee (where there is discussion around appointing some electric vehicle space), Buildings and Renovations Committee (next meeting is Wed. April 12th), Annual Town Meeting Prep Committee, CPS Collective Bargaining Committee, School Building Committee (SBC) where she continues to support a new building for the Galvin Middle School, and the Strategic Planning Committee (there is an opportunity for a second School Committee member to serve). Ms. Merenda would continue to be an agent for the School Committee on these boards unless another member prefers to serve. Ms. Merenda also represents the School Committee as the MASC Liaison/delegate and is the Select Board liaison, but hopes another member might like the opportunity to serve in either or both of these roles.

Ms. Merenda also noted that there is a need to fill the second seat on the Finance and Negotiations subcommittees.

Ms. Laura Arboleda currently sits on the Policy Subcommittee and CPS Wellness Committee and expressed interest in joining the Diversity Committee.

Ms. Kendall O'Halloran sits on the Content and Communications Committee (where the next proposed ad is on Winter Sports. She also announced that a CPS student has agreed to be the graphic designer for ads), Ad-Hoc District Planning and Evaluation Process, Canton Community

Preservation Committee (CCPC), and Policy Subcommittee. She is happy to continue in these roles.

Ms. Maureen Moran works on the Budget & Finance Subcommittee (where a second School Committee member is needed), AFSCME Advisory and Negotiations, Ad-Hoc Routine SC District Attorney Review Task Force, Ad-Hoc Comprehensive Financial Review, Master Planning Implementation Committee, Canton Community Preservation Committee, Town Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Liaison to all school CAPT's and School Councils and the Student Advisory Committee (where she would like to continue with a bit of flexibility) as well as the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office Youth Substance Use and Mental Health Task Force.

Mr. Stephen Marshall currently has a role in the Sustainability Committee. He did suggest that this role may be better represented by someone who is a resident. Ms. Arboleda offered to consider this role. Mr. Marshall also serves on the GMS Building Committee. He updated the group that the process to hire an architect/firm is underway as the RFS was released on Wednesday, April 5th.

New School Committee member Ms. Kimberly McCourt, thanked all for the information and options. She will review all the opportunities and return to the committee with an informed decision on which committees she might like to be involved.

M. Other Business: None

N. Future Business: The next Open Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.

O. Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Ms. O'Halloran called for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, April 6th, 2023 School Committee Open Meeting at 8:50 pm. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Maureen Moran seconded. The vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

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|----------------|-----|
| Ms. O'Halloran | yea |
| Ms. Merenda | yea |
| Ms. Moran | yea |
| Ms. Arboleda | yea |
| Ms. McCourt | yea |

5 yeas 0 nays

Documents:

Superintendent's Report, Thursday, April 6th, 2023

Dean S. Luce Elementary School Spotlight Report

Dean S. Luce Elementary School CAPT Spotlight Report

Canton Residency Recertification Letter and Form

Canton Public Schools Equity Audit, written and presented by Public Consulting Group

Canton School Committee Statement in Support of Equity and Educational Excellence in Canton