

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of April 29, 2021  
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. **Call to Order** The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 6:01 pm by Chair Merenda. Roll Call 4-0. Motion to move into Executive Session made by Nichola Gallagher. Second by Maureen Moran.

Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Chuck Rae	absent
Kendall O'Halloran	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  
Dianna Mullen, Director of Student Services  
Ryan Gordy, PreK-12 Wellness Coordinator  
Elias Jabbour, Student Member

- B. **Open Session** Started at 7:02 pm
- C. **Student Member Report** Elias Jabbour shared a report on GMS. He spoke about student curriculum projects and the upcoming teacher appreciation week.

D. **Superintendent's Report**  
**Superintendent Highlights**

Canton Health Department Gift: The Canton Health Department made *Canton Strong - Crush COVID* t-shirts and generously donated several to CPS Administrators and School Committee.

**Updates**

Director of Finance and Operations: The Interview Committee for the Director of Finance and Operations completed their interviews and decided on two candidates to advance to the next round of interviews. One of the two candidates withdrew, and we enthusiastically continued with the additional candidate advanced by the committee. Checking references and conferring about the process, and will report back to the School Committee with the recommendations for next steps.

CHS Principal Search: On the afternoon of Thursday, April 15, Mr. Turcotte sent a message to the CHS community to announce his resignation at the end of this school year. A Search Committee is being established. The process will continue and Superintendent Fischer-Mueller will keep updating the community.

### **Indicators of Excellence**

**Canton Future Problem Solvers:** The Massachusetts Future Problem Solving Program State Bowl Award Ceremony was held virtually on Sunday, April 18th. The following CPS students are commended for their work:

#### ***Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS)***

**1. Middle Division - Individual**

Anika Valluri - 2nd Place  
Canton High School - Grade 9  
Topic - Personalized Medicine

**2. Senior Division - Individual**

Harshitha Valluri - 1st Place  
Canton High School - Grade 12  
Topic: Personalized Medicine

#### ***Community Problem Solving (CmPS)***

**1. Middle Division - Individual**

Ishita Jaiswal - 1st Place  
Galvin Middle School Grade 8  
Project HOPE (Helping People on Edge)

**2. Senior Division - Individual**

Harshitha Valluri - 1st Place  
Canton High School - Grade 12  
Project ISEE (Increasing Science Educational Engagement)

**3. Senior Division - Team**

Julia Cummings, Riley Harn, Danica Seto, Anika Valluri - 1st Place  
Canton High School - Grade 9  
Project REMOTE (Reimagining Educational and Meaningful Opportunities to Engage)

All of the above individuals and teams have been invited to compete at the International Conference which will be held virtually Wednesday, June 9 through Monday, June 14th. The topic for our GIPS competitors is Nanotechnology. Best of luck to all.

### **Important Dates and Events**

April 30 - May 2	There will be a select exhibit of Canton High School student artwork at the <a href="#">Artist's Studio &amp; Gallery at Patriot's Place</a> . An artists' reception will be held at the gallery on Saturday, May 1st from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. You may visit the exhibit anytime during the weekend to see the artwork on display.
May 4 - June 15	<a href="#">Canton Special Olympics Track and Field Program</a>
May 13	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
May 14 & 15	CHS Drama, Sister Act, 7:00 pm, Virtual
May 18	CHS Scholastic Honors Night (Seniors Only), 6:00 pm, Rodman Lawn (The ceremony will be moved indoors in the event of inclement weather)
May 25	CHS Scholarship Night. 6:00 pm, Rodman Lawn (The ceremony will be moved indoors in the event of inclement weather and student guests will be limited)

May 27	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
May 31	No School, Memorial Day

#### E. Unfinished Business

1. Bullying Prevention Intervention Plan (BPIP): Mr. Ryan Gordy presented the BPIP for a 2nd read and vote of approval. Mr. Gordy announced that only the phrase *suspicion of bullying* was added on page 9, second sentence. All other changes were minor/grammatical.

**Motion to Approve the FY22 BPIP:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristian Merenda      yea

Nichola Gallagher      yea

Maureen Moran      yea

Kendall O'Halloran      yea

2. District Updates: Dr. Fischer-Mueller and members of the Central Office Team provided District updates. PreK-12 is all in. Canton is trending towards green. Ms. Rooney shared MCAS dates and details. There will be remote MCAS testing for students on the RLP in grades 3-8. Grade 10 must test in person, Juniors have the option of taking MCAS for purposes of scholarship and Seal of Biliteracy. Ms. Rooney also discussed summer learning options. Returning programs include Extended School Year, Canton Academy, Bridge, and Jump Start. New programs include Summer Scholars, Summer Enrichment, and Virtual/Remote Summer Options. Details of programs were shared and key enrollment and dates for the programs were shared. The Summer Scholars grant has limited slots available. Priority will be given to students with the highest needs.

#### F. New Business

1. GMS Therapeutic Program: Ms. Mullen shared plans for the GMS Therapeutic Program. Ms. Mullen explained that all service development and placement decisions are made by the IEP team. Ms. Mullen explained the rationale for the program and shared the cost of the program, the immediate savings, and the future savings. Program criteria were discussed, students eligible will meet the DESE guidelines for emotional impairment. Program focus areas, therapeutic strategies, and goals were shared. Staffing will include a special education teacher and an adjustment counselor. General education teachers and related service providers will work with the program staff as well. Data collection will be taken on individual behavior support plans.
2. Policy JICFB: Mr. Folan presented policy JICFB - Bullying Prevention - for a 1st read. It was recommended by the policy subcommittee that the MASC version replace the CPS version for adoption. The policy will be presented for a second read at the next meeting.
3. Kidsborough Contract: Mr. Nectow presented the JFK Kidsborough contract for a possible vote of approval. Currently in the third year of a three-year contract. RFP went out to bid. Kidsborough was the only application.

**Motion to Approve the JFK Kidsborough Contract:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote: 4-0**

Kristian Merenda     yea  
Nichola Gallagher     yea  
Maureen Moran        yea  
Kendall O'Halloran    yea

4. Recertification of Residency: Mr. Nectow presented the residency recertification documents for incoming 6th and 9th graders for review and vote of approval.

**Motion to Approve Residency Recertification Documents**: Nichola Gallagher

**Second**: Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote: 4-0**

Kristian Merenda     yea  
Nichola Gallagher     yea  
Maureen Moran        yea  
Kendall O'Halloran    yea

5. School Committee Goal Setting Process: Chairperson Merenda led a preliminary discussion with the School Committee regarding the process to begin planning for goal setting. Ms. Merenda is using this process to determine what workshops and/or training the district may benefit from. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller shared the background and historical information regarding the Strategic Framework, District Action Plans and School Improvement Plans. Revisiting and setting goals allows the Committee to reestablish the shared vision for the District. Members agreed that a workshop setting would be the best forum to begin the process.
6. School Committee Subcommittee Reorganization: Chairperson Merenda led a discussion with the School Committee regarding School Committee Subcommittee identification and assignments. There was a discussion regarding evolving the role of the School Committee subcommittees. Ms. Merenda conducted research using MASC resources among others. Discussion centered around the goals of the district and aligning the subcommittees to those goals. The concern is that there are many subcommittees and few members. There are subcommittees that are Town committees, members shared the importance of having a representative on these committees. Members opted to hold a summer workshop to delve further into this topic. Ms. Merenda called for appointments for current subcommittees.

1. CCPC - Ms. Moran and Ms. O'Halloran offered to be on this subcommittee. Ms. Moran deferred to Ms. O'Halloran.

**Motion to appoint Ms. O'Halloran to CCPC**: Maureen Moran

**Second**: Nichola Gallagher

**Roll Call Vote: 4-0**

Kristian Merenda     yea  
Nichola Gallagher     yea  
Maureen Moran        yea  
Kendall O'Halloran    yea

2. BRC - Chuck Rae - will remain on the subcommittee  
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - will remain on the subcommittee  
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher -will remain on the subcommittee  
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – Ms. O'Halloran will join the subcommittee.

**Motion to appoint Ms. O'Halloran as the second member of the policy subcommittee meeting:** Maureen Moran

**Second:** Nichola Gallagher

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristian Merenda      yea

Nichola Gallagher      yea

Maureen Moran      yea

Kendall O'Halloran      yea

6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - is VP on the Committee so will remain on this subcommittee.

7. CDEI - Nichola Gallagher - will remain on the subcommittee

8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda - will remain on the committee as she has been appointed

G. **Business Managers Report** 1. Mr. Nectow reviewed bus deadline dates. 2. The District received notification that CPS was not invited into the MA School Building Authority (MSBA) program for GMS renovations. As a result, the application for a new SOI is in process. 3. The district will continue to offer meals through the summer and all next year through the USDA reimbursement program.

H. **Public Comment** None

I. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Minutes dated April 8, 2021

**Move:** Kendall O'Halloran

**Second:** Nichola Gallagher

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristian Merenda      yea

Nichola Gallagher      yea

Maureen Moran      yea

Kendall O'Halloran      yea

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated April 8, 2021

**Move:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristian Merenda      yea

Nichola Gallagher      yea

Maureen Moran      yea

Kendall O'Halloran      yea

3. The announcement that the warrant dated April 30, 2021 will be delivered tomorrow.

J. **Sub-Committee Reports**

1. CCPC - new member assigned at this meeting

2. BRC - Chuck Rae - absent

3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - absent

4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher -nothing new to report

5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report

6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - Targeting June for first event and preview room

7. CDEI - Nichola Gallagher - Anti-hate statement was approved by all stakeholders and published.

8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda - nothing new to report

K. **Other Business** Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting.  
Ms. Moran received an email from the Farmers Market requesting that a member(s) of the Committee host the community table one weekend. The Committee will explore a Sunday in August.

L. **Future Business** The next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

M. **Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 9:07 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 4-0.

Maureen Moran        yea

Nichola Gallagher    yea

Kristian Merenda     yea

Kendall O'Halloran   yea

Documents used during the meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report, April 29, 2021
2. SC District Update April 29, 2021 ppt
3. Final BPIP Policy
4. Final BPIP Appendices 20-21
5. GMS Therapeutic Program ppt
6. Policy JICFB - MASC
7. Policy JICFB - CPS
8. JFK Kidsborough Memo, 4-6-2021
9. FY22 Residency and Recertification Letter
10. SC Role and Subcommittee Effectiveness
11. Potential SC Member Roles and Liaison Assignments 2021-2022