

CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller
Superintendent of Schools



Patricia Kinsella
Assistant Superintendent

Debra L. Bromfield
Director of Student Services

960 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021
Telephone: 781-821-5060
Fax: 781-575-6500
www.cantonma.org

Barry S. Nectow
School Business Administrator

To develop students who are competent and creative thinkers, curious and confident learners, and compassionate citizens.

Superintendent's Report School Committee Remote Meeting of Thursday, April 30, 2020

**Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools**

COVID-19 Updates

Commissioner's Guidelines: On April 28, I shared a [letter](#) with families regarding the Commissioner's guidelines on strengthening the remote learning experience through the remainder of the school year. The Commissioner will be publishing a letter to families about these guidelines soon. The most significant issue the Commissioner outlines is the focus on prioritizing content standards for remote learning across the grade levels and subjects. Teachers are working with Principals, Department Chairs, Coordinators and Central Office Administrators to determine the standards already covered prior to the closure and the ones to address moving forward. As well, teachers and administrators are curating resources for the most effective instruction of the prioritized content. I expect the Commissioner's letter to families to be released soon. Overall, the previous work between the Canton Teachers Association and School Committee is serving our students and staff well, and the updated guidelines will only make this experience even better.

MCAS Competency Determination: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, seniors needed to pass MCAS tests to earn the competency determination and receive a high school diploma. On April 28, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to modify the competency determination requirement during the time of school closures. Seniors who have not passed math and/or English MCAS need to successfully complete the appropriate high school course. This is true for science, too, along with other details still under consideration at DESE. I appreciate the Board and the Commissioner following their own guidance that no child should be held accountable to issues that are out of their control by the circumstances of COVID-19.

Department Updates

Facilities: Our Director of Facilities Brian Lynch and his team were recognized in the Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association (MFAA) publication as a *Member Highlight - Keep First Responders Safe Initiative* for their role in supporting Police and Fire departments. Safety vehicles are brought to CHS so that the custodians can disinfect them thoroughly. It's great that we are able to support our first responders, as they are always there for us! Thank you to Mr. Lynch and all the custodians!



School Water Improvement Grant: The Board of Trustees for the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust has voted to award Canton with a School Water Improvement Grant (SWIG). We are fortunate to have been awarded \$33,000 and 11 new water bottle filling stations in all our schools across the district. There were approximately 30 districts and \$675,000 awarded in this first round. We will be receiving the award package soon that outlines the details of SWIG and the next steps moving forward. Thank you and congratulations to Mr. Lynch for receiving this important grant!

Curriculum and Instruction: Andrea Capone, Canton Public Library Director, hosted a webinar to explain *Hoopla*, a resource that allows multiple students to “check out” the same book digitally. The webinar for teachers was held on Tuesday via Zoom and two webinars took place on Wednesday for parents where 71 parents signed up to participate. The library team has been incredibly helpful to teachers and students by providing access to ebooks and other resources. If you don't have a library card yet, you can apply for one electronically at the library website. We are grateful for the collaboration with Ms. Capone and the Canton Public Library. Teachers, parents and students are very appreciative!

Technology and Digital Learning: The Technology and Digital Learning team continues to support our educators, students, and families by providing them with devices and tools as well as online and digital resources. To date, we have distributed 550 devices to educators and families.

As you may recall, we have added another layer of filtering security, called *Securly* to our students' accounts. Not only does this service provide excellent filtering capabilities, but it also allows for monitoring and flagging of inappropriate or concerning searches or content. Additionally, *Securly* offers a parent portal, which will be made available to Canton parents soon, that will allow parents and guardians different avenues of access to their child's digital footprint while students are using their Canton Public Schools accounts. For example, parents and guardians can receive a weekly report of their student's online activities and receive alerts of any concerning information. Our students safety is our utmost priority and maintaining a safe digital learning environment is essential, during the times of school closure, and throughout their time in the Canton Public Schools. I am very appreciative of Ms. Shore's leadership and wavering commitment to the online safety of our students and their data.

Update on Hiring Processes for Administrators

Director of Student Services Finalist: We are excited to welcome [Dianna Mullen](#) as the single finalist for the Director of Student Services. Stakeholders will have virtual time with Ms. Mullen tomorrow, May 1. We will hold sessions for parents and guardians at 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and staff at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone interested in participating should RSVP via [this form](#). A link will be sent to the individual for that session after filling out the form. Mrs. Moran served on the Interview Committee as the School Committee representative. All School Committee members are welcome to join either of the parent/guardian sessions. Also, thank you to Ms. Rooney and Ms. Hutchinson for their work making all the arrangements for our time with Ms. Mullen on Friday, and Ms. Rooney's facilitation of the virtual sessions.

CHS Principal Search: The Interview Committee re-engaged on April 22, under the leadership of Ms. Julie Shore. The Interview Committee met on Wednesday, April 29, and after reviewing all the applications, the committee determined twelve candidates to interview. Interviews will take place next week. Thank you to Ms. Shore who continues to facilitate this rigorous process. I will keep you informed as this process continues.

JFK Principal Search: Ms. Rooney facilitated two staff and two parent/guardian forums this week. Input from the forums and the online survey will provide us with helpful information through the process. Interview Committee members participated in an orientation this afternoon. The virtual interview process is set to begin in the second week of May. I will keep you informed as this process continues.