

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of April 30, 2020
Remote Meeting due to COVID-19 School Closure
Google Meet Streaming

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair Kristin Mirliani. Executive Session was canceled this evening.

Remotely Present are:

Kristin Mirliani
Nichola Gallagher
Reuki Schutt
Maureen Moran
Kristian Merenda

Also Remotely Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning
Debbie Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning
Debra Bromfield, Director of Student Services
Derek Folan, CHS Principal
Ryan Gordy, CPS Wellness Coordinator

- B. Public Comments/Questions: None
- C. Superintendent's Report:

COVID-19 Updates

Commissioner's Guidelines: On April 28, the Superintendent 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.

MCAS Competency Determination: 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.

Department Updates

Facilities: The 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.

School Water Improvement Grant (SWIG): The Board of Trustees for the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust has voted to award Canton with a School Water Improvement Grant (SWIG). CPS have been awarded \$33,000 and 11 fixtures.

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.

Technology and Digital Learning: The Technology and Digital Learning team continue 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.

CPS has added another layer of filtering security, called Securly to our student's 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.

Update on Hiring Processes for Administrators

Director of Student Services Finalist: There is one single finalist, [Dianna Mullen](#). Stakeholders will have virtual time with Ms. Mullen tomorrow, May 1.

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.

JFK Principal Search: Ms. Rooney facilitated two staff and two parent/guardian forums this week. The virtual interview process is set to begin in the second week of May.

D. New Business:

1. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (BPIP): Mr. Ryan Gordy presented the district [BPIP](#) for review. Mr. Gordya explained that this review is a result of the Tiered Focused Monitoring review need. The only change to the present document is the following sentence added: *Any student who reports suspicion of bullying from a member of the school staff will be extended protections during and after the investigation. This may include but is not limited to a safety plan, access to school counseling, schedule adjustments, and access to a safe space for support throughout the school day as needed.*
The BPIP is included in the staff handbook and all staff sign off on it. Every two years a team attends the MARC training. After that the full SWAC team reviews the document then presents it to the School Committee for a larger vote. Next MARC training hopefully this fall, 2020.

Mr. Gordy reported that with current remote learning the district is very aware of cyberbullying. Google classroom is the district's venue and it has excellent teacher controls. Also, Assistant Principals conduct investigations as needed.

2. Update on Plans for CHS Seniors: Mr. Derek Folan shared information about the Seniors academic timeline and Senior week and graduation plans. The last week of new assignments for Seniors is May 18-22. Mr. Folan did not make any declarations about Sr. week and graduation tonight. A design team has been put in place to work out the process. A survey is going out tonight to Senior families asking them to identify elements that are important to them. Survey results due back on May 7, then Mr. Folan will share a plan. Has been in consultation with CFD and CPD to ensure the safest best options for Seniors.
3. User Fee Updates: Mr. Barry Nectow presented a User Fee update. He explained that programs that did not run had no charge. The four topics of discussion tonight were bus, parking, athletic and preschool tuition. Proposals are as follows:
 - Bus**: reduce next year's fee from \$300 to \$190, those who won't ride a bus will get a check refund. Letter going out soon, \$105 is the refund check amount. Total amount being refunded is \$115,500.
 - Parking**: There are 179 parking passes issued. Proposal to return \$78 on each pass based on number of days in school. Total \$14,000 being returned. Will do right away.
 - Athletics**: Refunded all spring sports as a total of \$16,500
 - PK Tuition**: Proposing no refund. Preschool staff are still working remotely. Members wanted to explore the option of a refund for preschool families. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller said a very small percentage have requested a refund. Since teachers are still working, we continue to incur PK expenses. The Committee agreed to continue to discuss preschool tuition options at the next meeting.

Motion made to approve refunds on parking and bus fees as stated above: Reuki Schutt

Seconded: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 5-0

Mr. Nectow explained that the out of country field trips are still being worked on, most companies are giving refunds, more to come on this as this is a State issue and the Attorney General is working out details as well.

- E. Business Manager's Report: Mr. Nectow reported that Custom Vending donated 23 cases of snacks that the food services department has been adding to lunch grab and go bags. He and the food services department are working with another vendor who is willing to donate 20 lb boxes of produce, dairy and ice cream.

Mr Nectow reminded parents that bus applications are due back on May 15. The second deadline is June 12. Billing will begin after May 15. Has heard from 58% of families so far.

- F. Routine Matters:

Approve Workshop Minutes dated April 1, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda
Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Approve Minutes dated April 16, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Kristian Merenda
Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Approve Executive Meeting Minutes dated April 16, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Kristian Merenda
Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Approve Executive Meeting Minutes dated April 24, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran
Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Maureen Moran reported that she signed the warrant dated April 24, 2020.

G. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CPC - Nichola Gallagher - will be discussing rental housing at next meeting
2. BRC - Kristian Merenda - nothing new to report.
3. Wellness- Maureen Moran reported that CPS has delivered/served 1,512 meals to families during pandemic
4. Finance - Reuki Schutt/Maureen Moran - nothing new to report.
5. Policy - Kristin Mirliani – nothing new to report.
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report.
7. Ad Hoc Calendar Advisory - Maureen Moran - nothing new to report.

H. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Monday, May 4, 2020 at 9:15 remotely via Google Meets. Next meeting after that is May 14, 2020

I. Other Business: none

J. Adjournment: Reuki Schutt motioned to close Open Session at 8:00 pm. Nichola Gallagher seconded. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nays