

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of April 6, 2022
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

Members of the public were also able to view a live stream of the meeting via <http://cantoncommunitytv.org/>

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 5:08 pm. Motion to go into Executive Session made by Kendall O'Halloran to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Unit A and Unit E and AFSCME Units. Seconded by Maureen Moran. Chair Merenda declared that an Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body. Will return to Open Session. It was voted by roll call 5-0.

Present are:

Kristian Merenda, School Committee Chair
Nichola Gallagher, School Committee Vice Chair
Maureen Moran, School Committee Clerk
Kendall O'Halloran, School Committee Member
Laura Arboleda, School Committee Member

B. The Committee reconvened in Open Session meeting at 6:04 pm.

Also Present:

Derek Folan, Superintendent
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations
Sarah Shannon, Assistant Superintendent
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Public
Press
Staff

C. **Reorganization of the School Committee** Superintendent Folan

Motion to re-appoint Kristian Merenda for School Committee Chair made by Maureen Moran, seconded by Laura Arboleda. Roll Call Vote. Voted 5-0

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

Ms. Moran talked about the ongoing work of the CPS Strategic Plan and Ms. Merenda's knowledge of such as a strong reason why Mr. Merenda is a good fit for a 2nd term to the Chair position.

Ms. Gallagher asked the Committee to challenge themselves to continue to self-reflect and continue the collaboration as a goal moving forward.

Chair Merenda opened nominations for members to serve as Vice Chair and Clerk.

Motion to appoint Kendall O'Halloran for the position of Vice Chair by Kristian Merenda. Seconded by Maureen Moran. It was voted 5-0.

Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea

Nichola Gallagher	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea

Members talked about the traits and skills that Ms. O'Halloran possesses that make her a good fit for Vice Chair.

Motion to appoint Laura Arboleda for the position of Clerk by Nichola Gallagher. Seconded by Kendall O'Halloran. It was voted 1-3-1

Ms. Arboleda asked for one more year to learn and listen before she steps in.

Nichola Gallagher	yea
Kristian Merenda	nay
Maureen Moran	nay
Laura Arboleda	nay
Kendall O'Halloran	abstain

Motion to appoint Maureen Moran for the position of Clerk by Laura Arboleda. Seconded by Kendall O'Halloran. It was voted 5-0.

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

D. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Highlights

Luce Special Visit: On Friday, March 25, Miss Teen Massachusetts and Miss Massachusetts visited staff and students at the Dean S. Luce School. Miss Teen Massachusetts, Shannon Malloy, attended the Luce as a child.

Events/Acknowledgements This Month

School Librarian Appreciation Day: Monday, April 4th was National School Librarian Appreciation Day. Thank you to our CPS librarians, Joanne Teliszewski, Annmarie Heleen, Nancy Stockwell-Alpert, Maura Bayliss, Stephanie McClellan and Jammie Carty for your work in keeping our libraries in great working order and for helping students find the resources they need to continue learning.

National Assistant Principals Week: April 4-8 is National Assistant Principal Week. Thank you to CPS Assistant Principals, Josh Fogel, Nick Fitzgerald, Jim Spillane and Mary Cawley for their hard work and dedicated service to the students of CPS.

Volunteer Month is celebrated this month. A special thank you to CPS volunteers ranging from School Committee members, CAPT members, Room Parents, Field Trip Chaperones, Field Day helpers and so much more. Your work is so important and impactful and makes a difference.

Welcome Returning School Committee members: As a District, we offer a warm welcome back to Kristian Merenda, Maureen Moran, and Laura Arboleda who all were elected for additional terms on the Canton School Committee.

Updates

Principal Search Updates: Monday evening, the JFK interview committee completed the second night of interviews, after two other meetings involving orientation and candidate selection. Finalist day is April 11. The GMS committee held its orientation and candidate selection, and interviews will be held later this week and early next week.

Cleaner Greener Canton: Last week, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Lynch, and Superintendent Folan met with Mr. Jeff Sullivan to learn more about the Great Canton Clean up day taking place on April 30 from 10-12.

Cybersecurity Roundtable: Last week, Ms. Shore and I attended a Cybersecurity Roundtable hosted by Senator Walter Timilty.

Indicators of Excellence

MIAA Sportsmanship Summit: Congratulations to the following sophomores who attended the MIAA Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette Stadium on Friday, March 25th.

Brendan Tourgee
Maggie McCready
Devan Spinale
Fatima Sidibay
Zaza Farncoeur
Matthew DeVito
Owen Lane
Lauren Shatkin

CHS Spring Concert: Congratulations to all students and staff who participated in the Spring Concert on March 29, 2022.

Important Dates and Events

April 8	Early Release, PreK-5, Parent Conferences
April 15	No School, PreK, Elementary and High School, Good Friday
April 15	GMS, ½ Day, Make Up Day
April 18-22	No School, April Vacation
April 28	School Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, Canton High School, DLL

- E. **Teaching and Learning** Ms. Jaclyn Abrams, Ms. Rebecca Ashley and Ms. Lisa Kaminski gave an overview of the ELA Department Initiatives. Ms. Abrams explained that the overarching mission and goals for ELA across grades and levels are centered around: fostering a love of reading and proficiency in writing, promoting independent reading for pleasure & opportunity to grapple with complex text, and promoting student engagement through voice and choice. Ms. Kaminski shared GMS work, specifically the implementation of book clubs. Ms. Ashley talked about how they choose text. The first guiding factor is that it is based on Common Core Standards. They also listen to students' voices and choices. The department is also looking at expanding into adult literature and contemporary text. Points of pride were shared. GMS's point of pride is PBL. The elementary point of pride is text tasting units, where students sample text types. CHS's point of pride was independent reading and how they are building it into the curriculum. Ms. Ashley shared that the schools are actively working on adding text that incorporates all backgrounds.
- Student Advisory rep Danica Seto stressed the importance of diversifying text that represents everyone. A question was posed about grammar and how it is worked into the curriculum. Ms. Abrams provided insight and examples. A question was posed to GMS regarding how much essay work is being done vs. google docs or slide shows. Ms. Kaminski explained that the 6th grade curriculum starts with the writing process, which includes all genres of writing including essay writing. Ms. Ashley explained the alignment of writing across all 4 grades.

F. **Unfinished Business**

1. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar: Superintendent Folan presented the 2022-2023 school calendar for a 2nd read and a vote of approval. The start of the school year is Monday, 8/29.

Students start on 8/31. Professional development days will land on Fridays based on staff and family feedback. There was a recommendation to link the school calendar to another calendar that would provide information about various holidays.

Motion to Approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar: Nichola Gallagher

Seconded: Laura Arboleda

Vote: 5-0

G. New Business

1. Hansen CAPT Spotlight: The Hansen CAPT presented highlights of their work during the past school year, such as Chalk the Walk, Penny Wars, School Positivity Project. Fundraising activities were shared. Ms. Ecord and Ms. Giglio thanked individual members, and discussed current and shared that there are many volunteer posts available and encouraged the community to participate.
2. Hansen School Spotlight and Hansen CAPT Spotlight/Honors: Hansen Administration shared school highlights. Mr. Brauninger and Ms. Hoff shared enrollment data. They also shared examples of how they create a culture of achievement, equity, inspiration and joy including reading buddies, kindness week, 5th grade flashback, bulldog bowl, clubs and other events.
3. Annual Town Report: Superintendent Folan and members of the School Committee shared highlights of the CPS submission for the Annual Town Report. It is important to access this document as a historical document. The report is a collaborative effort of both the School Committee and Central Office Administrators. The full report can be found on the School Committee webpage under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.
4. Residency Recertification Letter: Superintendent Folan shared the updated Residency Recertification Letter and discussed procedures and timelines. Annually, the District sends out this letter to check the residency status of incoming 6th and 9th graders. PreK and K residency status is a natural checkpoint when these students are enrolling/entering CPS. The question was raised about doing a midpoint check at grade 3. The policy subcommittee would need to review this.
5. Section A Policy 1st Read: Chair Merenda, Ms. O'Halloran and Mr. Folan presented Section A of the CPS Policy manual for a 1st read. Mr. Folan noted that policy AC, 2nd paragraph, the nondiscrimination language is vetted by the District Attorney's office. The wellness policy is being reviewed by the wellness advisory committee and may need to be addressed after this policy section is approved.
6. District Goals Updates: Superintendent Folan, Ms. Shore and Ms. Rooney discussed the following District goals:
 - Ms. Shore discussed the research the District has conducted pertaining to high-quality Student Information Systems (SIS). She shared the plan to develop and secure a new system for implementation in 2022-2023 and other timelines. Goals shared: finalize RFP requirements and use the requirements as an evaluation criteria tool as we enter into the RFP process, utilize the RFP process, gather stakeholder engagement and feedback, offer vendor presentations to evaluate potential SIS systems for Canton, and finally select new SIS for Canton Public Schools. The scope of work was also discussed. The full report can be found on the School Committee webpage under meetings/agendas/minutes.
 - Ms. Rooney discussed summer of 2022 programming for student support, enrichment and extensions. Summer programming includes the extended school year (as required to address the requirements of student IEPs), summer scholars, and summer enrichment including Canton Academy and CHS Above and Beyond. Teams are currently looking at benchmark data to identify students for Summer Scholars. Capacity and spacing were discussed to determine the possibility to open up seats for students who may not be identified, but whose

families may want to send students for additional learning. Mr. Marshall shared that transportation is a significant cost if offered to all. Additionally, if expanding Summer Scholars to others as a free resource attendance is a factor that would need to be reviewed. Suggestion to possibly review at a future finance subcommittee meeting. The full report can be found on the School Committee webpage under meetings/agendas/minutes.

- Ms. Shannon shared a plan for family forums this spring where families could meet in person with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. The forums would be open and allow families to provide feedback and overall input about their school community experience. Mr. Folan and Ms. Shannon plan to conduct these sessions like a meet and greet and intend to hold them at times when larger groups are already gathered i.e. plays, sporting events, etc...

H. Public Comment: none

I. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall shared that bus application applications are due May 20. Meals will not be free next school year; this will be reviewed at a finance subcommittee meeting. MSBA eligibility phase begins on May 2.

J. Consent Agenda:

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda: Nichola Gallagher

Seconded: Kendall O'Halloran

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously: 5-0

The following items were included in the Consent Agenda:

Open Session Minutes: March 24, 2022

Executive Session Minutes: March 24, 2022

Warrant dated April 8, 2022

K. Sub-Committee, Task Force, and Liaison Post Updates:

- Communications plea for volunteers
- Sports communication update upcoming
- PRHC hosting a Canton Heritage Festival on May 14, 2022
- CDEI is planning for Juneteenth
- DCTF is wrapping up and will have one last meeting to approve minutes
- MPIC is meeting on April 14, the School Dept. will attend this meeting
- BRC is meeting in person
- Presentations to CAPT's continue about the budget. Feedback Ms. Moran received at GMS was about the Montreal Trip, how to expand to include more students, and concerns about bus behavior were also discussed during this CAPT meeting.

L. Other Business: Ms. Gallagher referenced that she may not be at the next meeting, therefore, she made the request to continue as the School Committee member on the finance subcommittee and CDEI.

M. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, April 28, 2022, @ 6:00 pm in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.

N. Adjournment: Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 9:40 pm. Kendall O'Halloran seconded. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nays

1. Superintendent's Report dated April 6, 2022
2. ELA Teaching and Learning Update
3. CHS Student Voice and Choice
4. 2022-2023 School Calendar
5. 2021 Annual Town Report
6. 2022-2023 Residency and Recertification Letter
7. Policy Section A
8. Hansen CAPT presentation
9. Hansen Spotlight presentation
10. Memo: CPS SIS Review
11. Summer Programming Update