

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of May 12, 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 5:11 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 Laura Arboleda. 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
Kendall O'Halloran, School Committee Vice Chair
Maureen Moran, School Committee Clerk
Nichola Gallagher, School Committee Member
Laura Arboleda, School Committee Member

B. The Committee reconvened in Open Session meeting at 6:05 pm.

Also Present:

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

C. **Student Member Recognition** The Committee recognized and thanked student members, Madeline Pushard, Suraj Ramanathan, Hannah Wang and Joshua Ribis-Chan for their work on the Committee this year.

D. **Superintendent's Report**

Hansen School Play: The Hansen School put on an amazing production of the Little Mermaid Jr. Special thanks and congratulations to Ms. Patty Willis on 30 years of productions.

GMS and CHS Student Forums: For the second time this year, School Committee Members and Administration held student forums at CHS and GMS. Students shared what is going well and what could use improvement, while also sharing their ideas for a new GMS building and CHS learning experiences. These forums once again proved how important the student's voice is in our school community.

Great Canton Clean Up: A big thank you to Canton resident Jeff Sullivan and the hundreds of volunteers who participated in the first Great Canton Clean Up on April 30. The clean-up effort was focused on several areas in town, including the school grounds. Also, thank you to the Select Board and volunteers for hosting the cookout at the end of the day.

Professional Development: On May 6, 2022 the District had an early release day and our staff participated in building-based professional development.

At the high school, all staff participated in an equity workshop facilitated by Mass Ideas.

At the middle school, teachers had a final book club Professional Learning Community (PLC) meeting in which they wrapped up their conversations and determined what they would share with their colleagues at the faculty meeting held on May 10. The rest of the afternoon on May 6 was dedicated to interdisciplinary curriculum work. Grade 6 used the time to work on their last Project-Based Learning (PBL) project, grade 7 reflected on a recent interdisciplinary project they did and made revisions for next year, and grade 8 worked on the interdisciplinary civics project they are doing with students to conclude the year.

At the elementary schools, teachers used building based time to make and review student recommendations for the summer scholars program, based on student performance data. Each school then provided collaborative planning time that was facilitated by the Collaborative Learning Group (CLG) Facilitators.

At the Early Education Program, our Pre-K staff finalized SEL classroom resources and planned parent/guardian engagement opportunities. Many members of the preschool staff also participated in an Augmentative and Alternative Communication training.

In addition, across the district, Educational Support Professionals who work with students requiring assistive technology also participated in the Augmentative and Alternative Communication training. We also held the Unit E Professional Learning forum during the afternoon.

Nurses attended a workshop about 51As with the Attorney General's office.

Acknowledgments This Month

School Principal Day was celebrated on May 1. A huge shout out to our Principals for making a difference in the success of our schools and our students.

Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Nurse Day were celebrated last week. Once again, I would like to thank all of our teachers and nurses for all their hard work throughout the year.

Updates

Spring Family Engagement Survey: The Spring Family Engagement Survey was shared with parents last week.

GMS Principal: Mr. Jonathan Mulhern will be the new GMS Principal. Mr. Mulhern comes to the Canton Public Schools from the Boston Latin School, where he has served as the Associate Head of School since July 2018.

Indicators of Excellence

Artist's Studio & Gallery: Last weekend the CHS Visual Arts Department hosted a select exhibition of student artwork at the Artist's Studio & Gallery at Patriot Place.

Hockomock Scholar-Athlete Banquet: Each year for more than 30 years, the Hockomock comes together in May to honor two student-athletes from each of the 12 Hockomock schools. Two graduating student-athletes from each school are selected for excelling in both the classroom and on the playing field. Canton's two award winners this year were Corinne Campbell and Andrew Butler.

Important Dates and Events

May 13	CHS Drama - Cabaret, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
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May 17	Scholastic Honors Night, CHS Auditorium, 6:30 pm - Nichola Gallagher attending
May 19	Language Recognition Night, CHS Auditorium, 6:00 pm, Laura Arboleda attending
May 20	K-12 Transportation Pay and Ride Applications Due
May 20	CHS Pops Concert, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
May 23-26	District Annual Art Show, CHS Gym, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, flyer here .
May 25	Scholarship Night, CHS Auditorium, 6:30 pm, Kendall O'Halloran attending
May 26	School Committee, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm
May 30	No School, Memorial Day
May 31	CHS Performing Art Gala, CHS Auditorium, 6:00 pm

- E. **Teaching and Learning** Ms. Rooney, Ms. Abrams Mr. Connor and Mr. Natale gave an overview of the Social Studies curriculum. The vision for Social Studies/History instruction across grade levels centers around four important goals. Students will:

- Prepare to become active participants in a democratic society.
- Learn to think critically and historically about the past
- Explore diverse perspectives and build a capacity for reasoning and research
- Develop literacy skills while simultaneously building content knowledge

Department Priorities and Points of Pride were shared.

F. **Unfinished Business**

1. 2022-2023 School Committee Meeting Calendar: Chair Merenda presented the School Committee meeting calendar for the 2022-2023 academic year for a second read.

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

Seconded: Laura Arboleda

Vote: 5-0

G. **New Business**

1. Canton Little League, JFK Field Project: Select Board Chair, Mr. Michael Loughran requested the Committee write a letter of support to the building department for the current design and fixture count of the Little League bathroom project at the JFK. Based on potential maximum capacity, the building department would now suggest a design of 4 toilets for girls' bathrooms and 2 for boys. With this new information, the project would likely not be able to move forward with these new specs due to the need to go out to bid and the higher cost of construction costs. The Select Board already voted to approve the current/originally approved design which includes 2 toilets in the girls' room and a urinal and toilet for the boys' room.

Motion for the Committee, in conjunction with the Select Board, to write a letter of support approving the current design and fixture structure of the JFK bathroom: Kendall O'Halloran

Seconded: Maureen Moran

Vote: 5-0

2. Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE) Spotlight and Honors: CAPE member, Katie Clark presented highlights of their work, thank members, and discuss current and anticipated openings for volunteer posts.
3. Canton Parent Advisory Council for Student Services (CPACSS) Update: Ms. Dianna Mullen and CPACSS President Anna Sanina presented highlights of their work during this school year. CPACSS provides parents with information through evening presentations and meets with the Director of Student Services to provide input on special education needs for the District. Results and common themes of the February parent survey were shared.
4. Cabot Fund Awards: Mr. Marshall presented the Cabot Fund recipient recommendations. Arthur Tracy Cabot Fund promotes healthy out-of-door life among the children of Canton. All applications and processes went through the finance subcommittee first. Recipients proposed are:

BSA Boy Scout Troop #77

- Funds will be used to keep per activity costs down to allow more Canton youth to take advantage of the programs.
- Request: \$2,000 for 30 children served
- Recommendation: \$2,000

BSA Friends of Canton Scouting

- This is the Chartering Organization for the previous scouting units. They operate independently with their own programming and their own budgets and expenses which are quite separate and distinct from each other and from FoCS. They independently operate their own day-to-day and month-to-month programming and creatively find ways to fund it on their own.
- Request: \$2,000 for 55 children served
- Recommendation: \$1,000

Canton Little League

- Canton Little League provides recreational and travel baseball and softball leagues for the children in Canton. Games and practices are played outside in the spring, summer and fall and promote healthy outdoor activity and the concepts of working together as a team.
- Request: \$2,000 for 1,100 children served
- Recommendation: \$2,000

Canton Parks and Recreation

- Funds to be used to supplement the free Town supported Summer Playground Program. This program is free to Canton residents and expenses include staffing and supplies costs.
- Request: \$2,500 for 350 students to participate
- Recommendation: \$2,500

Canton Youth Basketball

- CYBA provides basketball programs for the youth of Canton. The indoor and travel programs encourage exercise, foster friendships, and teach valuable lessons about hard work and teamwork.
- Request: \$2,500 for 600 children served
- Recommendation: \$2,500

Canton Youth Hockey

- Canton Youth Hockey provides an opportunity for the youth of Canton to skate and obtain hockey instruction. Programming promotes physical and social wellness and develops character, teamwork and sportsmanship.
- Request: \$1,000 for 500 children served

- Recommendation: \$1,000

Canton Youth Lacrosse Club

- Canton Youth Lacrosse provides the youth of Canton access to an organized outdoor sports club promoting lacrosse.
- Request: \$2,500 for 600 children served
- Recommendation: \$2,500

Dean S. Luce Fun Run

- The Fun Run is a community-building event that is back after a two year hiatus due to COVID. There will be a half mile fun for ages 4-8, a mile run for ages 9-12, and a 5K for all who chose to participate. In addition, there will be fun activities for children, race t-shirts, music and food for all participants.
- Request: \$1,500 for 325 children served
- Recommendation: \$1,500

Hansen CAPT

- Funds will be used to purchase a GaGa Ball pit. Gaga is played in a large fenced-in area (usually an octagon or hexagon) called a gaga pit.
- Request: \$2,500 for 550 children served
- Recommendation: \$0

Mr. Marshall explained that this request was not funded as the Hansen will likely be getting a new playground soon and this item may be included in the design of the new playground.

Motion to Approve the Cabot Fund Recipients as presented with a total amount of \$15,000: Nichola Gallagher

Seconded: Maureen Moran

Vote: 5-0

5. MSBA Update: Superintendent Folan provided a high-level overview on the GMS MSBA. Superintendent Folan thanked all Town officials for their support of the MSBA project during Town Meeting. the Certification of Compliance was just signed. There will be a number of opportunities for community involvement. A School Building Committee will be established as a subcommittee of BRC. BRC will see this process all the way through to completion. There will be an MSBA site on the website forthcoming. The SOI will be refined as needed. The Educational vision part of the project is due in August. Ms. Shannon will work with Principal Mulhern.
6. Equity Audit: Superintendent Folan, Assistant Superintendent Shannon and Ms. Dianna Mullen reviewed the process of the upcoming Equity Audit. CPS wants to ensure that background does not determine outcomes. CPS wants to also ensure that all students have equal access to the curriculum in CPS; this is a key component of the CPS Strategic Framework, DESE and MASS. The equity audit will gather data, from the following categories, then share with us what we are doing well and where we need to improve.
 - Budget
 - Student Data - Three to five year lookback
 - Recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce
 - Professional learning opportunities provided
 - Cultivating family and community engagement

Three companies were identified:

SchoolWorks, Mass insight, and Public Consulting Group (PCG).

Interviews were conducted with each company, proposals were reviewed from each company, proposals were shared with Cabinet to provide feedback, and reference checks were conducted. Ultimately, PCG

was identified as the district choice for several reasons including price point and references. The timeline is 8/2022- 1/2023.

Next steps:

- Project launch/Description project organization and management
- Data and document review
- Onsite data collection, interviews, etc
- Final report

H. Public Comment: none

I. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Reminder that the transportation registration deadline is May 20, 2022.

J. Consent Agenda:

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda with the open session minutes of April 28, 2022, pulled for further discussion: Laura Arboleda

Seconded: Maureen Moran

Abstain: Nichola Gallagher

The Consent Agenda passed: 4-0-1

The following items were approved in the Consent Agenda:

Executive Session Minutes: April 29, 2022

Warrant dated May 13, 2022

K. Sub-Committee, Task Force, and Liaison Post Updates: The reassignment of posts took place.

Subcommittees

Policy: Ms. Arboleda will join the policy subcommittee with Ms. O'Halloran

Finance: Ms. Moran and Ms. Gallagher will remain

Negotiations: Ms. Gallagher and Ms. Merenda will remain

CPS Advisory Committees/Task Forces

These tasks and responsibilities will be assigned as they arise. The Chair and Superintendent will review any tasks that are brought forward and then bring them to the full Committee for discussion and review. A framing document will be used to guide tasks and processes. Move Wellness to liaisons appointed to joint committees as it is required that a member of SC is on this committee.

Liaison Appointed to Joint Committees

Some posts are appointed by the Select Board. All members agreed to remain in their assigned posts.

Liaison Posts to Town Board

No change at this time. Will explore policies to ensure practices are aligned with policy.

Liaison to Posts Serving CPS

Pull out School Councils as these are run through the schools. Ms. Moran will remain.

Liaison to Regional Organization

Ms. Moran will step away from the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office Staff Force. There was a discussion about not having a Committee member(s) on this group at this time. Hold on MASC delegate.

- The wellness committee met and will determine the next steps with new members as Mr. Gordy will be leaving the District
- DCTF held their final meeting
- PRHC holding an upcoming festival, Saturday, 10-3
- CCPC received approvals at Town Meeting. Survey results will be reviewed
- Content and communications recognized retirees in this week's Citizen
- BRC has a number of projects including MSBA underway
- Mr. Folan attended the CAASA retreat and looked at YRBS data

L. Other Business: none

M. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 26, 2022, @ 6:00 pm in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.

N. Adjournment: Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session @ 9:09 pm. Laura Arboleda seconded. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nays

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated May 12, 2022
2. Teaching and Learning Update: Social Studies Report 2021-2022
3. 2022-2023 School Committee Meeting Calendar
4. Honor Thy Teacher Flyer
5. CPACSS slide deck
6. Cabot Fund Applications Overview FY22
7. Cabot Fund FY22