

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of May 13, 2021  
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. **Call to Order** The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 6:18 pm by Chair Merenda. Roll Call 5-0. 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	yes
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  
Gabrielle McDuffie, Student Member  
Sarah Shannon, GMS Principal  
Lisa Winchell, GMS Teacher  
Maryanna Biedermann, GMS Teacher  
Julie Ghostlaw, GMS Teacher  
Andrea Stuart, GMS Teacher  
Lisa Kaminski, GMS Teacher  
Deb Shaw, GMS Teacher  
Barbara Reardon, Canton Director of Public Health  
Cindy Bonner, Canton Public Health Nurse  
Lauren Pushard, Interim Nurse Leader  
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations Finalist  
Catherine Eckersley, PreK-12 Performing Arts Coordinator

- B. **Open Session** Started at 7:02 pm
- C. **Student Member Report** Gabrielle McDuffie shared a report on the Hansen School. She spoke about grade level projects and thanked CAPT for their support on behalf of all staff.

- D. **Superintendent's Report**

**Superintendent Highlights**

Canton High School Ranked #47 in MA in the US World and News Report: U.S. News & World Report's 2021 Best High Schools rankings were published, and revealed that Canton High School earned National and metro-area rankings. 24,000 public high schools were reviewed, 365 MA schools made the US World and News ranking.

**Updates**

Artists Reception: A select exhibition of CHS student artwork was recently on display at the Artist's Studio & Gallery at Patriot's Place In a year with so many virtual events, displaying

the artwork in person was a celebration that showcased the dedication of our students while they worked in Hybrid Learning.

**Spring Sports:** After more than 21 months since their last action, Bulldog spring sports teams started their contests this past week. Joining the traditional spring sports of Track, Lacrosse, Baseball, Softball, Tennis, and Unified Track, are Wrestling and Competition Cheerleading. Athletic Director Danny Erickson reports that all teams are off to a good start. Junior Andrew Middleton threw a perfect game on the mound, facing 21 batters and not allowing any Attleboro player to reach base. 16 of those outs were strikeouts. Middleton followed up that performance with a 1-hitter and 16 strikeouts in his next outing. Also, Senior Deyontai Dennis set a new CHS record for the long jump, breaking a record that stood since 1961.

**Indicators of Excellence**

**Governor's Visit to GMS:** April 30 proved to be a special day for Canton Public Schools. Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, Secretary of Education James Peyser, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeff Riley, Senator Timilty and Executive Director of Boston After School and Beyond Chris Smith visited GMS to announce the summer learning grant programs offered by the Commonwealth. Canton applied for and received one of these grants in the amount of \$50,000 and will continue to research and apply for additional grants as they become available.

**CAASA Event:** The Canton Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA) is holding an event on [Wednesday, May 19, \*Teens and Technology: The connection to mental health, anxiety, and substance use.\*](#)

**Advanced Placement Testing:** Canton High School students are in the second week of taking AP exams. 265 juniors and seniors are taking 600 in-person exams in 20 different subject areas. The following chart shows the exams being offered.

US Government	Microeconomics
English Literature	Biology
US History	Chinese
Computer Science A	Calculus AB
European History	Calculus BC
French	Physics C: Mechanics
Spanish	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Psychology	Physics
English Language	Chemistry
AP Studio Art	Statistics

Achieving a Personal Goal - US Citizenship: Naomi Akan, an ABA Tutor at Hansen and a parent of a CHS student, will be honored by Senator Timilty and Representative Galvin tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. at Hansen Elementary School. Naomi recently gained her US Citizenship, fulfilling a personal goal and very special achievement.

**Important Dates and Events**

May 14 & 15	CHS Drama Musical, <a href="#">Sister Act</a> , 7:00 pm, Virtual, To purchase tickets, click <a href="#">HERE</a>
May 18	CHS Scholastic Honors Night, 6:00 pm, CHS Gym (Nichola Gallagher attending)
May 20	CHS World Language Recognition Night, 6:00 pm, CHS Auditorium (One member invited to attend)
May 25	CHS Scholarship Night. 6:00 pm, CHS Gym (Kendall O'Halloran attending)
May 27	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
May 31	No School, Memorial Day

**E. New Business**

1. Director of Finance and Operations Finalist: Dr. Fischer-Mueller introduced Mr. Stephen Marshall, the finalist for the Director of Finance and Operations, and recommended him for appointment to this position. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller shared background information on Mr. Marshall. Members of the School Committee conducted a brief interview. Mr. Marshall spoke about why he chose Canton and shared additional information about himself.

**Motion to approve Mr. Stephen Marshall to the position of Director of Finance and Operations at a yearly salary of \$135,000 for a three year term, standard CO contract, full year:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

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

2. Nurse Leader Appointment: Dr. Fischer-Mueller recommended Ms. Lauren Pushard as the District's Nurse Leader and requested a vote of approval for her appointment to this position. Ms. Pushard is currently the Interim Nurse Leader.  
**Motion to approve Ms. Lauren Pushard to the position of Nurse Leader at a salary of \$85,000 for a three year term, 200 days/year, standard CO contract**: Nichola Gallagher  
**Second**: Maureen Moran  
**Roll Call Vote**: 5-0  
Kristian Merenda      yea  
Nichola Gallagher      yea  
Maureen Moran      yea  
Chuck Rae      yea  
Kendall O'Halloran      yea
3. COVID19 Protocols Update: Dr. Fischer-Mueller, Ms. Lauren Pushard, Ms. Cindy Bonner, Ms. Barbara Reardon and Mr. Derek Folan discussed proposed changes to the COVID19 protocols enacted on May 6, 2021, in accordance with policy EBC Supplemental. Following guidance from CDC, DESE and the Department of Public Health, CPS will only quarantine when someone is closer than 3 feet, no longer whole classrooms. Families will still be notified that if they are a close contact and if they do or do not need to quarantine. CPS is aligning protocols with the state on these recommendations. The goal of protocols is to keep everyone safe while maximizing time in school.  
**Motion to approve the proposed updated C19 protocols**: Nichola Gallagher  
**Second**: Maureen Moran  
**Roll Call Vote**: 5-0  
Kristian Merenda      yea  
Nichola Gallagher      yea  
Maureen Moran      yea  
Chuck Rae      yea  
Kendall O'Halloran      yea
4. Encore Update: Ms. Eckersley, PreK-12 Performing Arts Coordinator, shared pricing and process information regarding Encore's after-school music program lessons. Approximately 50 students participate in the program. Lesson pricing levels were shared. Instructor pricing of \$50/hour for private lessons and \$70/hour for semi-private. Reducing from 30 to 26 lessons per year to lower cost. Other early withdrawal and refund processes were shared. Upfront payment receives a 5% discount. Compared pricing to Milton and Westwood. All lessons this year were virtual. Will continue to follow recommendations by DESE for next year's lessons.  
**Motion to approve the updated Encore procedures**: Nichola Gallagher  
**Second**: Maureen Moran  
**Roll Call Vote**: 5-0  
Kristian Merenda      yea  
Nichola Gallagher      yea  
Maureen Moran      yea  
Chuck Rae      yea  
Kendall O'Halloran      yea
5. GMS Project Based Learning (PBL): Principal Shannon and members of the GMS Staff provided updates to the GMS PBL plans. Principal Shannon shared attributes of

the GMS learner. PBL is driven by challenging questions. It gets students to dig deeper. Authenticity is incorporated. Student voice and choice are important. Critical thinking, critiquing and revising is taught. PBL directly correlates to the CPS Strategic Framework and has a close connection to standards, examples were shared. Principal Shannon shared research supporting PBL through the Lucas Foundation. Several teachers shared their experiences and projects and reported increased engagement and creativity. Curriculum and standards remain the same but are being taught through i2 and PBL. Staff will be attending 10 PD days this summer. Ms. Moran asked about the relationship between GMS and i2Learning, and how it developed, as well as whether parents would have the opportunity to opt their children out of PBL at GMS. She also asked how the PBL approach fits in with the district's "continuum of education" and what CHS teachers think of PBL. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Principal Shannon informed the Committee that it is not an option to opt out of i2 learning or PBL.

6. School Committee FY22 Calendar: Dr. Fischer-Mueller presented a proposed School Committee meeting calendar for FY22.

**Motion to approve the School Committee FY22 Meeting Calendar:**

Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

Kristian Merenda      yea

Nichola Gallagher      yea

Maureen Moran      yea

Chuck Rae      yea

Kendall O'Halloran      yea

**F. Unfinished Business**

1. FY22 Budget: Dr. Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Nectow continued the discussion on the FY22 Budget. A balanced budget was finalized and presented. At the 4.8.21 meeting, the Committee voted on the targeted Fincom budget with a gap of \$121,437 and agreed to continue working to offset the difference. This evening, Mr. Nectow proposed two line item options that would offset the difference. 1. Tuition and transportation savings from a student returning to the new GMS therapeutic program equals \$75,000 and 2 EA FTE reductions totaling \$50,000.

Committee members had another lengthy discussion about the details of the GMS program and the funding related to it over the upcoming years. Ms. Moran raised concern with students returning to the District from OOD placements and into this program. Mr. Rae asked to hold the vote to get more information on the program. Ms. Gallagher countered that the program has been discussed repeatedly and that it is time to make a decision so that the hiring process could begin. Ms. Gallagher requested that, in light of the concerns and continued questions, the School Committee be kept informed of how the program progresses. The Committee agreed to move forward with a vote. The approved budget includes, among other budget requests, 2.0 FTE's for the new therapeutic program at the middle school.

**Motion to approve the FY22 Budget as presented with the inclusion of the GMS therapeutic program:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kendall O'Halloran

**Roll Call Vote:** 3-2

Kristian Merenda      yea

Nichola Gallagher    yea  
Maureen Moran        nay  
Chuck Rae              nay  
Kendall O'Halloran    yea

**The Motion passed by a majority vote.**

2. Policy JICFB: Mr. Folan, Chair Merenda and Ms. O'Halloran presented policy JICFB - Bullying Prevention - for a 2nd read. The MASC version aligns with the BPIP and is proposed to be adopted in its entirety.

**Motion to approve policy JICFB, MASC version:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

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

3. Policy KE: Mr. Folan, Chair Merenda and Ms. O'Halloran presented policy KE - Public Complaints - for a 2nd read. This policy has been approved by the District's attorney.

**Motion to approve policy KE:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

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

4. District Updates: Dr. Fischer-Mueller and Ms. Rooney presented tonight's update. Ms. Rooney reviewed MCAS dates and processes. She also reviewed summer learning options that were presented at the last meeting. Communication has been shared with parents about the summer learning options. The interest survey for parents will be open until Monday, currently approx. 200 families have responded and expressed interest. Programs will run 7/12-8/5, at no cost to families, and run Mon-Thurs. Data points are being determined by Principals and teachers. Canton Academy has 263 registrations already. Additional STEM opportunities outside of CPS are being explored and will be shared with parents. Registrations will begin next week for summer learning options.

- G. **Business Managers Report** Mr. Nectow provided a bus registration update. 5/30, bus registration ends. There is a late fee of \$50 up until 6/18. After 6/18 no guarantee for the bus, families will be put on a waiting list and informed by October 1 of availability. There are 1028 registrations so far. Mr. Nectow encouraged people to get their registrations in asap.

- H. **Public Comment**    None

I. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Minutes dated April 29, 2021  
**Move:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kendall O'Halloran

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

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

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated April 29, 2021 **HOLD**
3. The announcement that the warrant dated May 14, 2021 will be delivered tomorrow.

**J. Sub-Committee Reports**

1. CCPC - Kendall O'Halloran - nothing new to report
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher -nothing new to report
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda/Kendall O'Halloran – nothing new to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - 1st event will be a Juneteenth event, hosted by CDEI June 19th open to the public, free, 1-3 pm.
7. CDEI - Nichola Gallagher - same as above
8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda - Appreciative of the Strategic Framework and using it as their framework. Town meeting planning going on. Next meeting on 6/3 and voting to support proposed articles 30 and 32 for ATM.

**K. Other Business** Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

**L. Future Business** The next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

**M. Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 10:36 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 5-0.

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

Documents used during the meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report, May 13, 2021
2. Stephen Marshall Resume
3. Lauren Pushard Resume
4. FINAL C19 Updated Protocols for Responding to District Scenarios - May 6, 2021
5. Announcement Quarantine Protocol May 6, 2021
6. Encore Slide Deck
7. Encore Proposed Pricing
8. GMS Project Based Learning Slide Deck
9. 2021-2022 School Committee Meeting Calendar DRAFT
10. FY22 Superintendents Budget Request 5-5-2021
11. Policy JICFB - MASC Version
12. Policy KE - CPS Version
13. Policy KE - Clean Copy
14. SC District Update May 13, 2021 ppt

