

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of June 10, 2021
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. **Call to Order** The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 6:08 pm by Chair Merenda. Roll Call vote 3-0. Motion to move into Executive Session made by Maureen Moran. Second by Kendall O'Halloran.

Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
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
Cindy Bonner, Canton Public Health Nurse
Barbara Reardon, Board of Health
Dr. Dan Muse, School Physician
Lauren Pushard, Nurse Leader
David Turcotte, Principal, Canton High School
Sarah Shannon, Principal, Galvin Middle School
Jeff Sperling, New CHS Principal

- B. **Open Session** Started at 7:04 pm

- C. **Superintendent's Report** Members of the Central Office staff thanked staff, administrators, retirees, students, families and more.

D. **New Business**

1. CHS Principal Announcement: Dr. Fischer-Mueller introduced Mr. Jeff Sperling as the next CHS Principal. Mr. Sperling's background and employment experiences were shared.
2. GMS School Improvement Plans (SIP) Review: Principal Shannon presented her year end SIP for review. All plan contents are aligned with the strategic framework. School council members were acknowledged and thanked. Demographic information, family survey results, student experiences, and learning outcomes in math, social studies and ELA were shared. Members asked questions about the percentage of students approaching or not reaching standards across the three subject areas. Principal Shannon shared plans for improving those numbers next year. A summary of progress toward school priorities was shared. 1. Create a school culture that places the student experience at its center, with an emphasis on the development of positive, healthy relationships that promote students' well-being and growth. 2. Transform the student learning experience at GMS by strengthening and broadening the repertoire of instructional strategies used by educators to engage all learners. 3. Educational equity 4. Schedule and structure. There was a request to be consistent across all school improvement plans so that they align with the strategic framework, for example, using the words continue to work towards achieving educational excellence in

addition to ensuring equity. Paused after the GMS presentation to move onto the next item to accommodate guest speakers.

3. Policy EBCFA: Mr. Folan, Chair Merenda and Ms. O'Halloran presented policy EBCFA, Face Coverings, for review. Ms. Barbara Rearson, Ms. Cindy Bonner and Dr. Muse weighed in. This policy is being updated based on new DESE guidance. The proposed changes reflect maintaining the mask policy throughout the summer, when unable to maintain 6 ft. of distance. Dr. Muse suggested that science indicates we can loosen things up, however, suggested the need to keep up our guard, given variants and other factors. Since quarantining is still in effect, unmasking indoors could result in additional quarantining. The policy amendments also state that the Committee will revisit this policy as guidelines change at the state level.

Motion to approve policy EBCFA as amended:Maureen Moran

Second: Kendall O'Halloran

Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Kendall O'Halloran yea

4. CHS School Improvement Plan (SIP) Review: Mr. Turcotte acknowledged and thanked school council members. Demographics, student learning outcomes and student experiences were shared. The following progress of goals were shared: 1. Achieving educational excellence and equity by providing students with effective, engaging instruction in remote and/or hybrid learning environments by building the capacity of CHS staff and broadening the scope of their instructional and technological practices. Key actions to reach this goal included: develop a professional culture in which CHS educators act as scientists of learning, focus on authority building-based PD to promote collaboration and build staff capacity to engage students and utilize technology in remote and hybrid environments and monitor data for achievement gaps, develop targeted interventions to support underperforming students, and monitor data for achievement gaps and develop targeted interventions to support underperforming students. The second school priority is cultivating school climate culture by creating an inclusive school environment in which both students and staff feel connected, engaged, valued and supported. Key actions include: create a CHS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) committee to examine CHS practices and school culture and to develop a multi-year action plan, solicit feedback from CHS students & student leadership groups in order to obtain and execute ideas to improve connectedness and solicit feedback from CHS students & student leadership groups in order to obtain and execute ideas to improve connectedness. Members requested to see the breakdown of AP scores.
5. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statement of Interest (SOI) for GMS: Mr. Nectow presented the MSBA SOI for GMS for review and a vote of approval. Three priorities were submitted with the application: overcrowding, modernization of a building and replacing or addition to an obsolete building. The full report is [here](#).

Motion: Having convened in an open meeting on June 10, 2021, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of the Town of Canton, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building the

Statement of Interest Form dated June 10, 2021 for the William H. Galvin Middle School which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority categories 2, 5 and 7 are consistent with the recently completed master plan and feasibility Study and addresses over-crowding, modernization of school facility systems and addresses an obsolete building in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with the district educational vision; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.
Move to approve the submission of the SOI as presented: Maureen Moran

Second: Kendall O'Halloran

Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Kendall O'Halloran yea

6. FY21 QIII: Mr. Nectow presented the FY21 QIII report. Total expenses for FY21 is \$58,104,030, an increase of \$3,524.928 (6.46%) over FY20. This includes the cost of RLP. Mr. Nectow shared details of the COVID 19 effect on FY21 spending, coronavirus relief funds and expenses, special education updates, revolving funds, grants and donations. There are sufficient funds in the special education reserve fund to cover special education costs. Although COVID-19 has had an impact on the budget including a large increase, working with the Town as well as State and Federal grant, and reduced spending, will allow the school department to cover all costs associated with operating the school department in FY21. The full report is available [here](#).
7. Special Education Reserve Fund: Mr. Nectow requested a vote of approval to withdraw \$200,000 from the Special Education Reserve Fund. Details of the report are [here](#).

Motion to approve the transfer of money from the Special Education Reserve Fund: Maureen Moran

Second: Kendall O'Halloran

Roll Call Vote: 3-0

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Kendall O'Halloran yea

- E. **Business Managers Report** Mr. Nectow provided a final 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.

F. **Public Comment**

Stephen MacPherson	Congratulations to Mr. Nectow on his exemplary service to the Canton Schools.
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G. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Minutes dated May 13, 2021 HOLD
2. Approve Minutes dated May 27, 2021
Move: Kendall O'Halloran
Second: Kristian Merenda
Abstain: Maureen Moran
Roll Call Vote: 2-0-1
Kristian Merenda yea
Maureen Moran abstain
Kendall O'Halloran yea
3. Approve Executive Minutes dated May 27, 2021
Move: Kendall O'Halloran
Second: Kristian Merenda
Abstain: Maureen Moran
Roll Call Vote: 2-0-1
Kristian Merenda yea
Maureen Moran abstain
Kendall O'Halloran yea
4. Ms. Moran signed the June 4 warrant and the June 11, 2021 warrant will be sent to the Business Office tomorrow.

H. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kendall O'Halloran - nothing new to report.
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - absent. Mr. Nectow reported that the BRC will be overseeing several CPS projects.
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - absent
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 - absent
7. CDEI - Nichola Gallagher - Upcoming Juneteenth event
8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda - Liaison posts were identified.

I. **Other Business** The Committee will host the community table at the Farmer's Market on August 22.

J. **Future Business** The Committee will participate in a Workshop/Training on Tuesday, June 15, at 4:00 at Blue Hill Country Club. The next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

K. **Adjournment** Maureen Moran motioned to close the Open Session at 10:42 pm. Kendall O'Halloran seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 3-0.

Kristian Merenda yea
Maureen Moran yea
Kendall O'Halloran yea

Documents used during the meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report, June 10, 2021
2. Jeff Sperling Resume
3. CHS SIP Slide Deck

4. GMS SIP Slide Deck
5. End of Year School Improvement Plans: CHS and GMS
6. Policy EBCFA - Revised
7. SOI with Memo - 6-4-21
8. FY21 Q3 Financial Report - 6-7-21
9. FY21 reserve fund request - 6-4-21