

Canton School Committee  
Open Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 13, 2023

**A. Call to Order:** Chair O'Halloran called for a motion to convene the Thursday, July 13th, 2023 School Committee Open Session at 6:03 pm. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Maureen Moran seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

**Attendees:** Kendall O'Halloran  
Maureen Moran  
Laura Arboleda  
Kimberly McCourt  
Kristian Merenda (arrived at 6:05 pm)  
Derek Folan  
Stephen Marshall  
**Guest:** Joshua Fogel

**B. Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Folan presented the following note on District progress, highlights, and accolades.

**Summer Programming Highlights**

**Extended School Year (ESY):** Last week we welcomed our students in seven classrooms in the Rodman and High School for the Extended School Year program. The students ranged from ages 3-21 to work on academics, social skills, motor skills, and communication. This week we welcomed more students in grades K-8 for academic tutoring. We have enjoyed seeing the students engage with their peers and their teachers and look forward to working to ensure the maintenance of skills over the coming weeks.

**Canton Academy:** Canton Academy is off to a flying start in its 19th year. Today ends the 2nd week of the 5-week program, under the direction of Coordinator Ed Amico and the organizational support of Deb Rooney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Canton Academy staff collaborates with Mrs. Byrne from Student Services so that classes are offered to all student populations. More information will be forthcoming at the program's conclusion in early August.

**Summer Scholars:** Our Summer Scholars program will start on Monday, July 17 at JFK for Elementary students entering grades 1-5, at GMS for students entering grades 6-8, and at CHS for students entering grades 9-12. We have 180 students enrolled across the three sites this summer. Transportation routes

were sent out via Blackboard for grades 1-5 and via email to grades 6-12. If parents/guardians have questions about the program, they can contact one of our site coordinators: Aimee Lyden for Elementary, Deb Shaw for GMS and Rebecca Ashley for CHS.

### **Updates**

**School Year 2023-2024:** The 2023-2024 school year begins on August 30 for students in grades 1-12. Grades 1-12 will attend school on August 30th & 31st, then will be off September 1st and September 4th for the Labor Day weekend. Kindergarten begins on September 5 and PreK begins on September 6. Opening day for staff is on August 28 & 29. The complete 2023-2024 calendar is [here](#). Please refer to [this](#) link for school start times.

**Canton Farmers Market Back-to-School Event:** All are encouraged and welcome to join the Back-to-School Day at the [Canton Farmers Market](#) on Sunday, August 27 from 10-2. Principals, Administrators, School Committee members, and CAPT members will be on-site for a meet and greet and to answer any questions you may have or to simply say hello.

### **Indicators of Excellence**

**Naval Academy:** A true celebration and commendation to Han Hong, who recently graduated from CHS and who has entered the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. We honor her for being a champion of excellence throughout her years in the Canton Public Schools, her academic, civic and extracurricular achievements, and we say thank you for her service to our country. Click here for the [Citizen story](#).

**Richard J. Phelps Scholar-Athlete:** A huge shout out to Class of 2023 graduate Sierra Abbott for being one of 22 students recognized as a Richard J. Phelps Scholar-Athlete Award recipient at Fenway Park for her athletic, academic and community accomplishments as a CHS student. Sierra will be attending the University of Richmond in the fall.  
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/06/20/sports/twenty-two-high-school-standouts-recognized-globe-s-richard-j-phelps-scholar-athlete-awards/>

**Kids Camp:** Friday, July 14th is the last day of Kids Camp. Hundreds of Canton Public School students are either serving as counselors or participants, and it is a great moment to see the community in action, student leaders developing, and a place where “a kid can be a kid.”

### **Important Dates and Events**

August 3	School Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, Distance Learning Lab
August 17	School Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, Distance Learning Lab
August 27	Back-to-School Day at Canton Farmers Market, 10-2, Front of Rodman Building
August 28	Staff return to work
August 30	First Day of School, Grades 1-12
September 1	No School
September 4	No School, Labor Day

September 5	First Day of School, Kindergarten
September 6	First Day of School, PreK

### C. Unfinished Business

1. **DEI Solidarity Statements**: School Committee members presented two versions of the solidarity statement for a 2nd read. After discussion, members agreed to the following statement:

“The Canton School committee firmly rejects racism and discrimination in all their forms. We understand that these deep-seated social issues come in many guises, some overt, others subtle, but all equally destructive. Our rejection of these harmful elements is not a mere statement; it is a proactive commitment to fostering an environment that celebrates and champions diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

We define equity as each student, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or socioeconomic status having access to the opportunities, resources, and support they need to attain their full potential.

We are committed to removing institutional and structural barriers experienced by people based on race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or socioeconomic status that impede access, opportunities, and results.

We understand that this commitment is a process, not an instant achievement. We pledge to listen, learn, improve, and make continuous, focused efforts to better the sense of belonging for every member of the District.”

Chair O’Halloran called for a motion to approve the amended and read version of the Statement of Solidarity written above. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Kristian Merenda seconded. The vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O’Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
5 yeas	0 nays

### D. New Business

1. **Spring Family Survey Results**: Mr. Fogel shared the Spring family survey results noting that these surveys help CPS staff make informed decisions and draw conclusions about students’ and families’ conditions for learning and experiences. The Spring Survey’s categories included Communication, Overall Experience, School Culture and Student Well Being, Teaching and Learning, and Transportation. Superintendent Folan was pleased that the results of the latest family survey showed that students and families are having a high quality experience in the Canton Public Schools. Data showed an increase

in affirmative responses in most categories and also identified areas for future focus in transportation and communication, particularly in the secondary schools. There was a discussion around the anonymity of the survey as a deterrent to pursuing more information from a respondent. Members moved to a discussion on name-blinding on scholarship applications. Mr. Folan reported that the CHS is committed to reviewing this policy. Principal Sperling is on task to seek best practices.

2. **MSBA Update:** Superintendent Folan explained the DSP (Design Selection Process), announcing the design firm, Ai3, was selected as the Design team for the Galvin School based on their thoughtful and very student centered foundational approach. Mr. Randall, a founding partner of Ai3, will be at the July 14th Kick-Off Meeting to discuss his strategic approach to the project as well as timelines expected. Representatives from Ai3 will attend the MSBA Kick-Off Meeting on August 1st and are expected to attend the Thursday, August 3rd School Committee Meeting to present their vision. The Galvin Building project has moved into the Feasibility Phase. Ai3 will be exploring engineering options as site reviews. More information as well as the winning publication will be available on the CPS website for the District's review shortly.
3. **TEC Voting Member:** Members discussed reelecting Superintendent Folan as The Education Cooperative (TEC) voting member for the 2023-2024 school year. After a short discussion, Chair O'Halloran asked for a motion to renew Derek Folan as the TEC voting member for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was made by Kristian Merenda; seconded by Laura Arboleda. The vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
5 yeas	0 nays

**E. Public Comment:** Ellen Doonovan expressed her concern about the lack of family responses to the Spring Family Survey noting that she found a 17% response rate unacceptable. Ms. Donovan wondered how more parents might be engaged in these surveys, and offered her assistance, noting that this concern might be added as a District Goal. Additionally, Ms. Donovan commented on the safety concern of the continuing issue of vaping in the restrooms.

**F. Director of Finance and Operations Report:** Mr. Marshall had nothing to report.

**G. Consent Agenda:**

1. Regular Session Minutes: May 11, 2023, May 22, 2023 Workshop, May 25, 2023, May 31, 2023 Workshop, June 6, 2023.
2. Executive Session Minutes: May 25, 2023
3. Warrants: June 16, 23, 30 & July 7 & 14, 2023.

Chair O'Halloran announced the list of items posted in the consent agenda, then asked if any committee member would like any minutes or warrants listed removed from the consent agenda for further review. Ms. Moran requested the May 25th, 2023 Regular Session Minutes be pulled for further review. Hearing no further requests for removal, Chair Merenda called for a motion to approve the revised Consent Agenda to include:

Regular Session Minutes: May 11, 2023, May 22, 2023 Workshop, May 31, 2023 Workshop, Regular Session Minutes, June 8, 2023.

Executive Session Minutes: May 25, 2023  
Warrants: June 16, 23, 30 & July 7 & 14, 2023

Laura Arboleda made the motion; Kristian Merenda seconded. The vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
5 yeas	0 nays

**H. (5 min.) Update of Sub-Committee, Task Force and Liaison Posts:**

Ms. Moran requested that School Committee members consider adding the Budget & Finance Committee to an August 2023 meeting agenda for the purpose of discussing and preparing for the upcoming budget cycle.

Ms. O'Halloran announced that CCPC pre-applications are due by August 18th, 2023 at 5pm. She acknowledged that this is an earlier deadline than in previous years. However, the committee expects a higher number of applications than usual due to the committee's pause in 2022-23 and would like more time for decision-making. Ms. O'Halloran mentioned that the next Policy Subcommittee Meeting will be held on July 27th, 2023, and noted that the Content & Communications Subcommittee had finished the final cycle with the week of 7/3/23's newspaper ads.

Laura Arboleda reported that the CDEI committee will meet next week, holding a workshop.

Kimberly McCourt-no updates

Kristian Merenda-no updates, but did suggest the School Committee acknowledge the work of the School Committee's student members.

**I. Other Business : None**

**J. Future Business** The next Open Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 3, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.

**K. Adjournment:**

Chair O'Halloran called for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, July 13th, 2023 School Committee Open Session at 7:12 pm. Kristian Merenda made the motion; Laura Arboleda seconded. Vote was unanimous at 5-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
5 yeas	0 nays