

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of July 16, 2020  
Remote Meeting due to COVID-19 School Closure  
Zoom Webinar

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Mirliani via a roll call vote.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea (arrived at 5:16 pm)
Charles Rae	yea

Also Remotely Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent  
Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent  
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator  
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary  
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning  
Debbie Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Debra Bromfield, Director of Student Services  
Dianna Mullen, new Director of Student Services

- B. Public Comment: Ms. Dory Koury urged that live teaching must be part of the curriculum in the Fall if the district's plan includes remote learning. Inquired why live teaching was not a part of the curriculum in the Spring.

C. New Business:

1. Resolution: COVID 19 State Funding: Chair Mirliani presented a COVID 19 Resolution for review and vote of approval.

**Motion to approve the COVID 19 State Funding Resolution**: Nichola Gallagher

**Second**: Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote**: 4-0

2. Enable, Inc. Contract Approval: Mr. Nectow presented the Enable, Inc. contract for a vote of approval. A one year contract is proposed with the right to exercise four one year options at the discretion of the awarding authority as outlined in the RFP. All supporting documents can be found on the website under the School Committee tab/Meetings, Agendas, Reports.

**Motion to approve the Enable Inc. contract**: Kristian Merenda

**Second**: Nichola Gallagher

**Roll Call Vote**: 4-0

3. Approve Special Education Reserve Funds Transfer: Mr. Nectow requested a vote for a fund transfer from the Special Education Reserve Account of \$400,000. All COVID related expenses will be transferred out of Operating Budget to be paid by CARES ACT. Mr. Nectow will present the final reconciliation of FY20 at an upcoming meeting in August.

**Motion to approve the Special Education Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$400,000**: Nichola Gallagher

**Second**: Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote**: 4-0

4. Disposal of Surplus Property: Mr. Nectow requested a vote for the CHS supplies and equipment.  
**Motion to approve the disposal of some CHS shop equipment that are no longer needed**: Nichola Gallagher  
**Second**: Kristian Merenenda  
**Roll Call Vote**: 4-0
5. Spring Survey Results: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller led a discussion to review the results from the Spring Remote Learning Survey. There were 198 staff respondents, 722 family respondents which equates to approx. 1101 students. Components of the Staff Survey included Technology/Devices, Technology/Support, Communication, Resources, and Software and Staff Experience. Teachers utilized what they had, and there are real needs. Communication was difficult being remote and needing to speak with families. A breakdown of all components per grade level is available in the full report. There is a need for higher standards regarding expectations, conditions of learning, consistency, and engagement. Lack of accountability of students was a concern. The CARES Act will help fund the need for improved technology for staff and families. There was a request by a member to circle back with families of children on IEP's and 504's specifically to get their feedback on their remote learning experience. The Chair reminded members that the next survey will include demographics and specific needs for moving forward in the Fall based on the models that will be presented next. Components of the Family Survey included the Remote Learning Student Experience, the Remote Learning Family Experience, Communication, and Planning for the Fall. Key takeaways include the need for live instruction by the teacher, rigor and advancing the curriculum, social isolation, accountability, grading, special education services, and student and parent/guardian communication with teachers. Parents expressed concern with the ability to juggle remote learning while working. Moving forward, CPS is developing the conditions of learning, the commitment of the conditions of learning, and the reimagining and redesigning of Remote Learning 2.0. The full Survey is available on the CPS website under the School Committee tab/ Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.
6. School Reopening Update: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller, Assistant Superintendent Folan, Mr. Nectow, Ms. Shore, Ms. Rooney, and Ms. Bromfield provided an update on the school reopening plans. Three models for reopening were presented. In-person learning with new safety requirements at 6' and 4.5', 50/50 hybrid learning in three different clusters based on the last name so siblings would attend school on the same day, and full remote learning. All models include cleaning and collaboration on Wednesdays to allow for disinfecting and educator collaboration. Cleaning will also take place on weekends. This is supported by the Canton Safety and Health official. All models take into account social distancing, avg. class size, facility impact, personnel, transportation, and food services. The strengths and challenges of each model were shared. Budget impacts vary in each model due to additional transportation and staffing costs. Other factors of consideration are space for lunches and transitions. Conditions for learning include safety, teaching and learning, social-emotional supports, structural supports for students and technology and digital learning systems. The next steps include sending a series of surveys and ongoing communication, establishing working groups with educators, Principals will plan for models, impact bargaining with CTA, and revisit the district calendar and student start date. A comprehensive plan is due to DESE by August 10. A lengthy discussion took place regarding each model. Variables discussed were what model is safest, what is best for learning, what is best for working parents, what are budgetary restraints, equity, and more. Superintendent

Fischer-Mueller confirmed that the DESE commissioner stated that all staff must wear face coverings as well as student's grades 3-12. For the district to proceed and choose a model, School Committee approval is required. Safety and health officials approved all models. There was a question raised as to which of the three hybrid models is preferred by Canton safety and health officials. These groups also strongly supported the Wednesday cleaning day. Questions were raised about HVAC, filtration, and air quality in the classrooms. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller said that CPS takes very good care of their HVAC systems. Members suggested that classrooms take place outside as much as possible. Members supported the need for strong remote learning options for any family who chooses to opt-out of in person at any time, this is an option. The district is planning PD for teachers over the summer. Survey results will also help the district guide this decision. The survey is going out tomorrow. The full overview of models is available on the CPS website under the School Committee tab/ Meetings/Agendas/Minutes/ July 16 Reports.

A lengthy discussion took place about the arrangement of a town hall type forum to allow families to share their feedback in addition to the survey. Members agreed to look into details about holding a town hall meeting next week before the scheduled meeting at 7:00 pm.

7. Policies: Ms. Bromfield presented the following policies for review and a possible vote of approval. Ms. Bromfield noted that these four Title IX policies relate to changes in the law. Once the policies are approved the district will make changes to the student and staff handbooks. These policies address harassment, bullying is addressed in the district BPIP. It was proposed that Mr. Derek Folan will be the district compliance officer. Committee members requested a second read on all policies. Committee members requested access to the BPIP and the MOU with CPD and CPS. They will be brought forward at the next meeting.
  - i. ACA
  - ii. AC-R
  - iii. AC
  - iv. ACAB

D. Superintendent's Report:

**Superintendent Activities Highlights**

Dianna Mullen: Ms. Dianna Mullen's first was Monday, July 13.

Canton Academy: Ms. Molly Newman's Storybook Art class students made kindness rocks for Beth Israel Hospital nurses.

Blog: Today, the Canton School District proudly launched the Superintendent's News Blog, which will serve as a constant news stream for the entire school community. CPS recognizes the need to communicate in an accessible, timely, and streamlined manner at all times, and especially during this pandemic. This New Blog is always available to the community on the district website, community members can subscribe to so it is pushed out to their email, and it is available on twitter.

CHS Graduation Ceremony: Assistant Superintendent Derek Folan and Canton High School Principal Dave Turcotte announced this week that the Class of 2020 CHS in-person August 1

graduation ceremony was canceled due to the restrictions of Phase 3. During this phase, outdoor activities are limited to 100 people, prohibiting all 245 members of the Class of 2020 and the families from attending.

Senior Parade, the family photos, and the amazing Diploma Ceremony on June 6. Many families expressed their appreciation for the personalized Diploma ceremony on June 6 and the Senior Parade.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian speeches will be recorded and showcased. Families will also receive a copy of the Graduation program and a professional photo of their child receiving their diploma on June 6.

Canton Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA): Effective June 30, Superintendent Fischer-Mueller now serves as the CAASA Steering Committee Chairperson for FY21. CAASA meetings are typically held on the third Monday of each month.

#### **Important Dates and Events**

July 23	School Committee Meeting
July 30	School Committee Meeting
August 6	School Committee Meeting

#### **E. Routine Matters:**

1. Approve Minutes dated June 22, 2020

**Move:** Nichola Gallager

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

2. Approve Minutes dated June 25, 2020

**Move:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

3. Accounts Payable Warrants dated July 10, 2020 FY20 and July 10 FY21 signed and approved by Ms. Maureen Moran.

#### **F. Sub-Committee Reports**

1. CPC - Kristin Mirliani - 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 – nothing new to report.
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - nothin new to report.
7. Ad Hoc Calendar Advisory - Maureen Moran - nothing new to report.

G. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, June 23, 2020, at 7:00 pm. Details are forthcoming regarding a Town Hall style meeting from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm on July 23, 2020.

H. Other Business: None

I. Adjournment: Chuck Rae motioned to close Open Session at 8:39 pm. Kristian Merenda seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 5-0.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Charles Rae	yea

5 yeas	0	nays
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