

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of July 8, 2021
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 6:05 pm. Motion to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy around contract issues regarding the Superintendent and Central Office employees and negotiations regarding such contractual issues made by Maureen Moran. Seconded by Chuck Rae. It was voted by roll call 3-0.

Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Chuck Rae	yea

- B. Open Session: Chair Merenda called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Chair Merenda informed the meeting that the School Committee is instituting time targets to keep the meetings on track. These time targets are noted on the agenda. Chair Merenda also announced that Ms. Kendall O'Halloran attended Executive Session remotely, but was unable to attend Open Session this evening.

Present are:

Kristian Merenda
Nichola Gallagher
Maureen Moran
Chuck Rae

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Public
Press
Staff

- C. **Superintendent's Report**
Superintendent Highlights

Summer Scholars and Canton Academy: Starts on Monday at four locations: CHS, GMS, JFK, and the Stoughton YMCA. In all, we have almost 200 students participating.

These programs will help students who have unfinished learning by providing additional academic support to reinforce concepts in each course or grade level that are important foundations for future learning in the next course/grade.

Canton Academy started this week at Dean S. Luce with over 100 K-8 children and is offering a 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm extended day this year.

Updates

GMS Outdoor Classroom: Thanks to the generosity of our CAPE, CAPT, and Cabot Fund donors, the Galvin was able to acquire 80 native pollinator supporting plants, mulch, a new hose, a rain barrel, and furniture to add to their current outdoor seating area/classroom outside of the GMS library. This project is being led by Ms. Julie Ghostlaw, GMS English Teacher, as a Project Based Learning (PBL) component of a reading unit.

CHS MA State Grant for World Languages: Thank you to Ms. Heidi Olson, Ms. Deb Rooney and Ms. Dianna Mullen for their work in securing grant funding for the FY22

Proficiency-Based Outcomes for Languages Other Than English grant in the amount of \$14,320.00. This state grant is the first of its kind for world languages and was an extremely competitive process.

Indicators of Excellence

CHS Graduates' Future Plans: Below is a percentage breakdown showing the future plans for the Class of 2021.

86% 4yr college
7% community college
2% military
3% workforce
2% continuing education (either trade school or our SP program)

2020-2021 CPS Performing Arts Year in Review: Congratulations and thank you to Ms. Catherine Eckersley, the entire performing arts staff, and all student performers for your hard work and dedication.

Important Dates and Events

August 12	School Committee Meeting, Canton High School, DLL, 7:00 pm
August 24 & 25	New Educator Orientation, CHS Library
August 27	Substitute Orientation, CHS Library
August 30	Staff 1st day of school - No students
August 30	Hansen Open House, Kindergarten, Grade 1 and New Students, 6:00 pm
August 30	JFK Open House, Kindergarten and Grade 1, 5:00 pm
August 31	Luce Open House, Kindergarten and Grade 1, 5:00 pm
Sept. 1	1 st Day of School, Grades 1-12

Sept. 2	School Committee Meeting, Canton High School, DLL, 7:00 pm
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D. New Business

- a. Leadership Transition: Chair Merenda and Dr. Fischer-Mueller discussed upcoming leadership transitions. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller is required to give 120 days notice. Committee members thanked Superintendent Fischer-Mueller for her time and dedication. The Committee is working on the details of closing out Superintendent Fischer-Mueller's contract. The Committee discussed the approach they will take moving forward in naming an interim Superintendent. The Committee was in agreement to appoint an interim in an effort to move the process along expeditiously, as advised by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). Chair Merenda shared that she would endorse Assistant Superintendent Folan, the Committee agreed. The Committee discussed contract terms, i.e. length of term and when the transition would take place. The Committee agreed on Friday, July 30, 2021 as the transition date. The Committee discussed their thoughts on a one versus a two year contract. Mr. Nectow shared his experience with Superintendent search processes. Need an RFP to engage a search firm. Generally, six months' time is required. Chair Merenda has consulted with the District's attorney throughout this process.

Move to appoint Mr. Derek Folan as the Interim Superintendent contingent on contract negotiations: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 4-0

Mr. Folan thanked the Committee for the appointment and expressed his desire to continue to work on behalf of the District.

Action Steps: Chair Merenda will enter into contract negotiations with Mr. Folan.

Chair Merenda will look into the search process with other members of the Committee.

- b. Canton Parent Advisory Council for Student Services: Ms. Mullen introduced CPACSS President, Ms. Anna Sanina, who reported on the council's accomplishments and which trainings they offered to parents this year. Ms. Sanina also shared future CPACSS plans. These plans will include the required Basic Rights training, school staff presentations, and surveys for parents. Survey(s) will ask if parents would prefer virtual or in person meetings. Ms. Sanina would like to get other parents involved in the Council. Ms. Moran offered to be a point of contact.
- c. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds: Mr. Nectow reported on the application for ARPA funds. These funds are available through the Town. There will be an application process that will be reviewed in early August. The Committee will determine what they would like to apply for and complete the application by July 31. The amount of money on the table is approximately 2 million.
- Action Step:** Work on this application through the Finance Subcommittee meeting. Meeting to be scheduled.
- d. FY22 Budget - Additional Elementary Classrooms: Mr. Nectow reviewed the current enrollment figures at JFK and recommended the addition of two new classrooms. Funds will come from savings to the District from additional students returning from OOD placements into the new GMS Therapeutic classroom. This requires two new hires. Space is to be determined.
- e. GMS Schedule: Ms. Shannon shared the proposed GMS schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. GMS identified priorities for the new schedule which include 990 hours of

instruction, longer blocks, 25 min lunches including recess, an X block, fewer transitions and staff collaboration time. The proposed schedule is a 7 day schedule. One class gets dropped each cycle to allow for longer blocks. The proposed schedule matches CHS. The proposed schedule includes 1016.25 hours of total time on learning with 133.6 hours of learning per class. Two forums were offered to parents to provide feedback on the schedule. Ms. Moran asked for further clarification on the dropped period. There was further discussion about specials; Ms. Shannon shared why they are important in the schedule. Specials meet 2 days out of the cycle and core classes meet 6 out of the 7 days/cycle. Ms. Moran inquired about the split lunch. Ms. Shannon explained that no child will have the split lunch throughout the year as they split the year into thirds. Snacks will be offered to students who have the later lunch.

Move to approve the GMS schedule for the 2021-2022 school year: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Chuck Rae

Vote: 4-0

- f. Section B Policy Review- Chair Merenda and Mr. Folan presented policies for a 1st read. Most proposed changes are grammatical in nature. Mr. Folan spoke about BDD and shared that Attorney Bryant suggested that the current language *unless there are urgent or unanticipated circumstances that require immediate action by the Superintendent* to be added the MASC language. If adopted, the proposed paragraph would read: *The Superintendent may seek guidance from the Committee with respect to matters of operation whenever appropriate. If it is necessary to make exceptions to an established policy, they will submit the matter to the Committee for advice and direction, unless there are urgent or unanticipated circumstances that require immediate action by the Superintendent.*

Ms. Moran asked that the pronouns on policies read he, she, they and his,her, theirs. Not just they/them. Ms. Merenda noted that all MASC policies read the latter. The Committee will consider this request and move all policies to a 2nd read. To be considered in each policy:

- A. BBBC - gender pronouns
- B. BDC - add a word, School
- C. BDD - see changes suggested above
- D. BDFA - replace school with District
- E. BDG - gender pronouns
- F. BEDB - update to reflect date approved
- G. BGF -update to reflect date approved
- H. BHC - update to reflect date approved

- g. Disposal Approval: Mr. Marshall requested a vote of approval to dispose of surplus technology equipment.

Move to approve the Disposal of Surplus Technology Equipment: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 4-0

E. **Business Manager's Report** None

F. **Public Comment** None

G. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Minutes dated May 13, 2021

Move to approve the minutes dated May 13, 2021: Maureen Moran

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 4-0

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated June 10, 2021

Move to approve the executive minutes dated June 10, 2021: Maureen Moran

Second: Chuck Rae

Abstain: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 3-0-1

3. Approve Minutes dated June 10, 2021

Move to approve the minutes dated June 10, 2021: Maureen Moran

Second: Chuck Rae

Abstain: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 3-0-1

4. Approve Workshop Minutes date June 15, 2021

Move to approve the workshop minutes dated June 15, 2021: Maureen Moran

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 4-0

5. Approve Warrants dated June 18, 2021, June 25, 2021, July 2, 2021, and July 9, 2021

Ms. Moran reported that all warrants are signed and approved. July 9 will be sent to Mr. Marshall tomorrow

H. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kendall O'Halloran - absent
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing to report
3. Wellness - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
4. Finance - Nichola Gallagher/Maureen Moran - upcoming meeting to be scheduled
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda/Kendall O'Halloran - nothing new to report
6. PRHC - Nichola Gallagher - Preview room and exhibit open
7. Canton Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (CDEI) - Nichola Gallagher thanked Naomi Akan for her work in the Juneteenth event.
8. Master Planning Committee - Kristian Merenda nothing new to report

- I. Other Business: **Action Step:** Chair Merenda introduced the idea of exploring a Consent Agenda. The Committee agreed and will explore.

- J. Future Business: Next Open Session School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, August 12, 2021 @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS. The School Committee will participate in a Strategic Planning workshop on July 16, 2021 in the Rodman Building, Room 33A.

- K. Adjournment: Maureen Moran motioned to close Open Session at 9:02 pm. Nichola Gallagher seconded. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nays

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated July 8, 2021
2. Town of Canton ARPA Funds Distribution Memo
3. Coronavirus Relief Funds and Expensed (FY21 & FY22) Spreadsheet

4. Enrollment Analysis 2021/2022 vs 2020/2021
5. GMS Schedule ppt
6. Section B Policy Review