

**Canton School Committee
Open Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2023**

Call to Order: Chair O'Halloran called for a motion to convene the August 17, 2023 School Committee Open Session at 5:33 pm. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Maureen Moran seconded. Vote was unanimous at 3-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
3 yeas	0 nays

Attendees: Kendall O'Hallora
Laura Arboleda
Maureen Moran
Kristian Merenda (arrived at 5:38 pm)
Derek Folan
Stephen Marshall
Absent: Kimberly McCourt

Executive Session: Committee members immediately went into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

Committee members returned from Executive Session at 6:09 pm.

C. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Folan presented District progress, highlights, and accolades as noted below.

Highlights

Welcome Back: We are on the brink of another amazing school year, and we offer a warm welcome to all our students, staff and families. All members of the school community can expect a great deal of communication from building principals, the nursing team, educators, coaches, and the District team. If you have any questions, the best route is to call your building. We are happy to help.

Playground with the Principals: New Hansen Principal Paul McKnight and new Hansen Assistant Principal Kelly Fahey held their third Thursday meet and greet at Hansen. They called it "Playground with the Principals". They loved seeing their students having fun on the playground, while they chatted with parents and guardians about Hansen and the upcoming year.

Robotics Camp: Once again, the CHS Library was the hub for all things robotics -- the design, coding, collaboration and teamwork, the build and the battles. Robotics teacher Katie Healey and 10 members of the CHS Robotics team -- the Canton Robodogs -- ran the annual Robotics camp for 17 students, grades

4-8. The experience showcases students mentoring students, critical thinking, creativity and authenticity. A highlight of the camp is the Battlebot competition held on the last day. Students design and build a robot which is controlled remotely. And they didn't stop there. CHS student Peter Heredia filmed, produced and edited the "Good Morning Eyeopener" on WCVB Channel 5. Peter is a member of the Robodogs and a superstar on Mr. McDonough's CHS Television Production team.

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/wake-up-call-from-canton-robodogs/44826861>

School Safety Reviews: Canton Public School administrators and staff, in conjunction with the Canton Police and the School Resource Officers, conducted safety reviews of each building this week. They will be providing recommendations and needs for our School Safety Review report.

GMS Soil Borings: During this past week, important work continued for the GMS Building Project, as Ai3, LeftField and their contractors conducted further "existing conditions assessments." The team and machinery conducted geothermal soil borings, also known as "subsurface investigations". This work provides the designers a sense of the soil and make up of the land. The borings range between 15 and 60 feet deep.

Updates

Educational Visioning Sessions: The GMS Project team will be holding Educational Visioning sessions on September 6 and September 11, from 4-7 p.m., at the CHS Library. These sessions will focus on the education learning experiences for students in the future GMS, and how the vision and programming can shape the design. ~~It's an exciting opportunity to be involved.~~ There will be a communication upcoming to sign up for these sessions. This is not the session for the grade configuration discussion. The community forums in September, October, November and December will address many topics, including grade configuration.

Free Lunch for 2023-24: School lunches will once again be free for all students, thanks to approved state budgets from legislators and the governor's office. We are thrilled to receive this news, as it provides great support and benefit to our students and families. Communication will be forthcoming around the school lunch program. We are strongly encouraging families to complete the free or reduced lunch forms, if families believe they may qualify, as it is the basis for additional financial support throughout the District.

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 Labor Day weekend. Kindergarten begins on September 5th and PreK begins on September 6th. Opening day for staff is 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

Summer Programming: Our summer programming, which wrapped up recently, was a tremendous success once again. Between Summer Scholars, Extended School Year (ESY) and Canton Academy, there

was a strong commitment by Canton Public Schools to continue the learning over the summer. We love that we have the support to run the programs and engage our students in programming and learning that meets their needs.

Summer Scholars

Our Summer Scholars program at JFK for Elementary students entering grades K-5 involved 84 students. (275 were invited). At GMS for students entering grades 6-8, 40 students attended. (130 were invited.). At CHS, for students entering grades 9-12, 25 students attended.

At elementary, we had two sections of K, and one of each for grades 1-4. 6 teachers and 4 EAs, plus 2 educators who provided ML support.

Thank you to these 17 amazing educators and 7 Educational Assistants who took time out of their summer break to help our students build confidence in learning. Thanks to the efforts of our Site Coordinators Aimee Lydon, Deb Shaw and Rebecca Ashley, all programs ran efficiently and smoothly. Thank you to Deb Rooney for coordinating the programming.

Extended School Year (ESY)

We had 124 students attend various extended school year (ESY) services this summer with the assistance of 42 staff members including teachers, educational assistants, ABA tutors, and related service providers. Thank you to Assistant Directors of Student Services, Billy Kickham and Sarah Shaw, for overseeing this year's ESY.

Canton Academy

Canton Academy wrapped up its 19th year with a record number of participants -- 764 kids. The variety of enrichment and academic classes were so popular and appreciated by students and families. Thank you to Coordinator Ed Amico and every educator who taught a class this summer.

We are thrilled to wrap up programming with the Robotics Camp, Band Camp and Theater Camp. CPS has been an active and enriching place over the summer.

Important Dates and Events

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

Committee members discussed keeping track of attendance at the Fall Visioning Sessions for the GMS project. It was suggested that CPS share future dates of the Visioning Sessions and direct community members to where meeting information may be found, i.e. the CPS website. Ms. Moran suggested finding a way to utilize spaces in the Summer Scholars program to include extra needs for students. Mr. Folan agreed to think about ways to fill spaces, perhaps by extending the invitation to those who do not exactly qualify.

D. Unfinished Business:

1. **School Handbooks - 2nd Read (VOTE)**: Superintendent Folan presented the School handbooks for a 2nd read. Questions from the committee included the consistency of expectations between CHS and GMS. Mr Folan noted that this matter is included in the appendix. He also stated that specific language has been added to include expectations of spectator behavior offering “positive and supportive environment.”

With no further questions or requests for clarifications, Chair O’Halloran called for a motion to approve the 2023-24 CPS School Handbooks ~~for School Year 2023-2024~~ as written and presented. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Kristian Merenda seconded. Voting was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O’Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

E. New Business:

2. **GMS & Hansen School Nurse Appointments (VOTE)**: On behalf of Nurse Leader, Lauren Pushard, Superintendent Folan presented two school nurse appointments for a vote of approval noting that both nurses have both clinical and school nursing experience. Hearing no questions or requests for further discussion, Chair O’Halloran called for a motion to approve both appointments. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Kristian Merenda seconded. Voting was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O’Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

3. **Policy Updates Section F & Section G - 1st Read**: Superintendent Folan and members of the policy subcommittee presented policy sections F & G for a 1st read. Mr. Folan indicated that updates for both Sections were under the advisement of Mr. Jim Hardy of MASC, and are due mainly to changes in the law or for best practices and practicality’s sake. Ms. Merenda inquired about the cadence of building closings and whether these closings are included in capital planning. Ms. O’Halloran asked committee members to forward any other questions or feedback to her before the next meeting where there will be a proposed vote for approval.

4. **CEA Unit A Side Letters:** Superintendent Folan presented two Unit A Side Letters, one for three recently hired Assistant Principals and the other for the MLL Coordinator, for review and a vote of approval. As there were no questions or requests for further information, Chair O'Halloran called for a motion to accept both side letters as written and presented. Kristian Merenda made the motion; Laura Arboleda seconded. Voting was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

5. **Enrollment Update:** Mr. Marshall provided an enrollment update disclosing that while registration continues, the Hansen School is at capacity. New students will be moved to Luce or JFK for this year (transportation will be supported with these moves). However, new students of families who's older siblings are already enrolled at the Luce will be enrolled at the Luce as well.

Ms. Moran requested registration numbers for Rodman.

6. **Fee Schedule:** Mr. Marshall presented the proposed fee schedule for the 2023-2024 school year noting that fee pricing will remain the same as last year (2022-2023). Mr. Marshall stated he would bring a more indepth Schedule of Fees, including rental fee schedules for profit and non-profit organizations at a later School Committee meeting. As there were no questions or requests for further information, Chair O'Halloran called for a motion to accept the 2023-2024 Fee Schedule as written and presented. Kristian Merenda made the motion; Laura Arboleda seconded. Voting was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

F. Public Comment: Ms. Ariel Galinsky, a 2020 CHS graduate, commented on guidelines for student to teacher ratios as well as academic rigor, and wondered about a plan for over-enrollment.

G. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall had no further business to report.

H. Consent Agenda: .

1. Regular Session Minutes: August 3, 2023
2. Warrants: August 18, 2023.

Chair O'Halloran announced the list of items posted in the consent agenda and asked if any committee member would like any minutes or warrants listed removed from the consent agenda. Ms. Moran asked that the August 3, 2023 Regular Session Minutes be removed for further review.

With that change, Chair O'Halloran asked for a motion to accept the 8.18.23 Warrant. Laura Arboleda made the motion; Kristian Merenda seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

I. Update of Sub-Committee, Task Force and Liaison Posts:

- i. Kristian Merenda-nothing to report;
- ii. Laura Arboleda-nothing to report;
- iii. Maureen Moran-announced that the next Budget & Finance Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, August 22, 2023.
- iv. Kendall O'Halloran:
 - a. CCPC met last weekend and are preparing pre-applications for early September;
 - b. Communications:
 - a. reminded members of upcoming calendar events, asking for their attendance;
 - b. Polled members for interest in adding a newspaper ad for mid-September. Ms. Merenda suggested an ad thanking community members for their involvement in school councils and encouraging continued service.
- v. Mr. Marshall noted that the Sustainability Committee is still in need of a chair.

J. Other Business: None

K. Future Business The next Open Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.

L. Adjournment: Hearing no requests for further comments or discussion, Chair O'Halloran called for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, August 17th, 2023 School Committee Open Session at 7:01 pm. Kristian Merenda made the motion; Maureen Moran seconded. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

