

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of August 6, 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. Chair Mirliani noted that the Committee just held an Executive Session where the roll call vote of 5-0 opened the meeting.

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

Also Remotely Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent  
Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent  
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator  
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary  
Debbie Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Debra Bromfield, Director of Student Services  
Dianna Mullen, new Director of Student Services  
Dave Turcotte, Principal, CHS  
Sarah Shannon, Principal, GMS  
Emily DiDonna, Principal, JFK  
David Brauninger, Principal, Hansen  
Yeshi Lamour, Principal, Luce  
Elizabeth Nightingale, Nurse Leader  
Donna Kilday, PreK-2 Coordinator

- B. Public Comment:

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|-----------------------|---|
| Tom Apprille-parent   | School reopening pertaining to students on IEP's that have an aide with them throughout the day in school. Advocated for students with special circumstances be in person |
| Sheila White-parent   | Questions about mask breaks and a concern for the bathrooms due to the spreading of germs   |
| Rebecca Stang-teacher | Spoke about the need for school to start in a remote model  |
| M Billini-parent      | School reopening  |
| Stephen Bauer-teacher | Spoke in support of a remote start  |
| Lauren Mahan-teacher  | Discuss the air quality report of the Hansen School from 2018 and the concerns with the findings  |
| Patrick               | Spoke in support of a remote start  |

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| Connor-teacher                  |   |
| Maeve Moore-citizen & nurse     | Spoke in support of a remote start  |
| Jackie Mayer-parent             | Requested alternative options besides the one-size fits all model that was discussed last time. I.e, K-2 full time in person; 3-5 hybrid; 6-12 remote |
| Jackie Mayer                    | Requested an understand if school is hybrid, how accommodations will be made so neighborhoods and friends can create "pods"                           |
| Sarah Joncas-teacher            | Spoke in support of a remote start  |
| Patty Willis-CTA Vice President | Read a statement regarding the Union's stance of support of a remote start  |
| Rebecca Stiles-teacher          | Spoke in support of a remote start  |
| Amy Eagles-teacher              | Seeking clarification of implementation of hybrid plan at different grade levels  |
| Stephanie Parker- teacher       | Spoke in support of a remote start  |
| Sharyn Hallal-teacher           | Spoke in support of a remote start  |

C. Unfinished Business:

1. School Reopening Update: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller, Assistant Superintendent Folan, Mr. Nectow, Ms. Shore, Ms. Rooney, and Ms. Mullen provided an update on the school reopening plans. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller reminded parents that they have a choice of being on the continuum and/or being on the Remote Learning Pathway which was explained in depth last week and again at this week's meeting. The Hybrid 50/50 model was outlined in-depth as it is the model being recommended to open schools. The second family survey results were shared. In this survey, families were asked to choose an initial preference ("at this time and with the information presented"), this survey asked for student names for planning purposes and the survey required "scrubbing" of data for accuracy and the removal of duplicates. 74.76 % of all CPS students were represented in the survey. 81.79% of parents opted for the continuum model, 17.77% opted for the Remote Learning Pathway, .45% will not be educated in Canton. Within the continuum model, 48.51 % opted for the Hybrid 50/50 AA/BB, 47.27 opted for all in at 4.5' social distance and 4.22% opted for remote learning 2.0. Numbers were shared regarding the number and grade of those students who chose the Remote Learning Pathway. Mentioned was that there are and will be commitments for learning across all models, that the accountability for staff and students will be measured, and there will be high teaching and learning expectations. Students with special circumstances will be provided with all of their accommodations. Health and safety guidelines were shared as well as protocols for responding to COVID 19 scenarios. The complete handout of the Protocol scenarios can be found on the CPS website under the School Committee tab. The metrics for each scenario are many,

specific numbers regarding when/ if there would be a partial or full school closing, were not discussed. The district will rely on the experts' suggestions and guidelines as well as continued consultation with the BOH, School Physician, Dr. Muse, and the district COVID19 point person, Elizabeth Nightingale. Signage will be added throughout all buildings. Topics will include hand washing, social distancing, cleaning & disinfecting, staffing & operations, "No Gathering" in common areas, directional arrows, travel lanes, and markings for 6' of social distancing. Rooms are disinfected with an electrostatic sprayer. There was a lengthy discussion about HVAC and air quality and the work the district has done to date and plans to do moving forward. Univents are maintained on a regular schedule, filters are changed 4 times a year, filters increased to MERV-8, and MERV-1, air exchange is set at the highest level to maintain high-quality fresh air and the district is currently reviewing window conditions and operations.

It was announced that the DESE Commissioner waived the 180 school day requirement to 170 days to allow for 10 days of staff preparation. The first day of school for students will be September 16, 2020.

The current recommendation is the Hybrid 50/50 AA/BB. Students will be in 2 cohorts. Cohort A: Last name A-L, will be in school Monday and Tuesday, Cohort B: Last name M-Z, will be in school Thursday and Friday. Siblings with different last names default to the youngest child's last name.

Discussion took place about special circumstances groups, i.e. students with IEP services, EL's and former EL students, economically disadvantaged students. The district will continue to provide meals for families in need. The Student Services providers, (School Psychologist, School Nurses, and School Adjustment Counselors) will continue to provide students and families with direct and remote social/emotional support. As per our Initial DESE Plan, the district will continue to provide safety, wellness, social/emotional support, planning and instruction, assessment, and intervention. Devices will be provided for all staff and students and classroom learning space systems have been established.

Transportation survey results were shared. 2,465 student responses to the survey, 2,016 answered the transportation questions, 959 require transportation in the fall (29% of all CPS students), 1,057 declined transportation in the fall, students requiring transportation will increase after reaching out to non-responsive families. Could rise to 48%, before the survey, 1,873 required transportation in the fall (57% of all CPS students).

Regularly scheduled cleaning will take place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, while enhanced cleaning will occur on Wednesday and Saturday/Sunday.

The district laid out plans to hire additional staff members for educational supports and safety measures.

CHS, GMS, and Elementary Principals presented draft schedules and iterations of planning for hybrid model AA/BB. Elementary models had multiple movement and mask breaks throughout the day and SEL connection time. Students will eat lunch in the classroom and recess will be in cohorts. There is also a recommended Academic Flex time during the day. Kindergarten schedule was much like the Elementary with a block of time added for phonemic awareness and additional play. Students will be outside as

much as possible.

GMS presented two draft options with a focus on SEL, safety, and movement. GMS will do staggered dismissal and built-in mask and movement breaks. One model poses more face to face time both days between students and teachers, while the other prioritizes a larger chunk of academic time in one seating. There are built-in check-in and check-out times. Lunch will be in the classroom. Students will not be moving from class to class throughout the day, teachers will be moving from classroom to classroom.

CHS convened a working group consisting of both staff and students. Cohort students at CHS will look different at CHS than at GMS and Elementary. Student choice would be too limited. The series of transitions will look different. CHS wanted to maximize students' time in the building. Compressing all 6 blocks into one day was not an option. The group looked at maximizing the time of synchronous learning (face to face, real-time teaching). Model 2 presented with more touchpoints with both cohorts involved in synchronous learning every afternoon.

The complete copy of tonight's presentation can be found on the CPS School Committee Webpage/Minutes/Agendas/Reports.

The next steps include the School Committee vote of approval tonight, the submission to DESE Commissioner, Aug. 10, ongoing negotiations with CTA, the continued collaboration with Canton Health Dept. and BOH, policy review, and ongoing preparations.

There was a question about whether rapid testing is available to schools. The COVID 19 point person responded to this question based on her knowledge and consultation with the school physician.

School Committee members shared their thoughts on the presentation acknowledging that the decisions being made are well informed yet difficult. Members will continue to revisit their decision and if/when numbers rise or situations change with the understanding that with new information, the reopening model could change. This is a continuum.

**Move to approve the Comprehensive Plan to DESE which includes the Hybrid 50/50 AA/BB as the reopening model:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-1

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Kristin Mirliani  | yea |
| Kristian Merenda  | yea |
| Nichola Gallagher | yea |
| Maureen Moran     | yea |
| Chuck Rae         | nay |

**D. New Business:**

1. **Initial Considerations for the Rodman Early Childhood Reopening:** Ms. Donna Kilday presented the initial considerations for the reopening of the Rodman Early Childhood Program. The considerations for reopening are guided by DESE general guidance, DESE special education guidelines, and the Department of Early Education and Care guidance. Based on the family survey completed with a 69% return rate, 45% chose all

in, 43% chose the hybrid model 50/50 and 30% chose remote 2.0. Some parent comments in the survey were shared. The details of the PreK Hybrid 50/50 model is consistent with the K-12 model presented at this and previous meetings. The Preschool model does include community peers. Students with disabilities who are in IEPs will receive in person instruction in an inclusive environment, students on IEPs that attend the three, four or five day program and will attend on Wednesday morning without peers, however, minimal spots would be available. Community peers would access the program on a two, three or four day schedule. This differs from previous 2-5 day schedules. Students and families would experience and engage in some remote learning preparing them for a possible shift to full remote if necessary.

The recommendation for the Hybrid model tuition: (reflects 9:00 am -1:00 pm school hours)

- \$2,203 to attend 2 days per week
- \$3,306 to attend 3 days per week
- \$4,407 to attend 4 days per week

The School Committee is being asked to vote on the PreK reopening model and tuition at the August 20 School Committee Meeting.

E. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated June 29, 2020

**Move:** Kristian Merenda

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

2. Approve Minutes dated June 30, 2020

**Move:** Kristian Merenda

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

3. Approve Executive Minutes dated June 30, 2020

**Move:** Kristian Merenda

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

4. The announcement that the FP and Food Services warrants dated August 7, 2020, were signed and approved.

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. Members decided to table this Subcommittee until further notice.

G. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 7:00 pm. There was a suggestion to hold another meeting next week to delve further into all the information that was shared this evening. Members will make this decision by the beginning of next week.

H. Other Business: None

I. Adjournment: Maureen Moran motioned to close Open Session at 10:49 pm. Kristian Merenda seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 4-0.

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|-------------------|------------------------|
| Kristin Mirliani  | yea                    |
| Kristian Merenda  | yea                    |
| Maureen Moran     | yea                    |
| Nichola Gallagher | left the meeting early |
| Chuck Rae         | yea                    |

4 yeas                      0        nays